

Appendix B: Focus Group Moderator Guide

OBJECTIVE 1: Contextualize communities' understanding of an Ebola-Free Environment at the household, community, and country level

1. Please describe the current Ebola environment [past month].

- a. Probe: In terms of living your everyday life, in what ways is your everyday life different from before the Ebola outbreak?
- b. Probe: In terms of community relations/involvement, have community interactions changed from before or during the Ebola outbreak?
- c. Probe: In terms of services and service delivery, how have your experiences changed from before Ebola?
 - i. Health
 - ii. Social services
 - iii. Education/schools
 - iv. Public facilities such as mosques, churches, schools
- d. Probe: In your community, in your district, in Sierra Leone, what have you been observing and/or hearing about suspected cases or deaths from Ebola?
 - i. What are the reasons that people are still getting Ebola [if applicable]?

2. Describe what you would consider to be an Ebola-Free Environment?

- a. Probe: Within the household; in your community; in public places like schools, church/mosque, market; and in the country as a whole?
- b. Probe: What needs to happen in Sierra Leone for it to be declared Ebola-Free?
- c. Probe: When would Sierra Leone to be declared Ebola-Free? How do you know this?
- d. Probe: What will things look like after the Ebola outbreak is over?
- e. Probe: What community actions could help protect your community from ever having an Ebola outbreak again?

According to WHO, Sierra Leone must go for a total of 42 consecutive days without any new cases of Ebola in any part of country. When this is accomplished, Sierra Leone would be declared Ebola-Free.

3. What are the current barriers achieving and staying at zero new Ebola infections?

- a. Probe: Within the household; in your community; in public places like school, church/mosque, market; and in the country as a whole?
- b. If participants mention certain groups that hinder achieving/staying at zero, then probe by asking “tell me more about this...”
- c.

4. Tell me about what you know about the possibility of sexual transmission from Ebola.

- a. Probe: How much of a concern is this for your community?
- b. Probe: What barriers to prevention exist for males? What barriers to prevention exist for females?
- c. Probe: What could best support a male to prevent the risk of sexual transmission from Ebola? What could best support a female?

5. What are people doing to achieve and stay at zero new Ebola infections?

- a. Probe: Within the household, community, and country as a whole?
- b. Probe: What things are working to move us to an Ebola-free Environment?
 - i. What are some of the reasons for this?
- c. Probe: Describe the actions that are NEEDED to help move Sierra Leone to an Ebola-free environment?
 - i. Within the household; in your community; in public places like schools, church/mosque, market; and in the country as a whole?

6. Is there anything else you'd like to add on this topic of "achieving and staying at zero new infections" that has not been discussed? Please share any additional comments/concerns/questions you have.

OBJECTIVE 2: Understand perceptions, attitudes, and beliefs about Ebola Survivors as well as the range of behaviors associated with EVD stigma

We now have some of our fellow Sierra Leoneans and neighbors who have survived Ebola. Let's discuss your thoughts and opinions about Ebola Survivors.

1. What do you think life is like for survivors after Ebola - within the household; in the community; in public places like schools, church/mosque, market; and in the country as a whole?

- a. Probe: How might survivor experiences be for a:
 - i. Child
 - ii. Woman
 - iii. Man
 - iv. Traditional healer, Sowie, Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA)...
 - v. Politician (such as a Minister or Member of Parliament)
 - vi. Community Leader (chief, religious leader, Mammy Queen)
 - vii. Influential person (such as a popular artist)
 - viii. Health worker / medical staff
 - ix. Wealthy person
 - x. Others?

2. How do people feel about and treat Survivors - in the household; in the community; in public places like schools, church/mosque, market; and in the country as a whole?

- a. Probe: What if it's your
 - i. Family member?
 - ii. Partner/husband/boyfriend/girlfriend?
 - iii. Neighbor or community member?
 - iv. Health care worker?
 - v. Traditional healer, Sowie, Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA)...
 - vi. Community Leader (chief, religious leader, Mammy Queen)
- b. Probe: What are some of the reasons that make people feel this way about Survivors?
- c. Probe: What are some of the reasons that make people treat Survivors in the ways you've described?

3. How should Ebola survivors be treated as it relates to sexual activities?
 - a. Probe: What are some of the reasons survivors should be treated this way?
 - b. Probe: What role do you think survivors can play in preventing Ebola from sexual transmission?

4. **What can be done to improve the situation of Ebola Survivors** – *in the household; in the community; in public places like schools, church/mosque, market; and in the country as a whole?*
Probe: How can this help us move to an Ebola-free Environment?

OBJECTIVE 4: Assess communities' trust in the health care system in the present context

We would now like to understand what you think of the health care system.

1. **Please describe the steps that you would take in seeking help when you are sick.**
 - a. Probe: What would make you seek help?
 - i. What signs/symptoms make you want to seek help?
 - ii. How severe do these signs/symptoms need to be?
 - iii. How long would these need to continue before you seek help?
 - b. Probe: What would make you not want to seek help?
 - i. What signs/symptoms would you not seek help for?
 - ii. Severity of the signs/symptoms
 - iii. What some other things that make you not want to seek help (note: further probe for cost, distance, and generalized fear, etc)

2. **Please describe who you would seek help from if you were sick.**
 - a. Probe: Where would you first go for help? What are the reasons for seeking help from them first?
 - b. Probe: Where else would you go for help if you were still sick? What are some of the reasons for seeking help from them?

3. **People describe the services and facilities available for you if you are sick.**
 - a. Probe: How do people in this community currently feel about the health facilities/services?
 - i. 117 Line / District Line
 - ii. Ambulances
 - iii. ETU/Holding Centers /CCCs
 - iv. District Hospitals / PHUs

4. **Please describe how people in this community currently feel about health care workers.**
 - a. Probe: What do people like about the health care workers? [*please distinguish between the present context and past experiences – ask for specific examples and stories*]
 - i. Those treating EVD patients?
 - ii. Those not treating EVD patients?

- b. Probe: What do people not like about health care workers? [*please distinguish between the present context and past experiences – ask for specific examples and stories*]
 - i. Those treating EVD patients?
 - ii. Those not treating EVD patients?

5. What can be done to improve the way people feel about the health care system?

- a. Probe for:
 - i. Health care workers
 - ii. Health services and facilities
- b. Probe: How do you think this will help move Sierra Leone to an Ebola-Free Environment

CLOSING: We thank you for taking the time to talk to us. We have now reached the end of our discussion. The information you have shared will be very useful in helping decision-makers determine the best strategies and actions to help get the country to zero cases of Ebola as well as informing the rebuilding process.

Do you have any other questions we should address before ending?

If yes → address questions/concerns

If no → END

If you have any questions regarding your participation in this focus group discussion please contact:

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You may also contact the Ethic and Scientific Review Committee regarding any concerns, injury, or risks posed to you as a result of your participation in the evaluation:

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