DATE OF INTERVIEW: 15/12/2018
TYPE OF INTERVIEW: LIRA FGD RURAL
NO OF PARTICIPANTS: 10
VENUE: CHURCH COMPOUND
SEX: 8 FEMALES AND 2 MALES
TIME TAKEN: 1 hour: 11 minutes

INTRODUCTION

Moderator: So thank you for allowing to come to be part of this discussion. Before we start let me just put some kind of rules. Especially when we are holding discussions like this, people give different opinions but I ask you to respect each other's decision and opinion. And then in case you want to contribute to something, you can say, 'respondent one', and then you say, "this is my contribution" and then you give us your opinion, or "respondent two . . ." You remember those numbers?

Respondents: Yes

Moderator: So that when we are writing we know that now it is somebody else who is talking. Then we request that when you are talking you be a little bit louder so that we don't miss anything on the recording. There is no right or wrong answer; what you are saying is what we are interested in. Don't mind that maybe what I am saying is the wrong thing or not the right thing; no. We want all your opinions and that is why we called a variety of people. When I raise a topic I expect at least each one of you to give me your view because we want opinions from all of you. Then umm, after this interview we don't expect us to go share what someone shared in this interview; let's leave what we shared here. Then your responses, and you see we are not talking about your names now because we don't want to link your responses to your names. We are trying to protect your personal identity. When we are making reports we are not going to say that may be so and so said this or madam so and so said this. Then we request you to be honest when you are giving us your options; tell us the truth. This is not a court and no one is going to punish you. We just want your opinions. That is why we have come all the way to this place so that we can hear your views as community members. So can we continue? Any questions before we continue?

Respondents: *–no response-*

Moderator: So you will be number one, number two, three, four, five, six, seven and eight. Then let's start, since we have already taken details about yourselves. But just for a records' purpose, you said you are doing a . . . Respondent 1, you said you are doing a course in?

Respondent 1: A certificate in Environmental health

Respondent 2: VHT

Respondent 3: Teacher

Respondent 4: Peasant farmer

Respondent 5: Farmer

Respondent 6: Farmer

Respondent 7: Hair dresser

Respondent 9: Chairperson.

Moderator: Just for the record, Respondent 1, what's your age?

Respondent 1: 20 years

Respondent 2: 35

Respondent 3: 24

Respondent 4: 23

Respondent 5: 43.

Respondent 6: 22

Respondent 7: 24

Respondent 8: 24

Respondent 9: 29

Moderator: Respondent 10, you said you are 23!

Respondent 10: Yes

Moderator: Now let's start our discussion and for the phones, I know phones sometimes distract us so I wish we can put them in silence. I had also forgotten but let me put mine in silence. Just in case we are still discussing and you need to go the ladies or the gents, you can move out smoothly and come back. In case I ask a question and you have not understood, feel free to tell me to rephrase it so that we keep at the same pace. So the discussion is about sore throat which is "giduan" in our kids

Respondents: okay

Moderator: Let me see how many people here have kids!

Respondents: [raise up their hands]

Moderator: One, two, three . . . eight people have kids. Has anyone had a kid who had giduan maybe this year?

Respondents: Yes

Moderator: Respondent 1, Respondent 2 had, Respondent 4, Respondent 10 had, Respondent 5 had, Respondent 8 had, and Respondent 9 had. So we are talking about a topic where we all know and have experienced it in one way or the other. Even the two that haven't had, have you had anyone who has had sore throat or in a family?

Respondent 3: Yes

Moderator: Respondent 3, what is the relationship you have with that person who had the sore throat?

Respondent 3: He is my . . . she was the daughter to my cousin sister

Respondent 2: Me I had it myself

Moderator: You yourself? Wonderful! So we have people here who have experienced it. Okay, so that means that we are at the same pace. So can anyone share your recent experience with a child who had sore throat? Anyone who can volunteer? What happened? How did you know that it was sore throat, what did you do? Anyone who can share with us?

Respondent 9: It came with malaria.

Moderator: So what you saw was malaria?

Respondent 9: There is even high fever

Moderator: Apart from fever what did the baby have?

Respondent 9: The baby failed to eat

Respondent 7: The baby vomits

Moderator: How did the rest of you know that your children had giduan? How did you recognize that it was giduan?

Respondent 1: Mine it comes with flu

Moderator: How about for the kids? How did you notice that your baby had giduan?

Respondent 1: She can be there without eating. If he eats, he just vomits.

Moderator: How long ago did you child get giduan? Respondent 2, how long ago did your baby get giduan?

Respondent 2: Within this week.

Moderator: Can you share with us? What did you do for the baby when the baby got giduan?

Respondent 2: To me I just took him to the hospital and in the facility the first thing they found was malaria and after that they found giduan. So they gave him malaria Coartam and Panadol

Moderator: But for giduan what did they give?

Respondent 2: For me when I took my child, they tested and found the malaria and they wrote antimalarial Coartam and the Panadol

Moderator: So it wasn't giduan! The baby had sore throat?

Respondent 2: For me I was thinking that way.

Moderator: Oh you were thinking it was giduan and it ended up being malaria!

Respondent 2: Yes

Moderator: You said you also had a kid, when did that kid first get giduan?

Respondent 4: But that kid was not mine.

Moderator: It is okay, but what happened?

Respondent 4: From here, women are not taking their children to the health facility about giduan. What they are doing, there is a woman there called Santa; they are taking their children there but I cannot speak that one in English very well.

Moderator: You can speak in your language?

Respondent 4: Can I say it in Luo?

Moderator: Yeah

Respondents: [others laughing]

Respondent 4: And then you translate!

Moderator: Okay

Respondent 4: [Speaks native language]

Moderator: So what happens? They take to . . . what's the name of that lady again?

Respondents: Santa

Moderator: To remove the . . .

Interpreter: for thyroidectomy and that is for the throat, and then there is one for the nose she sprays from inside and then blood comes out; they bleed and then later taken to the hospital

Moderator: So at what point do they take the kids to the hospital?

