

Focus Group Discussion Guide on Malaria in Pregnancy for Use with Women or Men

Date:	Name of Facilitator:
County/sub-county:	Name of Note-taker:
Number of participants:	Participant category (circle one) Community women Community men Grandmothers

Facilitator notes:

- Before beginning, the facilitator should get signed consent forms from everyone who will be participating.
- When the group is assembled, before the discussion begins, the facilitator should tell the group: Hello everyone. Thank you for taking the time to speak with us today. My name is _____ and I work with the Impact Malaria project. I wanted to take some time to talk to you today about health care services. My colleague, _____ is here to assist me by taking notes. Your participation in today's discussion is voluntary. You can choose to leave at any time. You will not lose any benefits if you do not participate. You will also not gain any additional benefits if you do participate. Everything we discuss here is confidential. Nothing that you say will be linked to your name. We will be looking at the responses of the group as a whole, not the responses of specific individuals. The discussion should take no more than 2 hours. Before we begin, do you have any questions?
- Respond to all questions, then ask, Would you all like to continue?
- Excuse anyone who does not wish to continue, and then begin the discussion.

I. Pregnancy vignette

Imagine Mary is a 23-year-old who lives in this community with her husband, Samuel. Mary and Samuel are not real people who live here; this is just an example. Mary is 3 months pregnant. She has not yet attended an ante-natal care (ANC) appointment.

1. What are some of the reasons why Mary may not have attended her first ANC appointment yet? *(Probe for family-related reasons, socio-cultural reasons, reasons related to the services themselves.)*
2. How might Samuel have influenced the fact that Mary has not yet attended an ANC appointment? Who else might have influenced her?
3. Do you think Mary has previously heard any information about malaria and pregnancy? If so, what do you think she has heard? Where has she heard it from? *(Probe for health services, IEC materials, radio, TV, SMS, community sensitizations, from friends, etc)*

4. Do you think Samuel has previously heard any information about malaria in pregnancy? If so, what do you think he has heard? Where has he heard it from? (*Probe for health services, IEC materials, radio, TV, SMS, community sensitizations, from friends, etc*)

II. ANC vignette

When Mary is four months pregnant she goes to the clinic for her first ANC visit. The nurse, Carol, tells Mary that she waited too long to come in, but now that she has come she should come back in every month to get checked to make sure she stays healthy. She also gives Mary a mosquito net and tells Mary that it is very important that she sleep under the net every night.

1. Do you think Mary will come back every month for the other ANC visits?
2. What are some reasons why Mary might *want* to attend the other ANC visits every month?
3. What are some reasons why Mary might *not* want to attend the visit, or be unable to attend?
4. The small story didn't say much about Carol and Mary's interaction, so try to imagine what it was like based on what you know about the health services in your community. How do you think Carol treated Mary at her first ANC visit? (*If they give a one word answer, like, "well" or "bad" probe: What do they do that makes you say this?"*)
5. Do you think Mary would have been treated differently if Samuel had been with her? Why or why not?
6. What could change to make it more likely that Mary will continue to seek ANC care?
7. Do you think Mary will sleep under her new mosquito net every night? Why or why not?
8. What could change to make it more likely that Mary would sleep under her mosquito net every night?

III. IPTp vignette

As part of Mary's first ANC visit, Carol also gives Mary medicine that she says will protect her unborn baby from malaria. Carol tells Mary to take the medicine now, before she leaves the clinic. Carol also tells Mary that she needs to come to her monthly appointments to get more of the medicine.

1. How do you think Mary feels about taking the medicine?
2. Does she take the medicine then and there, as Carol tells her to do? Why or why not?
3. Do you think Mary will come back to get more medicine next month? Why or why not?
4. What could change to make it more likely that Mary would take the medicine during her ANC visit, and come back to get more?

Facilitator notes:

- After the last question has been asked, tell the participants: We have now come to the end of our discussion. Before we close, does anyone have any final questions for me?
- Answer the remaining questions, then thank respondents for their time.
- Let participants know if there is anything else they need to do to receive travel reimbursement or other administrative actions if applicable.