Informed Consent for Focus Group Discussions with Community Drug Distributors

Name of Research Study: 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

Sponsor: FHI Partners

Purpose of the research: The Ministry of Health's Neglected Tropical Disease Program and FHI 360 are carrying out a study to understand people's experiences and thoughts about giving a medication, azithromycin, to young children to help improve child survival in communities. As part of a research study, we are having group discussions with people who recently worked as community drug distributors. If you agree to participate, we are asking you to take part in a group discussion since you may be able to provide information about changes to the program for children between 1 and 11 months old.

Procedures: We will have about 2 to 4 group discussions in Boundiali health district where you and others distributed the drugs. Each group will have about 10 people. The group discussion will be held in a private location and will take about an hour of your time. During the discussion, we will ask you questions about the recent community drug distribution and your role in the event.

Benefits: You may not receive any benefit from taking part in this discussion. The Ministry of Health will use the information that you give us to improve the community drug distribution program.

Risks: There are few risks to you if you take part in the discussion. We will ask everyone who participates in the focus group to keep the information shared within the group private. However, since this is a group discussion, it is possible that people within the group could share that you participated or things that you said. Some questions could make you feel uncomfortable or embarrassed. You may refuse to answer any question and you can leave the discussion at any time.

Privacy and Confidentiality: We will not collect any information that can identify you during this group discussion. We will do our best to keep the information you tell us confidential. The notes that we take during the discussion will be kept in a cabinet and locked in an office. We will audio record the interview so that we can get all the details of what is said during the discussion. The audio files will be stored on password-protected computers. We will destroy the audio recording after all the data have been analyzed. You must agree to be audio recorded with the group to participate.

We will not tell your community drug distribution supervisor whether or not you chose to participate in the discussion. We will also not tell him/her anything you say. Information from these discussions will be used to write a report that may include quotes from participants. These quotes will not identify who said them, but will be noted as, for example, "CDD group discussion, District." The information you give us during the group discussion might be shared with others and might be used for other studies, but we will not share any information that can identify you or others who were in the group.

Compensation: We will give you 2,000 CFA for your time and transportation expenses associated with the time you spend in the discussion.

Alternatives to Participation: There are no other alternatives other than not taking part in the study.

Contacts:

Do you have any questions?

Voluntary agreement:

Your participation in the discussion today is voluntary. You are free to choose not to participate. There is no penalty for refusing to take part, including no changes to your work as a community drug distributor.

Do you agree to take part in the discussion and be audio-recorded?

Signature of Participant	Date
Signature of Interviewer	Date

(Interviewer, please sign to confirm the participant has agreed to participate and has signed this form.)