Respondents: After removing that thing

Respondent 9: After getting the baby from that place

Moderator: So what makes them go to the hospital and yet they have already taken the baby to that woman?

Respondent 4: To get treatment

Moderator: So when they go that lady, what are they seeking for? Is it treatment?

Respondent 9: It is treatment but while there, you find that the process of making that thing come out creates a wound. So when they get the baby from that lady they take the baby to the hospital to seek treatment at least to get that wound healed.

Moderator: So that is what you do usually?

Respondent 9: Not everybody

Moderator: Who does it? What kinds of people do those kinds of things?

Respondent 9: Now this one I am going to speak in Luo

Moderator: Or some little English so that I can follow

Respondent 9: [speaks Luo] the second day I took the baby to the hospital and then after working on the baby, I found that there is no change. From there I came back to this woman whom you are calling Santa, she removed it and I took the baby back to the hospital. After two days, the baby started feeling okay but in the hospital, most of the nurses said that giduan is not there and yet we in the village we confirmed that it was there.

Moderator: So at the hospital they didn't see the giduan!

Respondent 9: Yes and they didn't confirm but there in the village we confirmed because when the baby is feeling fever, if you take him or her there and they remove, the baby can feel okay after one to two days.

Moderator: Anyone else who did something different? What did you do for your baby? How did you treat the baby?

Respondent 1: Me I take to that woman because when I took mine there, after a few days she started to feel well. Even that woman told me that it is malaria which causes the giduan.

Moderator: So is the baby fine now?

Respondent 1: Yes

Moderator: So what happens when you go to the health facilities first? Do the babies improve?

Respondents: Yes

Moderator: So what do you think makes the communities first go to Santas? You said that when you take them to the health facility they improve but in normal culture you first take them to Santa!

Respondents: Yes

Moderator: Why is it like that? Why do you think the village prefers to go to Santas first before they go to the health facility?

Respondent 5: For me I think in most cases when you first go to the hospital, they will check your baby and they say that it is malaria. Usually they can never confirm the sore throat at the health center and I don't know if there is just no way they can find it out. So the community members will first take to the Santa and after that they take them to the health centers just to get treatment because at the health center they will never confirm; there is no way they confirm. For them they just say that it is malaria. So in the hospital they treat malaria and malaria will go but this one will stay there.

Moderator: I get it. Now in the health facility they don't know how to diagnose giduan!

Respondent 5: They don't know

Respondent 4: But they do say that it is malaria

Moderator: They always say that it is malaria!

Respondent 4: Yes

Moderator: In the health facilities?

Respondent 4: Yes

Moderator: But Santa knows how to . . .

Respondent 9: To remove it

Moderator: Has anyone experienced a situation whereby after going to Santa the situation became worse, where the baby didn't improve?

Respondents: –no response-

Moderator: Did they all get well?

Respondent 5: In most cases

Moderator: In most cases they get well!

Respondents: Yes

Moderator: So between the facility and Santa, you would rather go to . . .

Respondent 9: Santa

Moderator: Santa first?

Respondent 3: Yes, and then to the facility

Moderator: Okay. Thank you. Now, what are the reasons our children get sore throat? Why do you think they get giduan? What causes it?

Respondent 9: I am going to explain in my local language

Moderator: In English, I know you can speak some English

Respondent 9: But this one is very hard for me to present in English.

Moderator: Okay

Respondent 9: [Speaks native]

Interpreter: He says that the baby dreams at night and the following day the baby has giduan so they are believing that it has something to do with evil.

Moderator: Oh, so the baby dreams about it and the next day he has it

Respondent 9: Yeah

Moderator: So you think it is something to do with evil!

Respondent 9: Yeah

Moderator: What do others think? Why are our babies getting it?

Respondent 1: Me I am going to explain how mine happened because for me in my family, that thing is very rare. So one time I went to fetch firewood and then from there I fell into a hole. After falling, I didn't even feel pain. That night I even dreamt so when I woke up in the morning my leg had swollen and I couldn't walk and I was also feeling bad.

Moderator: What did you dream in the night?

Respondent 1: I don't recall it because I was too young. So for me I didn't even believe in that thing. So when I woke up in the morning, I told my mum what happened and they took me to the Santa but I was fearing. So when they removed I came back I became well

Moderator: Is it painful when she is removing the giduan?

Respondent 1: It is very painful

Moderator: What does she use to remove?

Respondent 9: [laughs] her fingers.

Respondent 1: Her fingers

Respondent 9: That Santa, she can even just touch your head like this and then she says that you have giduan, but if it is malaria only, she tells you to go to the hospital. If it is only malaria, she knows

Moderator: She is like a traditional doctor?

Respondent 9: Yes, a traditional doctor.

Moderator: Now I understand. So what do others think? What is causing giduan in our children?

Respondent 8: Me I think it is the atmosphere because in our area there it is not there

Moderator: it is not there where you are coming from!

Respondent 8: Yes

Respondent 3: This thing is only in Lira.

Respondent 9: This thing is common in Lira district especially this side.

Moderator: Why this side?

Respondent 8: This side it is very common

Respondent: It is not in Karamoja?

Respondent 9: It is there but not as much as it is in Lira

Moderator: What makes it common here?

Respondent 4: No proper treatment for malaria.

Respondent 6: For me the way I see, it depends on how people in that place believe. If you believe that you are going to have it, you will have it. For me I got it in my baby but I didn't remove it ever since I gave birth to him because when he was like two months, his father told me that he was having that thing (giduan) and I said, *"No, I am not going to take my child that place."* I went to the nurse and she gave me the medicine and they gave it him. Up to now, we didn't remove it. So to me, it disturbs me so much

Respondents: [break into laughter]

Respondent 6: Even now I am having it

Moderator: You are still having it?

Respondent 6: Yes, but I never go to that woman

Moderator: You went to the health worker?

Respondent 6: Yes, and I take medicine. After some hours I can feel better

Moderator: Tell me; when you go to a health facility and they give you the medicine, do you complete the dose? If they give you a dose for 5 days, do you complete it?

Respondent 6: No

Respondents: [laughs]

Respondent 6: I can take like for two days

Moderator: Why? Tell more; why is it that you take for two days?

