UNDERSTANDING THE SOCIO ECOLOGICAL AND BEHAVIORAL DRIVERS OF MPOX DISEASE IN AFRICA

In-Depth Interview Guide for Mpox Disease Research in African Countries
Possible respondent

1. Community members
2. Mpox Patients
3. Husband/wife of Mpox px
4. Contact of Mpox px

Introduction:

Good day, welcome to our key informant interview and thanks for taking the time to join us today. My name is ……. I am the facilitator who will guide the interview.

The Africa CDC and Partners are conducting a study to assess the current state of knowledge, attitudes and practices including social determinants of health considerations, regarding Mpox transmission and preventive measures across member states of the African Union. The aim of our study is to provide basic information/data that could be useful in guiding risk communication, community engagement, outbreak preparedness, management and mitigation as well as vaccination uptake thus, controlling the outbreak, preventing spread and protecting the lives and livelihoods of the general population. This interview will focus on Mpox (monkeypox) disease and community perspectives on its determinants, transmission, and community responses.
Having discussed and gotten your consent, we would be grateful if you could kindly oblige us with your time to respond to these questions. All information supplied would be treated as strictly confidential and there are no right or wrong answers. You can choose to not answer any question you feel uncomfortable to answer but your perspective across all the questions is very important to us.

The notes we take will not contain your names or any private information. The notes we take will not contain your names or any private information. Do I have permission to record this interview and take notes? *Only take notes and record if permission has been given*

Do you have any questions before we begin? **Thank you! Can we proceed please?**

Participant ID			
Date			
Facilitator			
Note taker			
Respondent category			
Gender			
Did he/she give consent to take part in the KII			
Start time of interview		End time of interview	

Community Knowledge and Indigenous Names

1. What do you know about Mpox disease? What are the indigenous names used to refer to Mpox disease in your community?
- Prompt: Probe further for what each name means?

UNDERSTANDING THE SOCIO ECOLOGICAL AND BEHAVIORAL DRIVERS OF MPOX DISEASE IN AFRICA

- Prompt: How is Mpox disease explained or understood in the community? How did you learn about Mpox?

Determinants and Mode of Transmission

2. In your opinion, how is Mpox disease transmitted in your community?
- Prompt: What are the most common ways people contract Mpox disease? What changes did you observe in the way Mpox disease was transmitted last year and now (recently)?
3. What factors contribute to the spread of Mpox disease in your community?
- Prompt: Are there specific practices or conditions you think make some people more vulnerable? Explore along individual, community, health system, and interpersonal levels
5. Have there been any community member(s) that got sick from Mpox disease in your area? If yes, when was this? Can you mention what you think caused the disease?
- Prompt: Respondents are expected to mention possible exposure that led to Mpox disease if known Why did some people in the community get Mpox while others did not?

Stigma and Discrimination

6. How do the community members relate with individuals (children, adults) who have contracted Mpox disease?
- Prompt: Can people freely talk about Mpox disease when they have it? Are there feelings of shame, fear by people who contract Mpox disease?
7. What factors contribute to the stigma surrounding Mpox disease in your community?
- Prompt: Are these factors related to fear, misinformation, or cultural beliefs?
8. How does the community typically treat people who have recovered from Mpox disease?
- Prompt: how do community members interact with them? Comment about programmes organized to re-integrate them into the community?

Attitudes Towards Mpox Disease and Preventive Measures

9. How likely do you think you might contract MPox disease? What factors influence your perception of this risk?
How receptive are people in your community to preventive measures to Mpox disease such as vaccinations or hygiene practice?
- Prompt: How does the community respond to government or organizational efforts to prevent Mpox disease?
10. What other preventive measures for Mpox disease are practiced in this community?
-Explore at Individual level, household, community (e.g norms and cultural beliefs that influence response to preventive measures) and other societal measures.

Treatment-Seeking Behavior and Practices

11. If someone suspects they have Mpox disease, what treatment steps do they typically take?
- Prompt: Do they seek medical help immediately, or do they rely on traditional remedies first?
12. What are the common practices when it comes to treating Mpox disease?
- Prompt: Explore Individual, interpersonal, community (Are there any traditional treatments people prefer?) and policy aspects.

13. Can you describe any barriers that prevent people from seeking medical treatment for Mpox disease?
- Prompt: How does cost, religion, culture, access, stigma, or other factors affect access to healthcare for Mpox ?

UNDERSTANDING THE SOCIO ECOLOGICAL AND BEHAVIORAL DRIVERS OF MPOX DISEASE IN AFRICA

Human-Animal Exposure and Behaviors (Only for Mpox patient)

14. In your opinion, what human behaviors lead to exposure to animals carrying the Mpox virus?
- Prompt: Are there any Individual, interpersonal, community and societal practices that involve close contact with animals that might contribute?
15. Can you describe any recent experiences where people have come into contact with animals known to carry Mpox virus?
- Prompt: How did people respond to this risk?
16. What measures are taken to minimize the risk of exposure to animals in your community?
Probe for the individual, interpersonal, community, policy and health system related measures.
17. Please share your opinion on how Mpox can be prevented in your community at individual, interpersonal community and societal levels.

Conclusion:

Is there anything else you would like to share about Mpox disease or the community's response to it?

