

Barriers and facilitators to death reporting following Ebola surveillance in Sierra Leone: Implications for sustainable mortality surveillance

Supplemental Material: Interview Guide

Part A: Community Level Practices and Perceptions

- 1. What usually happens after someone dies in this community (who does what/when/how)?**
 - Probe: What are the most important things to do immediately after someone dies?
 - Probe: How is the funeral usually handled / who participates?
 - Probe: How is the burial usually handled / who participates?
 - Probe: Who is notified of the death, and when and how are they notified?
 - Probe: To what extent does the type of death influence how the funeral/burial is handled, and who is informed about it?

- 2. Who conducts/helps with the funeral/burial?**
 - Probe: Please tell us why these particular people engaged

- 3. Overall, what is the current practice for reporting deaths to authorities (local, district, national 1-1-7) in this community?**
 - Probe: What types of deaths are supposed to be reported?
 - Probe: When should the death be reported, and to whom?
 - Probe: How should the death be reported?
 - Probe: What usually happens after the death is reported?

- 4. What usually discourages people from reporting the death of a loved one or neighbor?**
 - Probe: is there any type of death that people are inclined not to report? What are the reasons for this?
 - Further probe for:
 - Time of death
 - Burial delay
 - Age of the deceased
 - Religious reasons
 - Other
 - Probe: What questions do you have for authorities about reporting deaths?

- 5. What would encourage or motivate you to report the death of a loved one or neighbor to 117 in the future?**
 - Probe: What types of deaths are you most likely to report? What are the reasons for this?
 - Probe: What should be done differently to improve reporting?
 - Probe: What new things would you like to see happen?
 - Probe: Who can help improve death reporting in this community, if any?

Part B: Personal Experience and Perceptions

Thanks for your responses. I appreciate your openness and willingness to discuss these issues. You already told you us that you did not report the recent death of your loved one. Now, I would like to learn more about that particular situation.

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6. Please describe for me the circumstances surrounding the death of your loved one.

- Probe: What was their health situation in the months leading up to their death?
- Probe: What signs/symptoms were reported or shown leading to the death?
- Probe: Were there suspicious aspects of the illness? If so, please describe them.
- Probe: What type of care had they received (traditional vs medical, etc)?
- Probe: Where and when did the death occur?

7. Please describe for me the steps that you or the family took after the death:

- Probe: What did you or the family first do? Why was this important?
- Probe: Who did you inform about the death? And how were they informed?
- Probe: How long did it take from time of death to the time of burial?

8. Tell us more about burial processes:

- Probe: Did you get permission for the burial? If so, how and from whom did you get approval to carry out the burial?
- Probe: Where was the body buried (public site vs private vs family land)?
- Probe: What ceremonies were conducted during the burial? (*note to interviewer: don't ask about any specific secrete ceremonies or ritual*)
- Probe: Who participated in the burial? Why were their participation important?

9. When you hear "1-1-7" what comes to mind?

- Probe: What are your opinions of 117?
- Probe: Do you think this number should be kept or change?
- Probe: Please tell us why it should be kept or changed.
- Probe: How can the 117 system be improved?

10. Please tell me the reason why you decided not to report the death to the 1-1-7 National Call Center:

- Probe: Understanding of government requirements to report all deaths to 117 (or lack thereof)?
- Probe: Concerns about funeral/burial delays?
- Probe: Nature or circumstances of the death?
 - Accident and pregnancy related
 - 'Natural causes'
 - Death that resembles Ebola or Lassa
 - Age of the deceased

11. Would you consider reporting the death of a loved one to 117 in future?

- Probe: If so please tell us what may have changed since the present case
- Probe: What types of deaths are you most likely to report? What are the reasons for this?
- Probe: What should be done differently?
- Probe: What new things would you like to see happen?
- Probe: Who can help improve death reporting in this community?

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