FGD Number |___|___|

Facilitator Name: _____

REACH Côte d'Ivoire: Feasibility and acceptability of integrating mass distribution of azithromycin to children 1-11 Months into a trachoma mass drug administration campaign to reduce child mortality

Focus Group Discussion Guide for Community Drug Distributors

Required materials

- Consent forms
- FGD guides
- Cards for pile sorting activity
- Paper for taking notes

Number	Item	Response options	Code
1.	Focus group ID number		**[DG--___-- ___ ___]**
2.	Date of focus group	DD/MM/YY	
3.	Location of focus group		
4.	Number of participants		
5.	Sex of participants	Female Male	**[___ ___]** **[___ ___]**
6.	Number of participants who had worked in an MDA prior to the most recent one		**[___ ___]**
7.	Facilitator name		
8.	Language of group discussion		
9.			
10.	Notetaker name		
11.	Date of transcription	DD/MM/YY	

FGD Process:

1. Read the informed consent document and obtain consent individually participant.
2. A: Introduction and ground rules
3. B: Group discussion: Knowledge and perceptions of azithromycin for child survival
4. C. Pile sort activity
5. D. Pair Activity
6. E: Wrap up
7. Provide compensation and refreshments

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Focus Group Discussion Guide for Community Drug Distributors

A: Introduction

Let's begin with a discussion. I will use an audio recorder to more accurately capture what you say. Are you ready?

Group discussion start time **[___ ___: ___ ___]**

B. Group Discussion: Knowledge and perceptions of the use of azithromycin for child survival

1) Who has participated in an MDA prior to the most recent one from November 20 to November 24, 2020? (Please record the number in the table above.)

2) What are the benefits of giving azithromycin to healthy babies who are 1 to 11 months old?

3) What concerns, if any, do members of your community have about giving azithromycin to healthy babies who are 1 to 11 months old to prevent illness?

Any others?

4) Do you have any concerns about giving azithromycin to very young babies who are 1 to 5 months old?

If so, what are they?

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Group discussion response notes

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Focus Group Discussion Guide for Community Drug Distributors

Group discussion response notes

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C. Pile Sort Activity:

Now I want you to think about the steps you performed to administer azithromycin specifically to children ages 1 to 11 months and how the process can be improved. We have a stack of cards that each contain a step. I will read these to you.

1. Show participants the cards and read the cards out loud:
    - Identifying parents/primary caregivers of children ages 1 to 11 months
    - Gaining access to the homes with children 1 to 11 months
    - Coordinating with the community mobilizers to find eligible parents/primary caregivers and children at the correct time and place
    - Obtaining required supplies (medication, scales, syringes, water, reporting forms) from health facilities daily
    - Traveling between households or distribution sites
    - Explaining the purpose of the drug distribution to parents/primary caregivers, answering their questions, and asking them if they would like to give their children the medication
    - Using the scale to weigh children under 6 months
    - Measuring the length/height of children 6 to 11 months
    - Measuring the correct dose of azithromycin
    - Ensuring the child takes the medication
    - Completing the reporting forms
    - Communicating with supervisors
    - Linking parents/primary caregivers who refuse to supervisors
    - Referring parents/primary caregivers with questions or side effects to health care workers
    - Mop-up activities conducted after the MDA if coverage is low

After reviewing the list, ask the participants:

Are there any steps missing? If so, please write them down on a blank card.

Now, I want you to think about which of these steps went well during the MDA and which steps need to be changed to be better. Please work together as one group to sort the steps into two piles:

1) Things that worked well and

2) Things that could be improved

As a group, discuss these and come to agreement on which pile each card should be in.

REACH Côte d'Ivoire: Feasibility and acceptability of integrating mass distribution of azithromycin to children 1-11 Months into a trachoma mass drug administration campaign to reduce child mortality

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Pile sort response notes

Once piles are completed take a photograph of each pile, so that each card is visible. Ensure that each pile has a label card (either things that went well or thing that could be improved).

Now, let's look at each card from the pile of things that could be improved, one at a time. Please give me one or two suggestions on what you would do differently to improve each of these steps.

Pile sort response notes, things to be improved

REACH Côte d'Ivoire: Feasibility and acceptability of integrating mass distribution of azithromycin to children 1-11 Months into a trachoma mass drug administration campaign to reduce child mortality

Focus Group Discussion Guide for Community Drug Distributors

D. Pairs Activity:

Now, I would like you to think about ways to improve the MDA overall—beyond the specific activities you are responsible for. Please work with a partner to think of at least three things that would make the next MDA run better. For example: does more community sensitization need to be done prior to the MDA? Are there adequate supplies of azithromycin available for CDDs during the MDA? I will give you about five minutes to talk with your partner, then I will ask each pair to share at least three ideas that would help improve the next MDA. Please come with other ideas beyond my examples. Let's hear the top three ideas from each pair. (Guide the discussion to focus on additional issues beyond increasing stipends or other forms of compensation).

Pairs activity notes on each group's response

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Pairs activity notes on each groups' response

Out of all these ideas, which three are the most important for improving future MDAs? Why?

Notes on most important ideas for improving MDAs and why

REACH Côte d'Ivoire: Feasibility and acceptability of integrating mass distribution of azithromycin to children 1-11 Months into a trachoma mass drug administration campaign to reduce child mortality

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Notes on most important ideas for improving MDAs and why

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Focus Group Discussion Guide for Community Drug Distributors

E: Wrap up

To improve child survival, mass distribution of azithromycin must happen every 6 months. However, MDA for trachoma only happens once per year. What suggestions do you have to ensure that all children in your community who are 1 to 11 months old receive azithromycin during a second round of a mass community drug distribution campaign that targets this age group only?

Notes on suggestions to ensure all children 1 – 11 months are reached in the next MDA

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Do you foresee any problems reaching only children in this age group (1 – 5 months) during the second MDA?

Notes on reaching only children 1 – 11 months in second MDA

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Focus Group Discussion Guide for Community Drug Distributors

Thank you so much for your participation today. The information and thoughts that you have shared with us to make improvements for the next round of MDA. Do you have any questions for me?

Group discussion end time **[___ ___: ___ ___]**