# **Social Autopsy Qualitative Supplement: VASA-QUAL**

**MATERNAL DEATH**

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| Interviewer ID |  |
| Respondent ID |  |
| Respondent Age at Last Birthday | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(years) |
| Respondent Gender | 0\_Female  1\_Male |
| Event | 0\_Neonatal Death (<28 days)  1\_Infant Death (28 days – <1 year)  2\_Child Death (1 - 5 years)  3\_Maternal Death |
| Relationship to deceased | 0\_Parent  1\_Spouse/partner  2\_Sibling  3\_Other:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Date of Interview | \_\_\_\_Day  \_\_\_\_Month  \_\_\_\_Year |
| Date of Event | \_\_\_\_Day  \_\_\_\_Month  \_\_\_\_Year |
| Community Name: |  |
| Other locational information of interest, e.g. country, district, facility name, compound number, village name, GPS coordinates of home, etc. |  |

**INTRODUCTION**

I know you have already talked about this with us, and you have answered a lot of questions about when the mother got sick. Thank you for that.

Now we are hoping you can help us understand a little better by telling us, in your own words, the story of the mother’s illness. The more detail you can give us, the better.

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| **Please start from the beginning. Can you tell me about what happened when the mother got sick?**  SUGGESTED PROBES (*keep the conversation going; listen to what is said; additional probes are acceptable*):   * What first made you think the mother wasn’t well? * How serious did you think it was at first? * Why did you think that? * What happened then? * Who was around when this was happening? What did they say? What did they do? Why? * What happened next? * Why do you think that happened? |

**CARE-SEEKING**

Now I’d like to ask you some questions about seeking care when the mother was sick. (If respondent described care seeking already, say: *You touched on this already, but I would like to ask about it in another way….*)

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| **Sometimes it’s hard to tell if a mother is really sick. Sometimes things happen too quickly for families to get care for a sick mother. Other times families decide to take the mother to a traditional healer or herbalist. Other times families take mothers to the hospital or health center. What happened in your family when the mother was sick?**  PROBES FOR THOSE WHO SOUGHT CARE:   * How was the decision to seek care made? * How long did it take for the decision to be made? * Who was involved in the decision? * How did you decide between traditional care and going to the hospital or health center? * What types of illness are treated best by traditional healers or herbalists in your community? Why? * What types of illness are treated best at the hospital or health center in your community? Why? * What types of symptoms would make you go to a hospital first?   PROBES FOR THOSE WHO DIDN’T SEEK CARE:   * Can you tell me more about what you did for the mother at home?   Or   * You said \_\_\_\_ (rephrase and repeat back what respondent said). Is that right?   AND   * What types of illness are treated best by traditional healers in your community? Why? * What types of illness are treated best at the hospital or health center in your community? Why? * What types of symptoms would make you go to a hospital? |
| **I know that getting care for a sick mother is not always easy. Some people say that it costs too much, or they don’t have transportation, or they need permission to leave the house. What were things that made it difficult to seek care for the mother?**  PROBES:  (If cost is mentioned): Can you tell me more about costs? What are the kinds of costs that made it hard for you to seek care for the mother?  Is there anything else that made it hard for you to seek care for the mother?  Thank you for that. Is there anything else? |
| **Sometimes we hear from women that they didn’t have anything that would keep them from seeking care for themselves or for their baby, but they still didn’t go to the health centre. Why do you think that might be?**  PROBE FOR WOMEN WHO DIDN’T SEEK CARE:  What about for you/the mother? |

**FOR THOSE WHO SOUGHT CARE AT A FACILITY: COMPLIANCE / REFERRAL ISSUES**

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| **You touched on this before, and forgive me for asking again, but can you tell me what happened when you/the mother arrived at the facility for care?**  PROBES:   * Who did you/the mother see when you/she arrived? What did he/she do or say? * Tell me about how long you/the mother had to wait before you saw a doctor or nurse. * What did the doctor or nurse say was wrong? What did that mean to you? * Did the doctor or nurse tell you/the mother to go to another facility?   + If yes, Which one?   + Why?   + Were you/was she able to go?   + If not, what stopped you/her from going?   PROBES FOR THOSE WHO WERE SENT HOME:   * Did the doctor or nurse tell you/the mother to take medicine after leaving the hospital?   + If yes, were you/the mother able to take it?   + Can you tell me about that?   + Where did you/she get it? Did it cost a lot? If you/she couldn’t get it, why not? * Did the doctor or nurse tell you/the mother to look out for any symptoms or danger signs after you left the hospital?   + If yes, can you tell me about that? Did you notice any of those signs? |
| **Sometimes people get very good care at hospitals and health centres. Sometimes people feel like they don’t get very good care at hospitals and health centers. Other times people don’t know whether the care they got was good or bad. What about you/the mother? What do you think about the care that the mother got?** |

**CULTURAL PRACTICES**

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| **In some communities, pregnant women \_\_\_\_\_\_ (*FILL IN LOCAL PRACTICE AS AN EXAMPLE, e.g. “are not supposed to talk about their pregnancies because it might be bad luck for the baby”)\_*\_\_\_\_\_\_. What are some of the traditional practices around pregnancy in your community?**  **Why do you think such practices occur?**  PROBES:   * Can you tell me more about that? * What about the mother? Did she experience anything like that? Do you think it was helpful? |
| **When it is time for labor and delivery, different communities also have different traditions. For example, in some communities, women are supposed to drink a herbal drink to make their labor go faster. In others, women are supposed to be as quiet as they can and not complain about the pain. What are some of the traditional practices around labor and delivery in your community?**  **Why do you think such practices occur?**  PROBES:   * Can you tell me more about that? * What about the mother? Did she experience anything like that? Do you think it was helpful? |
| **In the time right after birth, different communities treat mothers and their babies differently. In some places women or their babies are not allowed outside their homes for several days – or as long as a week – after birth. In other places the mother-in-law is put in charge of caring for the baby. Can you tell me what it’s like in this community?**  **Why is it like that?**  PROBES:   * Can you tell me more about that? * What about the mother? Did she experience anything like that? Do you think it was helpful? |

**SOCIAL SUPPORT**

Now I am going to ask you a few questions about your family and the people in your community.

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| **What kind of support is available for people in this community who need help during pregnancy?**  PROBES:   * Can you tell me more about that? * Are there some women who get more support than others? Why do you think that is? |
| **What kind of support is available for people in this community who need help with their newborns?**  PROBES:   * Can you tell me more about that? * Are there some women who get more support than others? Why do you think that is? |
| **Can you tell me about the role of men in this community as it relates to pregnancy?**  PROBES:   * Do men go with their wives to antenatal care? Why/why not? * What about to delivery? Why/why not? * If some do and some don’t, ask “Why do you think some men do and some men don’t?”) |
| **Can you tell me about the role of men in this community as it relates to newborn babies?**  PROBES:   * What do the men usually do? Why? What happens if men don’t do it that way? |

**OVERALL**

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| **I am going to ask you one last question that I am sorry to ask you. We have talked about a lot of different things today, and thank you for your answers. If you had to say the main reason why you think the mother passed away, why do you think she passed away? Do you think anything could have been done differently?**  (*interviewer note: be careful that this does not sound like blaming the respondent – use third person pronouns like ‘could anyone have done anything differently’ or passive voice like ‘could anything have been done differently’, NOT ‘could YOU have done anything differently’*.) |

Thank you for your time and for answering all of these questions about your experience. We hope we can use what you have told us to make things better.