VIGTARC Qualitative Study

Guidance for Focus Group Discussion with VMWs

1. Introduction

We are [NAME] and [NAME], data collectors working for a research project to provide curing treatment of malaria with frequent relapses (Pv malaria) implemented by an organization (Health and Social Development) in collaboration with the National Malaria Program and local health authorities. In addition to the routinely collected data, the project evaluation requires additional information from different people involved in the project to draw lessons learned for further improvement and scaling up.

As you are VMW, a key person involved in this project, we would like to discuss with you about your work related to the project, in counselling, testing and follow up of Pv patients. This discussion will take about 90 minutes. It is purely anonymous and confidential. All identifying information like name of participants will not be linked to anything they say in reports and presentations.

If you all allow, I would like to start the discussion now. In order to make sure that we don't miss things you tell us, we would like to audiotape this discussion if you give permission. The recording will be deleted after the data is used.

I [NAME] will moderate the discussion and my colleague [NAME] will take notes and manage the audiotape.

Before starting, I would like to explain you about the process of the discussion as follows:

- *Everyone will have chance to talk, but only one person will talk at once*
- *I will pose question or introduce topic one by one and you are to answer or give your ideas*
- *If someone wants to talk, please raise your hand*
- *Feel free to talk openly and honestly, even negative points*
- *But please respect each other confidentiality among us*

2. About the participants

- First, I would like to ask each of you to introduce yourself with) name, ii) age iii) how many years you have worked as VMW iii) how many Pv patients you have met and provided counselling and/or referred to HC

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Number of years working as VMW	Number of Pv patients met and provided counselling/referred to HC
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

3. About P. vivax burden in the area

- Please tell me about malaria situation in your village. Is there any change in number of malaria cases, in particular Pv cases over time since early 2019 (before the project started) until now?
- Who is most affected by Pv? Why is it so and how does it affect them?
- Is there any patients with Pv in this village to seek care in the private sector? If so, how common is it (about how many or what %)?

4. About the project (Pv radical cure) - general

- Firstly please tell me about the P. vivax radical cure project and your general opinion about strengths and weaknesses. Are there any major challenges in the project implementation at your HC and elsewhere?

  (*Give them time to think and talk about the project. Prompt them to talk about strengths and weaknesses, including major implementation challenges, and explore more deeply when they mention anything that you think might be interesting and useful*)

- Please tell me step by step about what happens when a patient comes to see you and is diagnosed with P. vivax
  (*Interviewer should use the project case management flow chart to follow the answer, and take notes about key steps indicated by the interviewee and then ask*)
    - About how much time does the whole process take, from the time the patient arrives until they go back?
    - How has the introduction of the P. vivax radical cure project impacted on your work?
    - Any suggestions for improvement?

5. About the project (P. vivax radical cure) - specific

- Training
    - How many times have you attended training about the P. vivax project? Is this too much, too little, just right?
    - Any recommendations on how to improve the training?
    - Were you provided with any guidelines? Any suggestions for improvement?
- Documentation and Mobile App
    - How many different pieces of paper you have to fill for each patient?
    - Any problems or suggestions for improvements with regards to filling in the paper forms?
    - How about electronic record system (Mobile App)? How helpful it is or any problems with using this app? Does using Mobile App make you spend more or less time per patients than before? Any suggestions for improvement?
- Acceptability of G6PD testing and Pv radical cure treatment

- o Were there any Pv patients you have met, provided counselling and advised them to go to HC for G6PD testing and radical cure treatment but they could not make it? If any, please explain why;
  - o Any suggestions to help Pv patients to promptly go to HC for G6PD testing and radical cure treatment once diagnosed Pv
- Follow up of Primaquine treatment and side effects
  - o For Pv patients who take primaquine for 14 days, how many times should you go to see them at home and to do what?
  - o Have you make all the 3 visits, asking them to take medicines in front of you, and possible side effects of medicines as recommended? If not done as recommended, why?
  - o Any problems with the follow up visits at home and suggestions for improvement?
  - o Do you think how useful the follow up home visits you made? Is 3 visits too frequent, too much, too little or just enough?
  - o According to your follow ups, did Pv patients who had to take medicines for 14 days did take them regular and all tablets as advised? If there are patients who did not follow advise, how many?
  - o There is medicine to cure Pv similar to primaquine but only one single dose is enough. If this medicine is available, do you think this is something you would like to use?
- Community sensitization and education about the project
  - o What have you done to make Pv patients as well as population in your village aware of the project?
  - o Do you think there are still Pv patients (in your villages or other villages) still unaware of the project (to support G6PD testing and treatment to cure Pv) If there are, how many?
  - o Any suggestions for improving the awareness of Pv patients and the population in your villages about the Pv G6PD testing and radical cure project?