Respondent 9: Most of the people say, like me; when I am suffering from malaria and I go to a nurse or the health center and then they give me proper treatment, I will just go there for two days and when I find that there is a change on me, I leave. That is what happens.

Moderator: Is that what happens to all of you here?

Respondent 9: Yes

Moderator: If they give you a dose of five days you take for?

Respondent 9: Two to three days and then stop

Moderator: So when you get better you don't complete the medicine?

Respondent 9: Yes

Moderator: Do you see any danger in that; not completing the medicine?

Respondent 1: Okay sometimes when they give you medicine and you swallow but you don't complete the dose, you just stay for some few times and then the sore throat will come back. But of course it is also very hard to take medicine

Respondents: [laughs]

Moderator: What do others think? Any danger in not finishing medicine?

Respondent 7: *-no response-*

Moderator: Respondent 7, do you give your kids medicine?

Respondent 7: No

Moderator: What is your reason?

Respondent 7: Sometimes when the doctor tells you to give the baby that medicine for five days, maybe I give her in the morning but in the afternoon, I forget.

Moderator: So somehow you forget!

Respondent 7: Yes

Moderator: So some people forget, others when they feel better, so what do the others think?

Respondent 10: I am just repeating that; when they get better they refuse to take the medicine.

Moderator: Then, umm, why do you think the giduan starts when it starts? Why does it start the way it starts? Why do you think it comes?

Respondent 3: The way I see is that when it is a rainy season I see most of the children developing it, maybe because of malaria. It comes to them as malaria and then it comes to giduan.

Moderator: So in your opinion or experience, what do you think this giduan does to our children? How do you think it affects our children?

Respondent 3: First of all, when it is on the baby, the baby fails to eat and it also causes retardation in the growth.

Respondent 10: The baby just cries a lot.

Respondent 6: The baby can have a lot of pain

Moderator: Respondent 5, what does sore throat do to our children?

Respondent 5: The baby just starts to vomit.

Respondent 4: Loss of appetite.

Respondent 9: It also makes babies not to eat and also makes them uncomfortable

Respondent 1: General body weakness

Moderator: So if you don't treat giduan for long, how could our babies' bodies be affected?

Respondent 3: First of all when you don't give treatment, the baby actually dies; it causes death to the baby.

Respondent 2: It causes temperature

Respondent 4: The baby can lose a lot of weight and won't have the diet; they will die

Respondent 5: It can cause illness.

Moderator: So how serious and how severe is this problem of giduan in your place here? How do you see it? VHTs, how serious is giduan here or how bad is it in our children?

Respondent 2: Me I think that most of the parents don't know . . . and in the last …some of the parents refused to spray their . . .

Moderator: So is it very common in this place; giduan?

Respondents: Yes

Moderator: Very common?

Respondent 2: Very common

Moderator: And when a baby gets giduan, do you take it to be a serious disease?

Respondent 2: Yes

Moderator: Is it a serious illness?

Respondent 1: It is serious just like malaria. Just like when you don't treat malaria, the baby dies

Moderator: And then, does it improve quickly? Do our kids recover quickly from sore throat or they take some time?

Respondent 4: They take some time

Moderator: Like how long?

Respondent 4: Two to three days

Moderator: Others what do you think? Are you agreeing with her? It is two to three days?

Respondents: Yes

Moderator: so after those three days the baby improves?

Respondents: Yes

Moderator: Do they cure or they just get better?

Respondent 1: They get better

Respondent 4: They first get better and then afterwards it comes back.

Moderator: So a baby to cure, how long does it usually take?

Respondent 5: It can take 5 days

Respondent 6: It can take a week and others a month

Respondent 2: It also depends on how they have removed and also the minute of that time.

Respondent 3: And it also depends; if it came with malaria and the child is taken to Santa, she will remove it but the malaria will not stop until you go and treat. If it is only giduan, if the Santa removes, it just goes. After two to three days the baby will be okay.

Moderator: So after feeling okay, how long does it usually take before they get another giduan?

Respondent 4: Mine only takes two weeks. After two weeks it comes again

Moderator: How about the rest!

Respondent 7: Two to three weeks.

Respondent 8: Two to three weeks.

Respondent 10: One month

Respondent 2: For me it can take almost three months.

Moderator: What worries you most about sore throat? When a baby gets giduan, what scares you most?

Respondent 1: Because the baby will not even eat well

Respondent 2: He or she will cry all the night and even the day

Moderator: Others, what worries you when your baby gets giduan?

Respondent 4: It can refuse to eat.

Respondent 5: If the baby is breastfeeding, it can refuse the baby to suckle.

Respondent 6: The same

Moderator: You know I want to hear from each one of you because we need all your opinions. So what sort of problems does the giduan cause in your community here? How does this giduan really affect your community here? What happens when most of children have giduan here?

Respondent 9: Now let me explain. If my baby has giduan and then I take him to Santa and she removes it, after two to three days you will find another baby suffering from giduan. I think maybe it moves with air sometimes because if my baby is suffering from it, after two to three days you will find another baby at another home and then it affects the community.

Moderator: So when your baby has giduan, how is your work affected?

Respondent 1: When your baby is suffering from that, you will have no time to go to the garden; you will waste a lot of time carrying the baby and also it can lead to poverty because a lot of time is spent moving up and down.

Moderator: What about others; how are you affected when your babies have sore throat? You as the parents, the sisters and brothers.

Respondent 6: It affects the business.

Moderator: How?

Respondent 6: Getting money will be difficult because you will spend all the time lifting your child, going to the health facility or to Santa

Respondent 2: This thing cannot only affect children but also the adults. Like me, if I am suffering with it but I don't go to Santa, I will be down and sick for even a week. This means that if I am a business man it affects my business.

Moderator: If I may ask, how much do you pay when you go to Santa to remove that thing?

Respondent 1: Only 1000shs

Respondents: 1000shs

Moderator: And how much do you use when you go to health facilities?

Respondent 1: Freely

Respondent 2: When you go to the health facility it is free of charge but when you go to the clinic you pay.

