

**RAPID ASSESSMENT OF MALARIA DURING PREGNANCY
TOOL 7: INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEW/FOCUS GROUP GUIDE FOR TRADITIONAL
BIRTH ATTENDANTS**

This guide can be adapted to be used as a guide for conducting either focus groups or individual interviews.

Region_____
Name of facility/facility area_____
Date: ____/____/____ Month Day Year
Time_____
Interviewer_____
Recorder_____

INTRODUCTION: Introduce yourself and team members, describe your roles, and obtain agreement to participate (or informed consent if required). Tell the participant(s) the goal of the focus group.

A. Demographics: For each of the participants, record the following information:

Age:

Level of education: Highest level of school attended (primary, secondary, higher, unknown)

For traditional birth attendants, number of years of experience as a traditional birth attendant:

Ethnic group (If group is diverse):

B. Topical area: Prevailing health problems and malaria in pregnancy

1. What are the 3 most important health problems among pregnant women in this area?

List them in order of importance.

2. (If malaria is not already mentioned in Question 1) Is malaria a serious or common health problem among pregnant women in this community?

C. Topical area: Signs and symptoms of fever and malaria during pregnancy

1. What are the common signs and symptoms of malaria among pregnant women?

D. Topical area: Causes and consequences of malaria in pregnancy

1. What effect does malaria have on pregnant women? On the fetus? On the neonate?
2. Are pregnant women more susceptible to malaria? Do pregnant women with malaria get more severely ill than other people?

E. Topical area: Sources of advice for malaria prevention/treatment during pregnancy

1. From whom do women seek advice regarding malaria or pregnancy issues in general?
2. Who influences women the most when they need information about pregnancy or malaria? For example, someone at the health facility, a traditional birth attendant, someone else in the community (example village elder), or someone in their family?
What is the order of seeking advice? First, second, third?
3. Do husbands play a role in deciding what to do if their pregnant wife gets malaria?
IF YES: please describe their role.
4. What is the best (most effective) way to reach women in this community in order to provide them malaria prevention and treatment information?

F. Topical Area: Preventive strategies

1. In general, how do women protect themselves in this area against malaria when they are pregnant?
(Probe for traditional methods: infusions, teas, smoke, leaves for dousing the walls, going to bed earlier; and modern methods: insecticides, use of nets or treated curtains; clothes)
Are any of these strategies harmful to a pregnant woman or the baby?
Yes___No___
IF YES: please describe how it will hurt the woman or the baby.

2. Which preventive strategies do you think work best to prevent malaria when someone is pregnant? Please identify which method you think is most effective to use.

G. Topical Area: Treatment sources

1. What concerns do most women voice regarding malaria treatments during pregnancy?
2. If a pregnant woman experiences a fever or malaria during pregnancy, what recommendations would you make?

H. Topical Area: Acceptance of antenatal care

1. When do most pregnant women in this area start to get antenatal care from a traditional birth attendant?
2. How do traditional birth attendants give support and advice to pregnant women? (Probe: Do they routinely make visits to a woman's house?)
3. Does the distance to the health care facility limit the number of women who can attend antenatal clinics in this district?
4. What reasons have you heard as to why women in this community might not want to go to the health facility for antenatal care? (Probes: What types of complaints have you heard about the health facility? What have you heard about the attitudes of health care workers toward women in the clinics?)
5. What could be done to improve the services of the health facility?
6. What could be done to improve your services?
7. What is the best way to encourage women to obtain antenatal care? (Probes: Have you seen successful strategies being used to increase the number of women who attend antenatal clinics?)

I. Topical Area: Role of traditional birth attendants in influencing behaviors

1. What advice do you give to pregnant women in regard to starting antenatal care? (Probe: Do you routinely make visits to a woman's house?)
2. Do you routinely refer pregnant women to antenatal care at a health facility?
Yes__No__
If not, why not?
Under what circumstances?

- Do you give pregnant women cards to refer them?
3. Is there a policy stating that traditional birth attendants should refer all pregnant women to the health care facilities?
 4. Do you follow up with women that you have referred to ask if they have actually gone to the health facility after you have referred them?
 5. If a pregnant woman comes to you experiencing fever/malaria during her pregnancy, what advice is routinely given to her?
 6. How can health care workers work better with traditional birth attendants?
(Probes: Should health care workers provide any training to traditional birth attendants?)
 7. Do you think your own training is sufficient in the area of malaria during pregnancy?

**BE SURE TO THANK THE PARTICIPANTS FOR THEIR TIME, AND
ASK IF THEY HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR YOU.**