

## IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE

### *Study of perceptions and attitudes of policymakers towards safe motherhood in Uganda*

1. In your opinion, what comprises safe motherhood?
  - *What is the situation of Ugandan women like? [in your district]*
2. You are probably aware that a large number of women die due to pregnancy-related causes in Uganda, 16 women die every day, and many others suffer long term health complications. Some of these health problems including some that lead to death are a result of unsafe abortion.
  - *What is your understanding of unsafe abortion?*
  - *What kinds of situations do you think make women resort to abortion in Uganda?*
    - *Even if the respondent says abortion is illegal; probe for as many reasons as possible; ask for examples of real cases*
    - *What of men denying pregnancy?*
  - *In what ways do you see men involved when women want to have abortion?*
  - *Whose responsibility is it to pay for an abortion?*
  - *Whose responsibility is it to pay for treatment for women suffering from abortion complications?*
3. What do you see the consequences of unsafe abortion to be?
  - *Probe for all consequences: health, economic and social (education, marriage, in her immediate family, in her extended family, in her community)*
    - *Do you think that various groups of women are affected differently by complications from unsafe abortion? Please explain. [poor, rural, etc.]*
    - *Where does your information about abortion-related consequences come from?*
    - *Are you personally aware of cases of women who have experienced any of the kinds of consequences? How did this affect you?*
4. How common is the problem of abortion in your community?
  - *How would you say abortion is viewed by your constituents/the public?*
  - *What influences the way your constituents/the public think about abortion?*
    - *How strongly do your constituents/the public hold these beliefs?*
  - *Do your constituents' opinions differ by the circumstance of the pregnancy?*
  - *What do you think your constituents/the public would want to see done on this topic?*
5. To the best of your knowledge, under what circumstances is abortion legal in Uganda?
  - *What is your opinion of the quality of abortion services currently available in Uganda? (including illegal)*
  - *What do you think are the consequences of the current restrictions to abortion access?*
  - *What kinds of changes, if any, do you think should be made to the law?*

- *Probe for incest, rape, health of the woman, fetal malformation, HIV/AIDS, socio-economic reasons*
      - *What actions would need to take place for that to happen?*
    - *What are your concerns if amendments were made to the existing law?*
    - *What would be the barriers to that legal change?*
      - *Who would be mostly against law change?*
        1. *How powerful are they?*
    - *What do you perceive the role of the Church to be on this topic?*
      - *Which churches in particular?*
      - *Do you think churches should be involved in this issue at a policy level?*
6. Some people are opposed to making safe abortion more available because they think more women will get abortions.
- *What are your thoughts about this?*
  - *What is your opinion about post-abortion care services for women who experience complications?*
    - *Accessibility*
    - *Quality*
  - *What fears do women have going for post-abortion care?*
    - *Do you think health doctors threaten women with induced abortions with arrest?*
7. Can you name any positive effects of women having access to safe abortion?
- *Probe on health, social and economic benefits*
  - *Rape, incest, health of the woman*
8. 26% percent of maternal mortality is estimated to come from unsafe abortion.
- *What do you think government and policymakers should do to reduce the number of mortalities due to unsafe abortion?*
    - *What are your views on making emergency pill widely available?*
      1. *To your mind, is emergency pill more like contraception or more like abortion?*
  - *As a decision-maker, what is your responsibility to reduce the contribution of abortion to maternal mortality?*
  - *Who do you listen to in making decisions about abortion?*
  - *What are the consequences if nothing changes to make motherhood safer?*
9. What do you think would help more people understand the consequences of unsafe abortion?
- *Is there any information you would like to have on this topic that you currently do not have? Please list them.*

**Thank you**