

# **Study Title: Sexual and Physical Abuse among Patients with Severe Mental Illness in Kampala and Masaka**

## **Interview guide**

### **In-depth interviews for patients who have experienced sexual abuse**

Socio- demographics (*age, sex, marital status, religion, tribe, residence, employment, level of education, social economic status, diagnosis*) and rapport building

1. How has been your experience Living mental illness (*Probe for the treatment received, adherence, suicidality, substance abuse, risky sexual behaviour*)
2. How often have you experienced relapses? (*Probe when the relapses happened and what could have influenced them*)
3. Can you tell me briefly your experience about the abuse (mention the form of abuse) you experienced? (*Probe for when the abuse happened, where the abuse took place and how it happened*)
  - a) Who was the perpetrator (Husband, relative, friend, stranger, etc.)?
  - b) Reactions of the patient to the abuse (*Probe for the following*)
    - How did you feel about/after the abuse? (*Also probe how the patient feels now about the abuse*)
    - How did you react to the abuse when it happened?
    - How has this abuse affected your wellbeing (*Physically, psychologically/ mentally, adherence to treatment, suicidality, HIV infection, syphilis infection, involvement in risky sexual behaviours and substance abuse, repeated sexual/physical abuse*)
  - c) Did you ever think of disclosing this abuse to anybody?
    - If yes, who did you disclose the abuse to, and what motivated you to disclose the abuse? What were the outcomes for disclosure?
    - If no, what hindered you from disclosing this information
4. What makes people with severe mental illness vulnerable to these abuses?
5. Ever since you experienced this form of abuse, what are the changes/challenges you have experienced in your life? (*Also probe for perceptions*)
6. What do you think can be done to reduce abuse among patients with SMI?
7. Do you have any general comment to make as regards abuse of persons with severe mental illness?