

Annexure F: Focus group interview guide: Community Health Workers

Research Title: Adopting the Differentiated Model of Care to reach men through Community Health Workers in Mbombela subdistrict, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa.

Thank you for accepting and giving consent to participate in this focus group interview,

My name is Jonas Langa, I am PhD in Public Health(candidate) student at University of Limpopo, working for Right to Care and engaging a group of CHWs who are working closely with facilities to improve men's access and health seeking behaviour in Mbombela Subdistrict. The discussion is about exploring barriers, perspectives, and challenges in reaching men to access and their health seeking behaviour. I would like to know what your barriers, observations and challenges are.

I would like to assure you that everything that will be discussed here will be held confidential. Please feel free to tell me when you are not comfortable about any of the questions, but I would appreciate if you could answer as many questions as possible. There are no right or wrong answers we want to hear your honest experiences as CHWs.

Main question: From your experience as a CHW, what are the biggest barriers adult men (18+) face when trying to access healthcare in the City of Mbombela?

Questions:

1. How would you describe existing men's health initiatives in your area?

Probe: Have you participated in any? What was useful or missing?

2. How do men in your community typically respond when they feel unwell or need preventive care?

Probe: Do they delay? Go to traditional healers? Avoid care altogether? Why?

3. Why do you think men are rarely seen at clinics compared to women or children?

Probe: Is it stigma, work, fear of diagnosis, clinic environment, or something else?

4. What do men seem to understand or misunderstand about the value of visiting clinics?

Probe: Do they think clinics are only for the “very sick” or for women/children?

5. How do you currently try to engage men in health services?

Probe: What strategies work? What frustrates you? Share an example.

6. Where do you think we should meet men to offer health services?

Probe: Workplaces, taverns, churches, sports events, homes? What are the pros/cons?

7. What makes it hard for you as a CHW to reach or retain men in care?

Probe: Safety, time, training, support from clinics, community norms?

8. How does the health system itself make it difficult for men to access care?

Probe: Clinic hours, long queues, lack of male-friendly services, staff attitudes?

9. What changes would help men feel more welcome or motivated to seek care?

Probe: What do men themselves say they want or need?

10. Have you used or heard of flexible care models (like home ART delivery or group appointments)?

Probe: How could these be redesigned for men?