Moderator: So where is the nearest health facility around here? How far is it from here? Is it a walkable distance?

Respondent 2: Not far

Moderator: When you go there do they give you medicine for giduan? Do they have it in the health facility?

Respondent 2: They have the medicine for malaria because for them they don't . . .

Respondent 5: They believe it is malaria

Respondent 7: They just say that is the sign of malaria

Moderator: So always they give you medicine for?

Respondents: Malaria

Moderator: They don't give you medicine for?

Respondents: Giduan

Moderator: Because they believe it is just . . .

Respondent 1: That it is just a sign of malaria

Moderator: I understand. Then how about our children who go to school! What happens when they get giduan?

Respondent 2: He or she fails to go school because that giduan is so painful

Moderator: So a child can miss like how many days of school?

Respondent 2: Almost a week

Respondent 5: One week, so it affects the performance

Moderator: You said for the Santa you pay 1000shs!

Respondents: Yes

Moderator: And how many times do you go to Santa?

Respondent 2: When it comes

Moderator: If the baby got it today, how many times do you go back?

Respondent 2: You only go once

Respondent 4: They remove and you come back.

Moderator: Has anyone ever failed to raise the money for Santa and somehow you didn't take the baby to her?

Respondent 2: When you go to the Santa, even if you don't have the money she just helps you. She just serves and tells you that when you get money you bring it to her.

Moderator: So Santa is a nice lady

Respondent 2: Yes [laughs]

Respondent 4: Very good.

Moderator: So do you see giduan as a very big problem in your community here?

Respondents: Yes

Moderator: How do you think we can tackle this problem and why do you think it is big? Let's start from there! Why do you think it is a big problem?

Respondent 1: Me I have two ideas; the first thing is the belief of the community members and then the second one is maybe the health center or maybe the location where it is located.

Moderator: Talk a little more about belief; expound on that.

Respondent 1: Because most people believe that maybe if you dream at night, that that is what brings the sore throat. Most times what you believe in is what happens, that is why it is the problem in my view.

Moderator: Others, why do you think it is such a big issue in your place? Respondent 6, why is it such a big issue?

Respondent 6: Sometimes when you go to the health center and when you tell the person there, he will say that we don't have that kind of thing here.

Respondent 4: For me I think that one is laziness to go to the health facility to seek care for their children because this thing is happening here only, but why is it that this woman is taking her child to the health facility and this thing is not happening to this child?

Moderator: Respondent 10, why do you think it is such a big issue?

Respondent 10: [chuckles] because if you don't treat it well the child may die.

Moderator: Has it affected your relationships in your homes in a way, when you baby is getting giduan all the time? Are your families affected in any way?

Respondent 9: Yeah

Moderator: Tell us more about that.

Respondent 9: Because, like for me, if my baby is suffering from giduan I will not feel okay and my wife too will not feel okay. Even other children will not feel okay because they will think that maybe their brother or sister may die. Even me as a parent I will have fear. So it will affect me.

Moderator: How about the rest; have your relationships been affected by giduan in one way or the other?

Respondents: –no response-

Moderator: Silence means what? Respondent 8! Anything you have to say?

Respondent 3: You know when someone is sick in the family, everyone feels unhappy because family members may have fear that the person who is suffering from this giduan may at times die. So when we are two in the family, me and my wife and maybe the third one is the child, and then the baby gets giduan, all of us will take the baby to Santa or to the health facility. Then when everyone is not at home, of course when we come back you find nothing to eat. So everyone will be involved in doing this activity. So it will affect your work at home.

Moderator: Anyone with a different view?

Respondents: *–no response-*

Moderator: So this question is adjusted because it was asking; what do people in this community do when their children get sore throat and you have made it clear that they go to Santa!

Respondents: Yes

Moderator: And then after removing they go to health facilities!

Respondents: Yes

Moderator: Do we have other people who go to these traditional witch doctors?

Respondent 2: No

Respondent 9: No

Respondent 1: No

Respondent 3: No

Moderator: But do you think someone can bewitch you and you get giduan? Can someone bewitch your kid and she gets giduan?

Respondent 3: No

Respondent 4: No

Respondent 7: No

Respondent 1: No

Respondent 8: No

Respondent 9: I am going to be different from them. If someone beats my child and then the baby cries a lot the whole day, the following morning he or she may suffer giduan; if he cries a lot.

Respondent 2: Mine would just get fever but not giduan.

Moderator: So Respondent 10, can they bewitch your child and they get giduan?

Respondent 10: No

Respondent 3: It can only bring fever but not giduan

Respondent 2: No

Respondent 1: No

Moderator: Have you seen some people in your community who go maybe to drug shops pharmacies first to treat giduan or you all go to Santa?

Respondent 2: Not all of us

Respondent 1: Not all of us

Respondent 4: We all don't go to Santa

Moderator: Where do you go first?

Respondent 4: I go to the health facility or to the drug shop

Moderator: Even Respondent 2 you don't go to Santa?

Respondent 2: No

Moderator: You go to?

Respondent 2: To the health facility or to the drug shop

Moderator: Remind me; why do you start with the health facility and you don't go to Santa?

Respondent 1: Me I think that one is just malaria.

Respondent 4: Me I know that there is a medicine for that giduan

Respondent 7: For me, firstly, I take to the facility and then the medical workers diagnose and treat

Moderator: Why not Santa?

Respondent 1: But that thing is painful when Santa is removing it.

Respondent 7: [laughs] because I go first to the health facility.

Moderator: Respondent 2, why do you prefer to go to the health facility first and not Santa first?

Respondent 2: Because the health workers can diagnose if it is true that it is malaria or the other giduan

Moderator: So if it is giduan or if the health workers say that it is giduan, what do you do? Where do you go next?

Respondent 2: They will just write for me

Respondent 4: A referral

Moderator: Okay, thank you so much. So what do people expect in this community when they get that treatment they get? When you go to Santa, what is your expectation about that treatment? Do you see the baby curing, improving or not? Because we all go to health facilities or traditional healers with an expectation.

