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