

Supplementary File: Semi Structured Interview Topic Guide: English Version

Areas of Inquiry	Specific Topics	Suggested Probes
Introduction/ Background	Please can you describe your current involvement in MCH in the zone and/or the region, with specific mention of how you are involved in the Maternal Death Surveillance and Response system?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your roles and responsibilities? • What are the main tasks that you conduct on a regular basis (every week or month)?
Changes over time	<p>Have you observed any changes relating to maternal health over the past year or so?</p> <p>What kinds of things are different and what kinds of things have stayed the same within your MCH work compared to about a year ago?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you give examples of any changes related to awareness and policies on maternal health? • Can you give any examples of changes in the quality of health services related to maternal health? • Have these been positive or negative changes?
Drivers of change	What are the reasons behind any changes or development that you have observed in maternal health or provision of care?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did the changes that you mentioned occur? • For things that have stayed the same, why do you think there haven't been more changes?
History of MDSR	Please can you describe your experience of the introduction of MDSR and how it was implemented at the beginning. Try to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What involvement did you have with MDSR training?

<p>Facilitators and barriers to MDSR introduction</p>	<p>remember exactly what happened at what time, and what your thoughts were about those events.</p> <p>In your view, what kinds of factors here made MDSR easy or difficult to introduce into the existing health system?</p> <p>As you know, maternal deaths are now one of the immediately notifiable events in PHEM reporting. How has this affected the MDSR system here?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How were the different components of MDSR established here, and what were initial reactions to it? • What were some of the early challenges when MDSR was first introduced in your area or facility? • What conditions facilitated MDSR here? • If you could go back in time, what would you do to make the introduction of MDSR better or easier? • How has the MDSR process changed in your opinion since integration? • What are the benefits or the risks of integrating PHEM and MDSR?
<p>Current MDSR functioning</p>	<p>Please describe how you perceive the current MDSR system?</p> <p>What do you think will happen to MDSR in the future and how can it be strengthened to ensure its sustainability?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which parts of MDSR are functioning and which still need to be implemented? • Are there any gaps in how MDSR is being implemented, and if so, what do you recommend for addressing these? • What is going well and what is going not so well?

<p>Effects of MDSR</p>	<p>Do you think MDSR has had any noticeable impacts so far? Please name anything you feel is a result of MDSR, even if indirect.</p> <p>After they have finished responding, probe for effects on any of the following:</p>	<p>Let the respondent think of examples.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has MDSR had any effects on <i>skills of health workers to recognise and manage obstetric emergencies</i>? If so, what have these been?• Has MDSR had any effects on the availability of <i>essential drugs and equipment needed for maternity cases</i>? Please give examples• Has MDSR has had any effects on <i>referrals or transportation</i>? If so, what has been the effect of the MDSR system?• Have there been any changes in <i>communication between health workers or facilities</i> that can be linked to MDSR? Please describe. <i>What about between health services and community members</i>?
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