

Topic guides for Focus Group Discussion and adapted for Key Informant Interviews

Please answer the following questions in the spaces provided, circle or tick the most appropriate options.

1. What is your professional?

- Midwife or Nurse Midwife
- Nurse
- General Doctor
- Obstetrician
- Anaesthetist

Other: (please describe) _____

What is the name of your place of work?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire

Facilitator's welcome, introduction and instructions to participants

Welcome and thank you for volunteering to take part in this focus group/interview. You have been asked to participate as your point of view is important for this research that is part of a much larger project. I realize you are busy and I appreciate the time you have given.

Introduction: This focus group discussion / interview is designed to assess your experiences regarding international medical volunteering. The focus group discussion / interview will take no more than one hour. May I tape the discussion to facilitate its recollection? (if yes, switch on the recorder)

Anonymity: Thank you for signing the consent form. Although this discussion is being taped, I would like to emphasize that this is anonymous and that this is being recorded on a locked device that only myself knows the password to. And once transcribes have been made, the audio recordings will be deleted. The transcribes will not contain any information that identify you. Please try and be as honest as you can and try and refrain from discussing anything said in this group outside of this group and if there are any questions that you don't want to answer you do not have to. If you want to leave the study at any time you can and if you want to leave the room you can.

Ground rules for focus group discussions (not required for key informant interviews)

- Only one person speaks at a time. There may be a temptation to jump in when someone is talking but please wait until they have finished.
- There are no right or wrong answers
- You do not have to speak in any particular order
- When you do have something to say, please do so. It is important that I obtain the views of each of you
- You do not have to agree with the views of other people in the group
- Does anyone have any questions? (answers).
- OK, let's begin

Warm up

- First, I'd like everyone to introduce themselves **(not required for key informant interviews)**

Introductory question

I am very interested to hear about your general views regarding international medical volunteering and your motivations for and experiences of volunteering as a facilitator with the Making it Happen programme.

Guiding questions

Aim: To identify and describe the reasons why UK based health professionals volunteer to facilitate emergency obstetric and newborn care courses

1. What motivated you to volunteer to be a facilitator for the emergency obstetric and newborn care course?
 - wanting to help others?
 - Teaching experience?
 - contribute to society?
 - wanting to improve maternal and/or newborn care in other countries?
 - personal development?
 - increased cultural sensitivity?
 - work experience in a low resource setting?

- exposure to other types of clinical practice?
- meeting new people/networking?
- Religious beliefs?
- challenge/ new experience?
- Other? (please specific)

2. Why would you volunteer again? Why would you not volunteer again?

3. Why would you recommend volunteering in this capacity to others?

4. Why would you not recommend volunteering to others?

Describe UK based volunteer facilitators' experiences of conducting emergency obstetric and newborn care course in resource poor settings

5. What experiences did you have while facilitating the emergency obstetric and newborn care course?

- teaching experiences?
- cultural experiences?
- experiences in resource poor settings?
- interactions with participants?
- interactions with other facilitators?
- positive experiences?
- negative experiences?
- challenges?
- ethical dilemmas?
- confrontations with other ways of clinical practice than you are used to and/or agree with?

6. What were your expectations of volunteering?

7. In what ways did the actual experience meet or not meet these expectations?

Explore the volunteers' perceptions of the effects of the volunteering experience on their personal development with regard to their thinking about development and aid work, their career and career choices

8. How has your experience of volunteering effected your personal development?

- increased cultural sensitivity?
- feeling like you've contributed to society?
- new skills? WHAT EXACTLY ?
- new knowledge?

9. How has your perception of development and aid work been effected by your experience of volunteering?

- different understanding of global concept of maternal and newborn health
- different understanding of complexity of development work

10. In what ways has your experience of volunteering affected your career or work life?

- Describe any changes in choice of work or career that you have made since volunteering

Explore the volunteers' perceptions of the effects of the volunteering experience on their work environments and clinical practice back in the UK.

11. How has your experience of volunteering affected your work environment here in the UK?

- interactions with clients from other cultural backgrounds?
- teaching or facilitating other courses, workshops; informal teaching sessions; mentoring?
- use of resources

12. How has your experience of volunteering affected your clinical practice in the UK?

- any changes or differences in your clinical practice since you volunteered?
- why did you change them?

Explore the volunteers' perceptions of the effects of their volunteering on the capacity of health care providers to deliver skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric and newborn care course in the setting in which they volunteered.

13. In what ways do you think your volunteering activity has made a difference to:

- how health care providers function
- how health facilities function
- maternal health
- newborn health

14. How do you think your volunteering activity may have helped improve maternal and newborn health in resource poor settings?

Describe UK based volunteer facilitators' experiences of conducting emergency obstetric and newborn care courses in resource poor settings

15. What is "successful volunteering"?

16. What needs to be in place for "successful volunteering"?

- at individual volunteer level
- at volunteer organisation level
- at host organisation level

17. How does your experience of volunteering fit with "successful volunteering"?

18. Is there anything you would like to add?

Conclusion

- Thank you for participating.
- Your opinions will be a valuable asset to the study
- We hope you have found the discussion/interview interesting
- If there is anything you are unhappy with or wish to complain about, please contact a member of the research team whose contact details on the information sheets.
- I would like to remind you that any comments featuring in this report will be anonymous
- Before you leave, please hand in your completed personal details questionnaire