

APPENDIX I
PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Study Title: Experiences and consequences of stigmatization on women living with obstetric fistula in Health Facilities within the Greater Banjul area and West Coast Region I of the Gambia.

You are invited to partake in this study. Before you decide to participate you need to understand why the research study is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information or get the information explained to you in your language. Listen carefully and feel free to ask if there is anything that is not clear or you do not understand. You may wish to consult your spouse, family member, friends or others before deciding to take part in the study.

If you agreed to join the study, you will need to sign or put a thumbprint on a consent form saying you agree to be in the study. Participation is voluntary.

The research study is conducted to explore the experiences and consequences of stigma on women living with obstetric fistula in health facilities within Greater Banjul and Western Coast Region I of The Gambia. Obstetric Fistula has a high burden on survivors' lives and the society they live in. Exploring what they have or had experienced and the socioeconomic consequences they face will provide a better understanding of what they experienced and consequences of living with obstetric fistula. In addition, your participation as a survivor will assist in making recommendations in improving the quality of life for affected women as well as help them to reintegrate into their communities and empower them. Also this research will add to existing knowledge, serve as a supporting tool for policy guide and implementation.

The research will involve a face to face individual interview or a focus group discussion of the your bio data, experiences and consequences of living with obstetric fistula which may take about 30 min to 45minutes

Interview Guide (Women with obstetric fistula) V1.1

Interview no _____ **Location** _____

Date: _____

Starting Time: _____ **Ending Time:** _____

SECTION I Demographics details

1. Age:
2. Age at which the fistula occurred:
3. Marital Status:
4. Number of children

SECTION II Types of Stigma Experiences

5. During which pregnancy did you develop this condition?
6. What is your experience with the labour the fistula occurred?
Probe: duration, outcome.
7. What does having an obstetric fistula mean to you?
Probe: physical, social, economic, etc.
8. How your family/ community perceived your condition?
9. How do you cope living with the obstetric fistula?
10. What type of stigma did you encounter while living with fistula? probe
11. Do you experience these : gossip, verbal abuse and social exclusion? How
12. Anticipated and feared stigma in the future? Explain
13. Do you feel shameful of yourself ? Probe
14. Do you experience low self-esteem, self-worth reduction, feeling disgraced and feeling you lost your future? Explain

SECTION III CONSEQUENCES

15. How does the fistula affect your social life? Probe
16. What socio-cultural problems did you encounter with this condition? Probe