Supplemental material

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BMJ Global Health

Supplementary file 1:   Vulnerabilities and constrained agency revealed in family treatment-seeking stories and encounters with research

	Vulnerabilities	Indications of agency
In the home OR COMMUNITY	**Intrapersonal** - Carers' poor physical and mental health and well-being - Anxieties about child health and well-being, and about elements of the research **Interpersonal - Complex family situations & dynamics** - Family members living in split households - Carers' limited access to or control over income - Changes in living arrangements - Carers' facing psychological or physical abuse – including potentially blame for agreeing to or refusing their child's agreement in research **Environmental – socio-economic & cultural** - Low access to funds and competing demands for funds, including small research related reimbursements - Symptoms perceived as normal or to require treatment from healers	**Intrapersonal** Mothers' actions to help their child: - Visiting many facilities - Shifting, repeating and mixing sources of care - Accessing care on credit **Interpersonal - Accessing support from others in the home and community** (including research related elements) - Seeking out and acting on advice - Securing funds (& loans) - Working with others to persuade husbands - Negotiating for delays in payments - Seeking and giving support to others
Interactions with facilities, research(ers) and broader health systems	**Intrapersonal** - Emotional and practical concerns about child/ren and about quality and costs of care; sometimes exacerbated and sometimes eased by (because asked about) research participation **Interpersonal - Power relations between staff & parents** - Being treated with disrespect - Fear to ask questions, share info or demand attention - Lack of trust in care and advice given - Anxieties about whether will get research results **Environmental – socio-econ, cultural & institutional** - Cost or distance from desired facilities - Avoiding facilities considered poor quality or costly - Unclear or conflicting referral and continuity of care	**Environmental – socio-economic and cultural, and institutional** - Reorganising living arrangements - Rethinking feeding arrangements - Changing work practices - Demanding information and support from health providers, cleaners, security guards and others in health facilities **Research specific** - Refusing the blood sampling element of research participation - Choosing to consent to the study and stay in it despite rumours being raised and shared by other mothers in the wards, and others in their homes and communites