

**RAPID ASSESSMENT OF MALARIA DURING PREGNANCY  
TOOL 9: INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEW/FOCUS GROUP GUIDE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN  
AND RECENTLY PREGNANT WOMEN**

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

<b>Interview information</b>
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

Marital status

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

Total number of pregnancies, including this one

Date of last delivery

Ethnic group

Religion

**B. Topical Area: Preventive strategies**

1. In general, how do people protect themselves in this area against malaria when they are pregnant? (Probes: types of traditional remedies...infusions, teas, smoke, leaves for dousing the walls; use of nets or treated curtains; going to bed earlier; clothes)

Are any of these strategies harmful to a pregnant woman? YES/NO

IF YES: please describe how it will hurt the woman or the baby.

2. What do you personally do to protect yourself against malaria when you are pregnant? (Probes: Would you be willing to try anything else? For example, would you be willing to take the drug Fansidar to guard against malaria?)

3. Which things do you think work best to prevent malaria when someone is pregnant?  
[Can rank items]

4. Do you routinely use a mosquito net? YES/NO

IF YES: is it treated with an insecticide? YES/NO

How many persons live in your house? \_\_\_\_\_ How many sleep under a net? \_\_\_\_\_

If you have only one net, who sleeps under it? (Who made that decision?)

5. What effect does malaria have on you when you are pregnant? (Probes: how does malaria affect the baby? What happens to you?)

6. Do you take medicine at the antenatal clinic to help prevent malaria?

**C. Topical Area: Treatment sources**

1. Where do you go for antenatal care?

2. In this area, where is the best place to go for antenatal care? Why?

3. If you got sick with malaria when you were pregnant, what would you do?

4. Have you ever taken the drug (insert the name of the recommended treatment drug) when you were pregnant? YES/NO

IF YES: did you have any problems taking the drug? YES/NO

5. Did the malaria go away/Did you feel better? YES/NO

6. Have you ever taken the drug Fansidar when you were pregnant? YES/NO

If YES: Was it given to you to prevent malaria? YES/NO

IF YES: Did you have any problems taking the drug? YES/NO

7. Did the malaria go away/Did you feel better? YES/NO

8. What types of things have people recommended that you should do to treat malaria in pregnancy?

9. Of these, are there any that you will not or can not do? WHY? (Probes: it is unsafe for you? Is it unsafe for the baby? Is it too expensive? Do you understand why they are suggesting it?)

**D. Topical Area: Acceptance of antenatal care**

1. How far do you live from the clinic/hospital (probe: Where could you receive care for the pregnancy)?

2. When you come for a visit, how do you get to the health care facility? (Probe: Is there transport available? What do you do in emergency situations? How many hours must you travel for care?)

3. Have you been referred to a higher level health facility for care during your pregnancy? YES/NO

IF YES, did you follow-up and go to the clinic? YES/NO

4. When do most pregnant women in this area start to get antenatal care from a clinic?

IF SHE ANSWERS "IN SECOND or THIRD TRIMESTER": Why do women wait until then to get care?

5. When did you first get care?

IF ANSWERS "IN SECOND OR THIRD TRIMESTER": Why did you wait until then to get care?

6. What is the cost of basic antenatal care in this community? .....[     ]

Is that too expensive? YES/NO (Probes: How do you get the money to pay for it? Are there times in the year that you can not come because you don't have enough money? Does someone help you pay for it? IF YES: who? Do you ever barter goods for service?)

7. When you come for care, are you satisfied with the services? (Probes: Are you treated well, do you receive any education while here? IF YES: from whom? Do you feel comfortable in asking questions?)

What could be done to improve the services of the health care center?

**E. Topical Area: Acceptability of treatments for malaria during pregnancy**

1. Do you routinely go to the clinic/hospital for antenatal care? YES/NO

If YES: Do you go during pregnancy because you have an appointment or because you think you need to go?

IF YES to QE1: Do they give you any medicine to prevent malaria in pregnancy? YES/NO

IF YES: What do they give you?

Did anyone talk to you about the drug? What things did they tell you? (Probes: When and how often should you take the drug? What side effects should you look for? When should you return to the clinic?)

Are you currently using it?

IF YES: how often?

2. Are there other treatments to use against malaria that can be used when you are pregnant? (Probes: Have you taken chloroquine, Fansidar, or other pills? How often? Are there traditional medicines that can be used?)
3. Can you please tell me all the traditional medicines, home remedies, or treatments that you know of that can be used to treat malaria in a pregnant woman?

OF THIS LIST: which ones work best?

4. Can you tell me about traditional taboos related to pregnancy and malaria in this area?

**F. Topical Area: Sources of advice for malaria prevention/treatment during pregnancy**

1. If you had a problem with the pregnancy, or got sick while pregnant, to whom would you ask advice?
2. Who provides the best information about how to manage malaria when you are pregnant?

What information have you been given about malaria from that person?

3. What kind of roles do husbands in families play in deciding whether a woman should seek antenatal care or advice from lay midwives? (Probes: Do husbands play an active role in assisting pregnant women, or is this normally done by women in the household? Do you normally go to your mother or mother-in-law for advice? Do husbands ever go to clinic with you when you are pregnant?)

Do husbands also play a role in deciding what to do if their pregnant wife gets malaria?

4. If there was a new treatment for malaria during pregnancy, how would you hear about it? (Probes: How do you hear about important news in your village? Is there one person to whom everyone goes to ask advice, such as a village headman?)

**G. Topical Area: Drug-purchasing behaviors**

1. If you get sick when you are pregnant, where do you get medicine? (Probes: do you take bottles to the clinic with you and get drugs from the dispensary? Do you buy drugs from the regular market or other types of shops? Mobile drug vendors? If so, where? Do traditional healers in this area give out western medicines?)

FOR EACH SOURCE OF MEDICINE MENTIONED ABOVE, ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

- 2a. Do/does \_\_\_\_\_ offer advice about how to take antimalarial drugs during pregnancy? YES/NO  
If YES: Is it helpful?

- 2b. Do/does \_\_\_\_\_ offer advice about how to take antimalarial drugs during pregnancy? YES/NO  
If YES: Is it helpful?
- 2c. Do/does \_\_\_\_\_ offer advice about how to take antimalarial drugs during pregnancy? YES/NO  
If YES: Is it helpful?
- 2d. Do/does \_\_\_\_\_ offer advice about how to take antimalarial drugs during pregnancy? YES/NO  
If YES: Is it helpful?
3. Once you feel better, do you ever save the remaining pills to take the next time you are have malaria? YES/NO
4. Where is the BEST place to get drugs to treat malaria when you are pregnant?  
WHY?
5. What drugs would you take for malaria when you are pregnant?
6. Who do you trust most in giving advice about drugs when you are pregnant?

**H. Topical Area: Role of traditional birth attendants and health care workers in influencing behaviors**

1. How do traditional birth attendants and health care workers give support and advice to pregnant women?
2. Do traditional birth attendants and health care workers in this community recommend that pregnant women attend antenatal clinics or do they leave that decision to individual women?
3. Is it better to see a traditional birth attendant or go to a health center for antenatal care? Why?

**THANK RESPONDENT FOR HER TIME, AND  
ASK HER IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS.**

**PLEASE NOTE ANY ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS IN THE SPACE BELOW.**