

# **In-Depth Qualitative Interview Guide for Cholera RDT government stakeholders in Nepal**

## Introduction

- Introduce yourself and the purpose of the interview.
- Review the consent form for the interview and obtain a signature.

## Background Information

1. What are your main responsibilities in your current job role?
  - a. Probe: How long have you been working for the government?
2. What specific responsibilities do you have related to cholera control in Nepal?
  - a. What are your responsibilities related to cholera RDTs?
  - b. How long have you been involved in cholera RDT efforts?
3. Overall, what are your impressions of how cholera RDT implementation went during the 2024 monsoon season?
4. How high of a priority is cholera for Nepal?
  - a. How do you decide what to prioritize with your budget?

## Section 1: Distribution of RDTs

1. Can you describe the process that was used to distribute cholera RDTs to health facilities in Nepal?
  - a. How were RDTs sent from Kathmandu to the provinces?
  - b. How did EWARS facilities in provinces get the RDTs from the PPHL stockpile?
  - c. How did it work for PPHLs to serve as a central stockpile of cholera RDTs for their province?
2. What challenges happened related to the distribution of RDTs?
3. What factors facilitated the distribution process?
4. What changes were made to the original distribution plan based on issues that arose during the cholera season?
  - a. I understand that the second shipment of RDTs from Gavi were delayed. What was done to address this issue? What happened at EWARS facilities that did not receive cholera RDTs until later in the monsoon season?

## Section 2: Training on RDT Implementation

1. How were health facilities informed about the availability and procedures for using cholera RDTs?
2. What training was done?
3. What materials were provided?
  - a. How were the materials provided?
4. What feedback have you heard from health facilities about the training?
5. What would you change about the training for the future?
6. What additional training do you think would have been helpful for the health facilities?

## Section 3: RDT Adoption and usage

1. How have the cholera RDTs been perceived by EWARS facilities?
2. How well did the laboratory staff adhere to the correct usage guidelines for RDTs?
  - a. Were there any common mistakes or deviations observed in the usage of RDTs?
3. How well did EWARS facilities implement the testing strategy for cholera? (i.e., knowing when to order RDTs and when to perform culture confirmation)
  - a. Based on the experience during this year's cholera season, are there any changes you would make to the testing strategy for determining which patients to test with cholera RDTs?
  - b. Are there any changes you would make to the culture confirmation procedures?
4. What was done to monitor RDT stocks in EWARS facilities? (i.e., number used, number remaining, re-stocking needs)
5. Are you aware of any facilities running out of cholera RDTs during the monsoon season this year?
  - a. What happened in those stock-out situations?
6. What impact have the ongoing cholera research studies in Nepal had on national implementation of cholera RDTs?
7. Was there a time when cholera RDTs had to be deployed to a non-EWARS facility. Can you tell me about what happened in that situation?

#### Section 4: Reporting of Cholera Results

1. Can you describe how cholera information is supposed to be reported?
  - a. How closely did actual reporting match the plan? What was done differently?
2. What challenges did you face with cholera reporting?
  - a. How did Bhola Roka's transfer affect implementation and monitoring of the cholera reporting plan?
3. What factors facilitated the reporting process?
4. What issues did you face with data accuracy or timeliness in the reporting process?

#### Section 5: Effectiveness of RDTs in Improving Cholera Case Detection and Control

1. Can you tell me about any cholera outbreaks that happened this year?
  - a. What happened? How was the outbreak identified? How was it controlled?
  - b. How were cholera RDTs used during the outbreak, if at all?
2. In your experience, how effective/useful have the RDTs been in improving cholera case detection and control?
3. Can you tell me a story about a time when RDTs made a significant difference?
  - a. Probe: Was there a time the cholera RDT really helped health facilities or patients?
4. How have cholera RDTs affected the cost of cholera surveillance and control in Nepal?
  - a. What impact have cholera RDTs had on the quantity of cholera cultures that must be performed?
5. How have cholera RDTs changed the way suspect cholera patients are handled at EWARS facilities in Nepal?

## Conclusion

1. What recommendations do you have for future cholera RDT programs in Nepal?
  - a. What advice would you give to other countries that are considering implementing a cholera RDT program?
2. Do you have any additional comments or insights to share about your experience with cholera RDTs?

## Thank you

- Thank the interviewee for their time and valuable insights.
- Explain the next steps in the research process and how their input will be used.
- Ask for permission to reach out again for clarification or in case of additional questions.