Respondent 9: We expect improvement after removing it (the sore throat).

Moderator: How about those who go to health facilities?

Respondent 2: For me, I always prefer mine or even the community because we need the final result if he or she was treated well.

Moderator: Does giduan cure completely and the baby never gets it again? Do you believe it cures?

Respondent 9: No

Moderator: Why?

Respondent 9: Because, like me if I have giduan and I go to the Santa, she will remove it but you will find that after two to three months, this giduan will come back again

Moderator: So giduan doesn't heal!

Respondent 9: No

Moderator: Respondent 10, does it heal?

Respondent 10: No

Respondent 3: I think it heals because it affected me in 1999 but up to now I have never experienced it

Moderator: Where did you go when it affected you?

Respondent 3: I was taken to Santa [laughing]

Moderator: Respondent 4, does giduan heal?

Respondent 4: Me I don't know because I do not even think that giduan is there. I think it is not there because what causes giduan is malaria; it is a sign of malaria. Now, on my side, if I start feeling giduan I just go to the health facility and from there they give me treatment for malaria

Respondent 1: and then after you get cured? [While laughing]

Moderator: Respondent 1, does it heal?

Respondent 1: Yeah, I believe it heals. It is associated with malaria; just like malaria. When you treat it, you will get fine.

Moderator: Respondent 5, does it heal? Does giduan heal?

Respondent 5: Yes

Respondent 7: Yes

Moderator: It heals but most of you have said that your babies have had it recurrently; it keeps on coming back

Respondents: Yeah

Moderator: Why do you think it is like that? Why does it keep on coming back?

Respondent 1: Me I think it is improper treatment.

Moderator: What do the others think? Why is it still disturbing us?

Respondent 9: I am saying that giduan is like other diseases like TB because if you treat it and then you get cured, then it will take a year or a month and then this disease comes back again. Even TB is like that,

because you can treat and find that you are okay but then after some years, it comes back. I think it is like other sicknesses.

Moderator: Has anyone ever heard of strep throat infection?

Respondent 9: I have never heard about it.

Respondent 2: It is the first time

Moderator: Have you ever heard about it?

Respondent 1: No

Moderator: Anyone who has ever heard about it?

Respondents: No

Moderator: So that means that this question is not applicable because you can't know how you treat it if you have not heard about it. Umm do people in this community trust the health centers to treat giduan?

Respondent 9: Yes

Moderator: Can they give medicine for sore throat, the health centers?

Respondent 9: Remember madam, when you go to the hospital they just say that it is a sign for malaria but they don't have drugs or medicine for sore throat

Moderator: So you don't trust health centers!

Respondent 9: We trust

Respondents: [laugh]

Moderator: Because you said that when you go there they don't treat the giduan

Respondent 9: They don't

Moderator: So do you trust them that they can treat giduan?

Respondent 9: [Laughs]

Respondent 1: I think they believe that they can treat but they don't trust because they would believe if they were treating and getting better, but now if they are not treating it, they don't believe but they will have that trust because the health center can provide that service and can work on their children.

Respondent 6: Nowadays when you go to the hospital when your baby is sick, what they do is to first ask you is whether you removed that thing or not. If you removed it they just treat the wound and if you lie to them that you have not removed and yet you have removed it, they will treat the baby with the other medicine. When the baby collapses, that is when you will start saying the truth to them and then they treat it.

Moderator: Tell me more about it; when you lie to the health workers that they didn't remove, they give you different medicine!

Respondents: Yeah

Moderator: And when the baby uses that medicine they do what? They collapse?

Respondent 6: When the baby collapses or something bad happens to the baby, because another time there is a woman who took the baby to the hospital and she had already removed it (the sore throat). They noticed after she lied to them, so they treated the baby but after that the baby collapsed. The woman got scared and she ran away; they brought her back and when they asked her, she said the truth. They then told her, "You wanted us to kill your baby? We wanted the truth from you but you didn't tell us the truth."

Moderator: So why do people fear to say the truth to health workers?

Respondent 2: They quarrel with people

Respondent 1: Nowadays they know, so they don't quarrel.

Respondent 6: At first they didn't believe in it but nowadays they know that thing (sore throat) is there. Now they have to ask the parents when they take the baby to the hospital whether or not she removed it.

Moderator: Tell me more; so they used to quarrel whenever you said?

Respondent 6: Yes

Respondent 9: Yes

Moderator: What would they say?

Respondent 2: They would say, "giduan is not there; that is malaria. Why have you take your child to Santa?"

Moderator: So the way out was that people would lie!

Respondent 2: Yeah

Respondent 6: You try to hide the truth

Respondent 9: So if you go you need to hide the truth and say that my baby is suffering from malaria and yet the baby is suffering from giduan and you have already taken it to the Santa and she has already removed it but the baby is not feeling fine. So if you go there, for them to work on your baby you have to lie to them that you didn't take him or her to Santa; to fear them.

Moderator: Now I understand. Now how can we restore that confidence so that when you go to the health facility, you are sure that they will work on you or that you will not be abused? What can we do to encourage people to go to health facilities to seek treatment for giduan?

Respondent 2: We have to talk to the nurses

Moderator: How can we instill confidence in the community so that they say the truth so that they stop lying?

Respondent 1: We have to educate the community about the sore throat; we sensitize them more about it. Of course the health workers will be the ones to come, so that relationship will be brought. So people will get used to the health workers whereby if they go to the health center they will no longer fear.

Moderator: Respondent 2, how can we instill the confidence so that people can go and seek treatment?

Respondent 2: If you can sensitize the community and then you make referral to the health center.

Respondent 9: I am going to just add; we need to sensitize the community about giduan so that if your child is suffering from giduan, you take him/her to the health center. Then even those nurses, I don't know the way to talk to them; they should also know that if someone takes the baby to the health center, he should be able to question him or her in a good way because they fear. If you see someone seeing you like this [makes and angry face], you fear. They are there but I don't know how to convince them to tell them that the community fears you. Well it is not all of them but some.

Moderator: so the community fears health facilities?

Respondents: Yes

Moderator: What is so scary about them?

