

**PROJECT TITLE: Investigating the feasibility of Integrating FGS surveillance and intervention with the pediatric praziquantel delivery as a mother and child integrated intervention model for schistosomiasis.**

**TOOL 2: GUIDE FOR FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS (FGDs) WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

My names is ..... I am working with the National Institute for Medical Research, Tanzania. I am with my colleague ..... We are pleased to be here today and would like to learn more about your understanding about **Female Genital Schistosomiasis** in this area. Please feel free, everything you tell us will be very interesting and useful to strengthen the management and prevention efforts for **Female Genital Schistosomiasis**. Our discussion will take between 60 to 90 minutes depending on the depth of the information you have. The information you are going to provide will remain confidential and will only be accessible to our study team. We request you to allow us to use the audio recorder just to ensure that we don't miss the information when writing the report.

**KNOWLEDGE AND PREVALENCE OF FGS**

1. Do you know a disease called female genital schistosomiasis?

**Probe:** *Their awareness of how the disease is acquired or transmitted; the risk factors for infections; symptoms of the disease such as blood in urine, lower back pain, pain during urination, pain during sexual intercourse and complications associated with the disease such as infertility etc.*

2. How did you know about FGS?

**Probe:** *if they ever received health education in schistosomiasis in general and FGS in particular at school, health facilities, or in communities and if there are any initiatives in the communities providing health education about schistosomiasis and FGS*

3. How common is the FGS in this community?

**Probe:** *on the burden and trends of the disease in their area; experiences of individual or close person who had ever affected by symptoms or confirmed schistosomiasis and FGS in their community.*

4. What is the local name for FGS in your area?

*Both Swahili and vernacular names for FGS as this will help during awareness campaigns.*

5. How can FGS be prevented?

**Probe:** *awareness of how the disease is prevented, how to avoid risk factors; how the disease is treated*

**HEALTH SEEKING AND ACCESS TO FGS CARE**

1. What actions are taken when women experience symptoms associated with schistosomiasis and FGS in this community?

**Probe:** *Health seeking behaviors in terms of first contact such as traditional healers, pharmacies, drug dispensers and issues associated with seeking health care. To what*

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*extent community members seek care to the appropriate health facilities, how timely community members seek care should they experience symptoms suggestive of FGS.*

2. What is your opinion on the availability of screening and treatment services for FGS.

***Probe: availability of FGS screening services in health facilities and community levels, availability of diagnostic services in health facilities and praziquantel.***

**READINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTEGRATED FGS SCREENING AND TREATMENT SERVICES**

To increase early diagnosis of FGS, integration of FGS screening and treatment with the delivery of pediatric praziquantel for the treatment of pediatric schistosomiasis is considered:

1. Would women in this community accept to be screened and treated for FGS whenever they take under five children to the clinic for the diagnosis and treatment of schistosomiasis?

***Probe: What are the issues to consider ensuring that women accept to be screened and treated for FGS whenever they take under five children to the clinic for the schistosomiasis diagnosis and treatment?***