(Thank the interviewee for their time and insights, and reiterate the confidentiality of the discussion)

UNDERSTANDING THE SOCIO ECOLOGICAL AND BEHAVIORAL DRIVERS OF MPOX DISEASE IN AFRICA

Key Informant Interview (KII) Guide for Mpox Research in African Countries
Possible respondent

1. Health workers (Carer for Mpox Patient)
2. MoH staff (on Mpox outbreak response)
3. Subject matter experts
4. Traditional leaders and healers
5. Religious leaders
6. Community leaders

Introduction:

Good day, welcome to our key informant interview and thanks for taking the time to join us today. My name is ……. I am the facilitator who will guide the interview.
The Africa CDC and Partners are conducting a study to assess the current state of knowledge, attitudes and practices including social determinants of health considerations, regarding Mpox transmission and preventive measures across member states of the African Union. The aim of our study is to provide basic information/data that could be useful in guiding risk communication, community engagement, outbreak preparedness, management and mitigation as well as vaccination uptake thus, controlling the outbreak, preventing spread and protecting the lives and livelihoods of the general population. This interview will focus on Mpox (monkeypox) and their perspectives on its determinants, transmission, and community responses.
Having discussed and gotten your consent, we would be grateful if you could kindly oblige us with your time to respond to these questions. All information supplied would be treated as strictly confidential and there are no right or wrong answers. You can choose to not answer any question you feel uncomfortable to answer but your perspective across all the questions is very important to us.

The notes we take will not contain your names or any private information. Do I have permission to record this interview and take notes? *Only take notes and record if permission has been given.*

Do you have any questions before we begin? **Thank you! Can we proceed please?**

Participant ID			
Date			
Facilitator			
Note taker			
Respondent category			
Gender			
Did he/she give consent to take part in the KII			
Start time of interview		End time of interview	

UNDERSTANDING THE SOCIO ECOLOGICAL AND BEHAVIORAL DRIVERS OF MPOX DISEASE IN AFRICA

Community Knowledge and Indigenous Names

1. Has the level of knowledge about Mpox disease among the general population increased or decreased?
   - Prompt: Are there gaps in knowledge that need to be addressed?
   2. Are there indigenous or local terms used to refer to Mpox disease in the communities that you are familiar with?
   - Prompt: How do these terms reflect the community's perception of the disease?
3. How do people in the community perceive Mpox as the modes of transmission for Mpox?
- Prompt: Do you think there are any changes in the way Mpox disease was transmitted last year and now?

Determinants and Mode of Transmission

4. Based on your experience, what are the risk factors of Mpox disease in the community?
   - Prompt: Are there specific environmental, cultural, or social factors that contribute to its spread?
5. How do you think Mpox disease is most commonly transmitted in these communities?
   - Prompt: Are there certain activities or practices that increase the likelihood of transmission?
6. Have you observed differences in transmission patterns between urban and rural areas?
   - Prompt: What might explain these differences?

Sources of Information

7.What are the common ways of transferring knowledge on Mpox to community members?
How successful have these efforts been?
8. What are the main sources of information that communities rely on to learn about Mpox?
   - Prompt: comment about the effectiveness and accuracy of these sources
9. What stakeholders are involved in disseminating information on Mpox?
- Prompt: For traditional leaders, healers, or other influential figures and the influence of their involvement in Mpox sensitisation

Stigma and Discrimination

10. Please tell me about stigma and discrimination against individuals with Mpox disease in the community?
   - Prompt: What factors contribute to stigma at individual, interpersonal, community and policy level
11. What is the relationship between stigma and discrimination of people with Mpox and their willingness to seek treatment?
12. What measures can be taken to reduce stigma and discrimination related to Mpox disease?

Human-Animal Exposure and Behaviors

13. From your perspective, what human behaviors contribute to exposure to animals carrying the Mpox virus?
   - Prompt: Are there specific cultural practices or livelihoods that increase contact with these animals?
14. Are there any recent examples of communities being exposed to animals known to carry the Mpox virus?
   - Prompt: What steps were taken to mitigate these exposures?
15. What public health or community interventions could help reduce the risk of animal-to-human transmission?

UNDERSTANDING THE SOCIO ECOLOGICAL AND BEHAVIORAL DRIVERS OF MPOX DISEASE IN AFRICA

Attitudes Towards Mpox and Preventive Measures

16. How would you describe the general attitudes towards Mpox prevention in the communities you serve?
  - Prompt: how do people respond to preventive measures such as vaccination and hygiene practices?
17. What concerns, if any, do people have about the preventive measures that are being promoted?
  - Prompt: How might these concerns be addressed?
18. How does the community view government or international health organization interventions aimed at preventing Mpox?

Treatment-Seeking Behavior and Practices

19. When someone in the community contracts Mpox disease, what is the typical treatment response?
  - Prompt: Do they seek medical care, or is traditional medicine the first option?
20. What are some of the traditional and religious practices or beliefs related to treating Mpox disease?
  - Prompt: How do these practices interact with formal healthcare approaches?
21. What barriers do you observe in terms of people seeking medical (hospital) treatment for Mpox disease?
  - Prompt: how does access, cost, religion, culture, fear, or other factors affect seeking for medical care among people with Mpox?
22. Is there anything else you believe is important to consider when addressing Mpox prevention, treatment, or community education?

- Prompt: for Individual, interpersonal, community and, policy factors

23. From patients' history and your experience in caring for Mpox patients, what other disease conditions (comorbidities) do they suffer from?

  - Prompt: History of other disease conditions diagnosed within 1 month before or after Mpox diagnosis (STIs, HIV, Tuberculosis, NCDs, Malnutrition, etc)

Thank the key informant for their time and insights. Reiterate the importance of their contribution to understanding and addressing Mpox in the community.