

DISCUSSION RESPONSE SHEET FOR NON-MEDICAL HEALTH AREA STAFF

**Subject: VACCINATION AND MEASLES OUTBREAKS IN THE CITY OF
MBUJIMAYI, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

This guide will be applied to focus groups of individuals not working in vaccination.

Category of respondents:

Name and gender of data collector.....

Date:

Province:.....

Health Zone:.....

Health Area:

0. Participant Characteristics

Number of participants:

Place of residence (urban):.....

Location of survey:.....

1. Knowledge and awareness of measles

1.1. Can you tell us about measles?

1.2. Can you share with us the causes of measles?

1.3. In your opinion, what methods are used for measles prevention?

1.4. Can you share with us the methods you use for measles prevention in your community?

1.5. In your community, can you tell us how people recognize measles? What do they do to recognize and treat it?

1.6. In your community, can you tell us what people in your health zone do to recognize that they have measles?

1.7. In your community, what do you think community members do when they suspect they have measles? Follow-up: What do they do for confirmation of diagnosis and treatment?

2. Information on Measles

How/where did you obtain information on measles? (Do not suggest the answers below, but use them as a follow-up question.)

- 2.1. Community health workers or volunteers (how?)
- 2.2. Civil society organizations (NGOs, associations, etc.), how?
- 2.3. Neighborhood/community leaders (how?)
- 2.4. Brochures distributed in communities (how?)
- 2.5. Interpersonal communication (how?)
- 2.6. Posters – Information, education, and communication (how?)
- 2.7. Television (TV) (how?)
- 2.8. Radio (how?)
- 2.9. Dialogue between the group and the community (how?)
- 2.10. Other:.....

3. Identify the populations most affected by measles.

(Based on the information available to you)

3.1 In your opinion and that of members of your community, can you share information on the groups of individuals who are more at risk of developing measles?

(The follow-up question should, for example, target groups such as: men, women, children under five, and the reasons related to occupation, behavior, etc.)

- What do you think are the reasons why these groups or individuals are more at risk?

3.2 In your opinion and that of members of your community, can you share information on the groups or individuals who face difficulties accessing measles prevention, diagnosis, and early treatment?

- What barriers do they face? (Invite them to mention linguistic, cultural, financial, and physical barriers)

4. Beliefs and Practices Affecting the Use of Measles Prevention Services

4.1. Can you share with us the beliefs, perceptions, and practices that hinder the use of measles prevention methods in your community?

- The follow-up question could invite respondents to describe the behaviors, thoughts, and considerations the community has regarding the measles vaccine and why.

4.2. Can you share with us the beliefs, perceptions, and practices that affect the use of measles diagnostic services in your community?

- The follow-up question could invite respondents to describe the behaviors, thoughts, and considerations the community has regarding vaccination and the measles treatment provided in health facilities.

- What do you think are the reasons why these beliefs, perceptions, and practices affect the use of measles prevention and diagnostic services in your community?

4.3. Can you share with us the beliefs, perceptions, and practices that affect the use of measles treatment services in your community?

- The follow-up question could invite respondents to describe the behaviors, thoughts, and considerations that the community has regarding vaccination or the measles treatment provided in health facilities.

- What do you think are the reasons why these beliefs, perceptions, and practices affect the use of measles prevention and treatment services in your community?

4.4. When a community member has a rash, what do you do?

List the following health-seeking behaviors: Using traditional herbs, seeking help from a traditional healer, seeking a diagnosis at a health facility, purchasing medication from local pharmacies, self-medicating with traditional medicines, self-medicating with non-traditional medicines, not completing the treatment, using topical ointments, self-medicating, and using drug vendors.

- What do you think are the reasons for this behavior?

- Can you tell us about this behavior in the community regarding measles rashes in women, men, and children? (Follow-up: Try to highlight if there are differences between the different groups)

4.5. In your household, who makes the decision to go to a health center for measles prevention and treatment services?

- Why?

4.5. Does this decision depend on the sick person? (e.g., girl, boy, child with a disability, child of a certain age group, etc.) and how does this decision affect you as the mother/father/carer?

4.6. Does this decision differ depending on the family's social group affiliation?

5. Knowledge of all measles campaigns/activities/education programs for communities.

5.1. Can you tell us about the measles vaccination campaigns/activities/education programs available in your community?

- Try to identify and list which ones.

5.2. What are your thoughts on these campaigns/activities/programs?

- Are they accessible and useful for your community?

5.3. If no activities exist, ask what you think are the reasons why these activities are not provided.

6. Access to Health Services in Communities

6.1. Tell us a little about the health facilities in your community where measles treatment is available.

- What do you think are the barriers or obstacles?

6.2. What are your thoughts on the cost of measles control services?

- Does your community currently have access to free/low-cost measles control services (including treatment if needed)?
- Explore the reasons for the lack of free or low-cost services.

6.3. Did you receive free measles services during the last season? (Yes/No)

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- If yes, what service and where? Was it provided in sufficient quantity to meet your family's needs?
- If no, what do you think the reasons might be?

6.4. What are your thoughts on the measles interventions for children under five in your community?

- List the interventions and ask again what they think, especially regarding the free nature of the services.

7. Does having little or no money prevent members of your community from accessing measles treatment services? (Yes/No)

7.1. If yes, how?

Explain

8. Does your community encounter any types of obstacles (distance to health centers, rain, means of transportation, language barriers, etc.) that prevent it from accessing a health center?

8.1. If yes, what are these obstacles? Explain:

8.2. If no, explain

9. Please explain in detail how you are treated at health centers/clinics.

Report the respondents' comments in full.

10. What do you suggest for better prevention and management of measles cases, particularly for populations in health zones?

(Summarize the main obstacles/problems mentioned during the conversation and help the respondents formulate their own suggestions on what would be most appropriate for the community.)

Thank you for your participation and your time.