Respondent 1: They don't have a good code of conduct

Moderator: What is it that they need in their conduct?

Respondent 1: You see when you ask someone in a humble way, the person will tell the truth but if you just start barking at someone, the person will hide the truth and instead they become scared

Moderator: So they bark at you!

Respondents: Yes

Moderator: What else do they do which makes you say that you would rather go to Santa?

Respondent 5: They refused to work on your child

Moderator: You take a child who is sick and they say?

Respondent 5: If you first take to Santa and take to them, they refuse to work on the child.

Respondent 9: They may say, *"You go back to Santa"*

Respondent 5: "It seems you think Santa is a doctor"

Moderator: What else? What other message are you giving to the health workers who are treating you? How should they improve so that you go there instead of running to Santa?

Respondent 8: For me I think, one thing they can help us is develop giduan . . .

Moderator: So what can health workers do to improve the way they treat you and your children? How do you want the health workers to improve in the way they handle you?

Respondent 8: Me I think government should bring the machine to prove that.

Respondent 9: I have my idea of how to make the community not to fear those nurses; we have our district and then the parish leader. They should talk to these people and then they take our problems to them to those nurses and say that in our community, people are fearing some of the nurses here. So when they come, you should treat them in a good way.

Respondent 4: Let me add on his point; not even the district but we can even involve these local leaders or opinion leaders to have a community dialogue to mobilize these mothers and these doctors to improve this giduan

Moderator: So apart from them being rude to you and them not believing that giduan is there and that it is malaria, what else discourages you from going to health facilities to seek treatment?

Respondent 9: If you go to a health center, let me say if you are suffering from another disease apart from giduan, you may go there and reach there in the morning until the afternoon. Then after the nurse works on you, she says that there is no medicine or that the medicine is finished so you go and buy from the drug shop. That even makes us to fear

Moderator: Respondent 10, what stops people from going to health facilities? It may not be you but you have people you know in the community who don't go to health facilities; what stops them?

Respondent 10: They come very late to their work

Moderator: The what? The health workers?

Respondent 10: Yes

Moderator: So it discourages you!

Respondent 10: Yes

Moderator: What else?

Respondent 8: Distance to go to the health worker

Moderator: You said you have a health facility nearby!

Respondents: Yeah

Moderator: How far is it from where you are here?

Respondent 9: Three to four kilometers

Moderator: And how much do you spend if you were to take a boda?

Respondent 3: 2000shs

Respondent 4: To and fro is 4000shs

Respondent 9: 4000shs

Moderator: Can people in the community afford that?

Respondent 4: No

Respondent 9: Others cannot afford. Others just foot.

Respondent 1: Another point is that usually when you go to the health center, sometimes you go in the morning and then people will be very many but the health workers are few, so you end up not even getting treatment but you have been there the whole day

Respondent 9: Then they tell you to come back tomorrow

Respondent 1: You go back the next day but you may fail; you may have to go there three time to succeed. So sometimes the person can get discouraged and say, "argh, let me just stay."

Moderator: Any other view which is different from what you have said?

Respondent 2: And we also need more numbers of the health workers. For instance, when you look here, we have only three clinicians and some of them are on leave. So it means one person should come in a week three times. So because of overcrowding since we have boarders of Petong and Pader, the number of patients should be many but one person cannot work on all of them.

Moderator: So it is one clinician who is going to rotate around those days!

Respondents: Yes

Respondent 1: Sometimes they can be two and sometimes it can be only one because me I have ever done internship there.

Moderator: So does that mean that at the facility he goes there once? Other days who manages those facilities?

Respondent 2: We have the in-charge.

Moderator: Anything else before we finish?

Respondents: *–no response-*

Moderator: So in a nutshell, what would encourage you to seek care in these health facilities? Let's just brainstorm them before we finish.

Respondent 2: Sensitization.

Respondent 3: The distance is very far.

Moderator: The distance!

Respondent 2: Yeah

Moderator: Do you understand what I mean by "encourage"? It is something that can . . .

Respondent 2: That can make you to go

Moderator: Yes

Respondent 3: Good service delivery

Respondent 2: When there is no delay in the hospital

Respondent 6: Proper treatment

Respondent 9: Good relationship between the patients and the nurses.

Respondent 4: Proper treatment.

Moderator: What do you mean by proper treatment because that is a big word?

Respondent 4: Proper treatment, where they give you full dose even with all the medicine and even they tell you how to take that drug; whether in the morning, afternoon or in the evening.

Moderator: Respondent 6, you also said proper treatment; what is proper treatment?

Respondent 6: The good care; every time they keep on checking how the patient is doing and giving you the full dose of medicine.

Moderator: Respondent 2, to you what is proper treatment?

Respondent 2: Proper treatment to me means that if I go to the health center and then they diagnose my disease and they give me all sorts of drugs.

Moderator: Okay thank you. Respondent 10, any different view? What is proper treatment to you?

Respondent 10: *-no response-*

Respondent 9: Now for me I think proper treatment means that if I go to the health center and then they work on me and my illness, and then from there I come back when I am fine. To me that is proper treatment; if I am okay.

Moderator: Okay thank you so very much, thank you for giving us your time. We have been here for one hour and eleven minutes. Thank you for giving us that one full hour, you would be doing other things but you have decided to participate in this conversation. The information that you have given us is going

to help us to design better programs for our children to be well such that when they get sore throat they get better treatment. Thank you so much. Any questions before we finish?

Respondents: *-no response-*

Moderator: The silence means no?

DATE OF INTERVIEW: 15/12/2018
TYPE OF INTERVIEW: FGD Urban Lira
NO OF PARTICIPANTS: 6
SEX: FEMALES
TIME TAKEN: 55 MINUTES
INTRODUCTION

Moderator: So before we start, let me know a little bit about you. Respondent 1, tell us; how old are you?

Respondent 1: I'm 18 years of age.

Moderator: What do you do?

Respondents: I'm a student at …… University.

Moderator: Do you have any children?

Respondents: No.

Interviewer: Are you married?

Respondents: No.

Moderator: What's your religion?

