



MPOX OUTBREAK:

Focus Group Discussion Guide

updated on 7th October 2024

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS GUIDE

County:					
Sub County:					
Ward:					
Village:					
Venue:					
Date:					
Name of FGD Facilitators:					
Attach the attendance list for the various FGDs	Adult Female:	Adult Male:	Youth Female:	Youth Male:	Total:

Introduction: Hello, I am [interviewer's name] from [institution or organization name]. I would like to talk to you about your perspective on the **Mpox (formerly known as Monkey Pox)**, so we can better understand how to support efforts to combat the spread of the infection. The discussion should take approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes. Your participation is completely voluntary and anonymous. The responses you provide will be entirely confidential. If you do not wish to answer a question, please let me know. Would you be willing to participate with me? Would you agree to let me take some photos?

(If the respondents answer yes to the above questions, proceed with the questions below. If they answer no, thank them for their time and end the discussion)

Approach: Assume the participants are unfamiliar with the focus group discussion approach. Briefly explain the procedure that will be followed, e.g. that each person will introduce him/herself, that each person in the group will be given a chance to respond to an issue; that participation is encouraged, and that there are no right or wrong answers; that the purpose of the discussion is to learn from the group what

they know and how they feel about each topic that is raised; that all responses will be used anonymously with only a reference to the group. The session will allow for learning and expression of expectations, fears, etc. during the introduction of the participants to the rest of the group. Go along with the pace of the group and develop momentum (if necessary, as the group is getting familiar with the dynamics. At the end of the session, thank each participant for their contribution.

Knowledge of Diseases

1. Have you heard of Mpox? When did you hear about it?
 - a. Do you think the current Mpox outbreak is real?
2. In your opinion, who or what is responsible for Mpox?

Probe:

- a. Why do you think that?
 - b. (If not mentioned) Are there traditional and/or religious beliefs that explain the causes of Mpox?
3. Can you describe the different symptoms of Mpox? (fever, rash, blisters, lesions, etc.)

Probe: Do these symptoms always appear when someone has Mpox?

4. How do you think Mpox is transmitted/spread?

Probe:

- a. Are there specific behaviors more likely to transmit Mpox?
- b. Are some types of transmission more significant than others? Why?

Perception of Vulnerability and Susceptibility

5. Do you think everyone is equally at risk of being infected by the Mpox virus?

Probe:

- a. If yes, why?
 - b. If not, who do you think is more at risk than others? Why? [Seek clarification on different population groups: elderly people, babies, children, mothers; also, professions, refugees, migrants, immunocompromised individuals, etc.]
6. As far as you are concerned, do you think you are at risk of being infected by Mpox?
 - a. Why do you think that?

Knowledge and Perception of Mpox Prevention and Management

7. What can individuals or a household do to prevent Mpox?

8. Have you taken any measures to avoid Mpox?

Probe:

a. Do you think there is a practice or measure more important than others?
Which one?

9. What should you do when you and/or a family member become ill and show symptoms similar to Mpox?

a. Of the things you mentioned, what do you think is the most important?

10. If you were diagnosed with Mpox, would you be willing to provide the names and contact information of the people you have been in contact with, including your sexual partners?

Probe:

a. Why would you be comfortable or uncomfortable?

b. Is there anything that could be done to encourage you to provide your partners' contact information?

11. Do you know how to report any suspected case of Mpox in the community?

Probe: Telephone numbers to use, or who/where to go to report. (Referral pathway?)

Health Seeking

12. If you or a family member falls ill and shows symptoms similar to Mpox, what would you do?

Vaccination

13. Have you heard about the Mpox vaccine?

Probe:

a. Have you heard anything that worries you?

b. From whom did you hear about it?

c. Do you think it is true? Why?

14. Have you considered getting vaccinated against Mpox if it were offered to you?

a. Why do you want to receive it?

b. Why do you not want to receive it?

Stigma and Discrimination

15. How will your community treat any person suspected to have Mpox?

Probe:

a. Why would they be treated in that way?

b. What can be done to avoid stigmatizing Mpox patients and their families?

Communication and Information

16. How useful do you find the information you have received so far about Mpox (causes, prevention, treatment, response)?

a. Why is the information about Mpox useful or not useful?

b. What other information do you need?

17. **Who**, what group, app, website, news outlet, or agency do you **trust** the most to provide accurate information about Mpox?

18. Which **channel** of communication/information do you **trust most** on information about Mpox?

19. Do you have **any questions** or things you would like to know about the prevention and management of mpox?

20. Do you have **any suggestions** about the prevention and management of mpox?