

Advancing care and support for women and families after stillbirth or neonatal death in Sub-Saharan Africa: A feasibility study

Interview Topic Guide

(Version 1: Peer supporters delivering the intervention)

Interviews with health workers explore experiences of care and support after stillbirth or neonatal death and delivery of the intervention in Kenya and Uganda:

1. Introduction, setting ground rules:

Introduce self, thank participant for taking part and confirm agrees to interview taking place.

Ensure environment is comfortable. Discuss the following issues:

- Review the nature and purpose of the research.
- No right or wrong answers, aim to understand experiences.
- Confidentiality, use of data.
- Explain the use of data recorder, transcription, use of pseudonym (invite to choose), use of verbatim quotes, will be taking field notes.
- Researcher aware that discussion might bring up difficult memories, explain can decline to answer any question or prompt; can ask to stop at any time if feels need to.
- Expected duration of interview.
- Check consent form sign and complete demographics questionnaire.
- Ask if any questions.

Check recorder working

Introduce and switch on tape recorder

General prompts

- Allow participant to respond uninterrupted and use open prompts if required to explore aspects of their experiences in depth.
- Can you tell me more about XXX?', 'What makes you say XXX?', How did XX make you feel?

2. Opening questions:

Can you tell me about your own experiences of the death of your baby?

- *Establish the sex of the baby and use daughter or son in discussion. Follow their lead if unsure.*
- *Allow participant to describe what happened, when and how*

Did anything in particular help you cope with your baby's death?

- *Explore cultural, religious beliefs and traditions.*
- *Explore any other sources of support.*

What could have improved your experience?

- *Explore any factors identified by the woman, including aspects of care or support in facilities or after discharge, including the intervention that might be altered or improved.*

3. Experience of the research/intervention

Can you describe your role in this research?

- *Explore their perception of peer support, the specific activities they have undertaken, and experiences of contacts with women.*

Why did you decide to be involved in the research?

What preparation and training did you have for your role in the research?

- *Explore perceptions of training provided, did it prepare them adequately.*

What support was available to help you with your role as a peer supporter?

- *Explore contacts with bereavement care champions, the research team and any specific issues encountered*

What effect do you think that the intervention/research has had on care provision for women and families after stillbirth or neonatal death?

4. Development of services

Is there anything else that could change, that would help you ensure quality of care for women and families whose baby has died around childbirth?

- *Explore: Health services, care in facilities; education, mentorship/ role modelling, perceptions/behaviours of the wider community*

5. This research

How do you feel about participating in this research?

How do you feel about participating in this interview?

Is there anything else you would like to add?

At the close of the interview briefly summarise the main points to confirm interpretation with the participant. Ask if they wish to expand any responses or add anything else to the discussion. Thank the participants for their time.

Ask how they feel after talking about these experiences, do they want you to contact anyone? Family, friend, colleague?

Ensure participant has contact details for research team should they wish to discuss any aspect of the study.

Complete reflexive diary/field notes.