Respondent 1: I am an Anglican.

Moderator: Good to meet you. Respondent 2, how are you?

Respondent 2: I am okay.

Moderator: How old are you?

Respondent 2: I am 34.

Moderator: What do you do?

Respondent 2: I am not doing anything; just sitting home.

Moderator: House wife?

Respondent 2: Yes.

Moderator: And then in what class did you stop?

Respondent 2: Bachelor level; social sciences. I did a degree in social sciences.

Moderator: What is your faith?

Respondent 2: I am Anglican.

Interviewer: Any children?

Respondents: One.

Moderator: Married?

Respondent 2: Not yet.

Moderator: Respondent 3, how old are you?

Respondent 3: 32.

Moderator: What do you do?

Respondent 3: I am at home.

Moderator: In which class did you stop?

Respondent 3: Diploma level.

Moderator: What is your faith?

Respondent 3: Anglican.

Moderator: Do you have any children?

Respondent 3: Yes.

Moderator: How many?

Respondent 3: 3

Moderator: Are you married?

Respondent 3: Not yet fully [laughs].

Moderator: Nice to meet you. Respondent 4, how old are you?

Respondent 4: 20?

Moderator: Are you married?

Respondent 4: Not fully.

Moderator: But you are staying with someone?

Respondent 4: Yes.

Moderator: Do you have any children?

Respondent 4: One.

Moderator: What do you do?

Respondent 4: Just a tailor.

Moderator: And then, in which class did you stop?

Respondent 4: Senior four.

Interviewer: Thank you. Respondent 5, how old?

Respondent 5: I am 30

Moderator: Any children?

Respondent 5: 4

Moderator: Are you married?

Respondent 5: Yes.

Interviewer: What is your religion?

Respondent 5: Protestant

Moderator: What do you do?

Respondent 5: I am farming

Moderator: Respondent 6, how old are you?

Respondent 6: I am 22

Moderator: What do you do?

Respondent 6: I am a student.

Moderator: Any children?

Respondent 6: I have one.

Moderator: Are you married?

Respondent 6: Not yet.

Moderator: What is your religion?

Respondent 6: I am an Anglican.

Moderator: There are a few rules that we are going to follow; we respect each other when we are talking. All opinions are important; they may be different but they are very important to us. So let's not put down anyone who says anything which is different from what you think. We also request you to be a little bit loud so that we capture all your voices. I am a little bit loud and I think that is my problem. Sometimes when I listen am more audible than the people who are even supposed to give me responses. So because of this we are not interested in what we ask but the interview. So, we request you to be as honest as possible; we are sharing experiences. We are not going to beat anyone. It doesn't matter what you say but we just want to learn from you. After this interview let's not discuss what we have discussed here, okay?

Respondent 1: Yeah

Moderator: And your responses are not going to be linked back to you that it is you who said this. That is why we are using numbers. So when you give me your opinion you say, Number one, this is my opinion or number two, this is my opinion, like that. So umm, ……. is my name and this is …….. and I think you know her; she is going to be noting the key issues in the discussion while I moderate. So let's begin, what's the local name you use for sore throat or tonsillitis?

Respondent 1: [-Gidiuann.

Moderator: So we shall either use sore throat or Gidiuann.

Respondents: [Laugh].

Moderator: Now we are going to talk about sore throat in children. Let me see some people that have had sore throat in children in say the last ten years.

Respondents: [Raising up their hands].

Moderator: So it is all of you! Wonderful! That means we are talking about a topic that you are familiar with. So who can share with us their most recent experiences? When was the last time the person you are going to talk about had sore throat?

Respondent 3: I personally.

Moderator: Eh, you also had it? When was the last time?

Respondent 3: It was last month.

Moderator: What did you do when you got it?

Respondent 3: Okay I called my mum; she is a nurse and she told me to swallow antibiotics actually; amoxicillin and painkillers.

Interviewer: Okay. Did it help?

Respondent: Yeah, it improved.

Moderator: Did you finish the whole dose?

Respondent 3: No [laughs]. They told me to swallow for 5 days but I didn't because swallowing medicine is hard.

Moderator: You swallowed for how long?

Respondent 3: Only 3 days.

Moderator: Was it the first time you were getting the sore throat?

Respondent 3: No, because they have even ever removed it, like locally but she (mother) wasn't aware. We were with our grandmother in the village. By then I was 7 years of age. So then they used a spoon to remove it.

Moderator: How was your experience?

Respondent 3: Painful and then afterwards . . .

Moderator: Then afterwards,

Respondent 3: She (mother) wasn't aware; she wasn't told but she was told later after some time.

Moderator: So it is your grandma who took it. Why did she opt for the . . . what do you call those women? We need to give them a name.

Respondent 2: Traditional doctors.

Respondent 3: Actually she took me to a fellow old woman and they said that she is the one who removes that in the village.

Moderator: Did she ever take you for treatment to a health center?

Respondent 3: No, that was the first time I had it. This is not the second time I have been coming here.

Moderator: How were you treating it?

Respondent 3: When I came back to mum, mostly they put me on Cef (Ceftriaxone) from the hospital for like 5 days.

Interviewer: Did you finish the medicine?

Respondent: Yes.

Moderator: okay. Let's hear from the rest, tell us about the most recent episode of Gidiuan.

Respondent 5: It was in June; it was my son who had it and I think it had just started. So I took him to Marie Stopes and they gave him some antibiotics and then some 5 days injections and tablets and after we finished the thing disappeared

Interviewer: Was it the first time he was having it?

Respondent 5: Yeah, it was the first time and it has never come back

Moderator: So you went to the hospital!

Respondent 5: Yeah

Moderator: Let's hear from Respondent 3

Respondent 4: Me I have been hearing about sore throat. Okay me my children have not been suffering; they have not, not even one. But I had a neighbor and that was around August; she was like her daughter was having, the mouth was all having wounds so she had to take her to the health center. They gave her some antibiotics and some syrups because she was not eating. So they gave her the treatment and she became fine.

