

Using Community Influencer Groups to address COVID-19 misinformation and vaccine hesitancy in Buikwe, Uganda

Focus Group Discussion Topic Guide V01

Date: _____

Village:		FGD moderator:	
Venue of the FGD:		Note-taker:	
Number of participants:		Start time:	
FGD Category:		End time:	

COVID-19 Misinformation

1. What do you know about COVID-19?

Probe for:

- *How is the virus spread?*
- *Who is mostly at risk of the virus (acquiring the virus and severe illness)?*
- *How do we prevent it?*

2. What is the perception and attitude that this community has about COVID-19?

Probe for:

- *Do they consider it a serious disease?*
- *Are they taking the recommended preventive measures?*
- *Any concerns?*

3. Have you heard any rumours/stories circulating about COVID-19? If yes:

- a) What are they?
- b) Where did you hear them?
- c) Who told you about them?
- d) How are they spreading?
- e) Why are they spreading?

4. Do these rumours/stories affect community response to COVID-19? If yes, how?

5. How are you able to identify 'fake' information from accurate information?

Probe for:

- *What are the sources of inaccurate information?*
- *What are the sources of accurate information?*
- *Are they able to identify inaccurate information from accurate information?*
- *What strategies are used to identify accurate information?*

6. Where do you usually get reliable information about COVID-19 from?
Probe for:
 - *Why do they get information from those sources?*
 - *Is the information easily available and accessible?*
 - *Is it relevant information?*
7. What can be done to improve access to reliable COVID-19 information?
8. What specific information about COVID-19 would you need to help you respond better to COVID-19? How do you want that information delivered to you?

COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy

9. Do you think it is important to vaccinate ourselves and our children? Why/why not?
Probe for:
 - *What are the main reasons to vaccinate?*
10. What are the perceptions of community members in this village about vaccination?
Probe for:
 - *Do people vaccinate themselves and their children?*
 - *Do they consider vaccination to be important?*
11. Do you have any worries, concerns or issues about current vaccines?
Probe for:
 - *Concerns about safety*
 - *Issues about access*
12. Why do some people refuse to get vaccinated or have their children vaccinated?
13. If a COVID-19 vaccine was made available today, how accepting would you be of it?
14. What issues would affect acceptability of the COVID-19 vaccine in this community?
Probe for:
 - *Contextual influences, such as socio-cultural, health system, economic and political factors.*
 - *Individual/ group influences, such as perceptions about vaccines, peer influences, awareness*
 - *Vaccine/Vaccination issues, risk/benefit*
15. What can be done to ensure acceptance of a COVID-19 vaccine when it is made available?
16. Before we conclude this conversation, I would like to know if there is anything else you would like to discuss, related to the study or not?

We have come to the end of our discussion, thank you for your time.