Moderator: Respondent 4

Respondent 4: I also had a neighbor who had a child with that just one week ago. She said that always at night the baby can cry or not breastfeed but when she realized, she started bringing the baby to the hospital here. Now when she reached here the baby just died when they didn't even work on them.

Moderator: The baby died from the ward?

Respondent 4: Yeah. So they didn't even work on the baby.

Moderator: How did the community perceive that?

Respondent 4: They were saying that the lady was supposed to take the baby to those local people so that they can remove but the lady didn't know and that is why she delayed. And they also didn't know that thing is there and that is why they wanted to bring to the hospital.

Moderator: How about in your household where you stay or among your relatives; has it ever happened?

Respondent 4: It has never happened.

Moderator: Let's hear from Respondent 5.

Respondent 5: Can I tell you in my language?

Moderator: Only that I won't probe.

Respondent 5: **speaks native language**

Interpreter: She says that whenever her children get sore throat she always takes them to the hospital, they are given medicine and then heal after four days because her first child had a sore throat, they went for the local tonsillectomy but it wasn't a good experience for her.

Moderator: Let's hear from Respondent 6

Respondent 6: The last time we had it, it was with my brother. So after realizing he had too much fever, he wasn't taking anything and that he wasn't eating, we had to first take it to someone, the local doctor you talked about. So they removed it and after removing it he was rushed to the hospital. So they gave him some antibiotics and after using the antibiotics, he became okay.

Moderator: So let me ask something; if you don't take it for removal to those people, the traditionalists, before you bring them to hospital, what happens? Why do you think the community prefers to first go to the traditional before they come to hospital?

Respondent 6: To me, if it is removed first and then rushed to the hospital, that person heals faster.

Moderator: So when you go to the hospital first, it doesn't heal faster?

Respondent 6: For some people, when you are bringing this kid to the hospital, you may not know that it might be that sore throat but after taking it to those old ladies, they can tell you that it is this that is causing the fever and not making the kid to drink or eat. So after realizing, that is when they remove it and rush the kid to the hospital.

Respondent 4: And some of them also said that when you bring the baby to the hospital when the baby is suffering from that, when they use the drugs from the hospital on the baby, it can kill the baby.

Respondent 4: Me personally I don't believe that because as a caretaker, you have to monitor first. Every day you are with the child so at least you know that today my child has not eaten, so you ask yourself, "what's wrong?" So you keep monitoring the changes in the child that gives a chance for you to know what's wrong with your child. Just last year, a neighbor had the same issue so she took the daughter to these local *Santas*. She took the girl there and yet she had sickle cell too. So after them removing the thing, she came back home and the girl started vomiting blood, almost a full basin! So from there again she had to rush the child to the hospital and yet we told her to take the child to the hospital and she refused at first. At the end she ended up in the hospital and the girl nearly died, but they worked on her and she recovered.

Moderator: From your experience, when people first try the Santas and then go to the hospital, do they tell the health workers where they went first?

Respondents: [murmuring] they don't say anything.

Respondent 4: They don't say anything. They keep quiet and when there is a problem that is when they say it. Otherwise they just come and keep quiet.

Moderator: Why do they keep quiet?

Respondent 2: They are always harassed when they say it

Moderator: There is some bit of harassment?

Respondent 2: Yeah.

Moderator: Like what? How do they harass them?

Respondent 3: Sometimes after you saying that you went and they removed it, they always tell you, *"we are not going to work on that kid; just go find somewhere else and they work on your kid."* Let's say you have gone to a public facility, that's how they answer you. But of recent they have also known about it and they started bringing those machines for extracting it after realizing that it is also there.

Moderator: At first they couldn't.

Respondent 3: At first they couldn't accept.

Moderator: What were they thinking; the doctors?

Respondent 3: I don't even know what they used to think about but of recent they are testing it.

Moderator: And when they give the babies treatment to the children, do they recover?

Respondent 3: Actually it is after you the caretaker telling them how the kid is behaving. Then they open the mouth and there is something that they push inside there after the baby has opened the mouth; they remove it and after removing it they begin the treatment.

Moderator: Thank you for that. Now let's move on; umm, so what do you think are some of the reasons a child gets sore throat?

Respondent 1: It is an infection; that's what I was told.

Moderator: What do others say?

Respondent 2: A child can get that sore throat through eating dirty things and then they get infections because you know with a child, you can't stop a child from picking everything in the compound and everywhere. So they get that infection.

Moderator: What do others think?

Respondent 3: I asked some doctor at Reproductive Health and this doctor told me that it is as a result of not brushing the tongue well. So if you do not brush it well it contains some bacteria that go and stay around the throat. After compiling there they bring those sores.

Respondent 5: **Speaks native language**

Interpreter: That it is from the breast while the child is breastfeeding, if you don't clean the nipple.

Respondent 5: **Speaks native language**

Interpreter: And from germs on dirty things.

Moderator: Anyone who has a different view?

Respondents: No.

Moderator: Can a child be bewitched and he gets sore throat?

Respondents: No [while laughing].

Moderator: No?

Respondent 1: Yeah.

Moderator: Can traditional healers heal sore throat?

Respondent 6: Yeah, they can heal.

Moderator: What do others think?

Respondent 2: Me I think it is luck; sometimes the child may heal and sometimes he may not heal. It's all luck.

Respondent 1: Me I think it can.

Moderator: Why?

Respondent 1: Because they have said it is an infection, so me I think it is an infection if it is an infection, when you bring the child to the hospital they can know the best treatment they can give the child.

Respondent 4: For me I know they can't heal because sometimes when they remove they can again tell you when you go back you go and use Panadol or something like that.

Moderator: So they still refer you to the modern medicine?

Respondent 4: Yeah.

Moderator: So what are some of the symptoms you know of sore throat? How do you know that my child has sore throat?

Respondent 4: Fever, and the child would start refusing food. Others they start crying, as in, when you give them something to eat you see the child would start crying. You try to force them but they just feel like they can't eat. If you force them to eat and they just continue to cry, just know that then there is some problem. You have to ask yourself, *"Why is this one refusing to eat?"* especially if he is the type who over likes eating.

Moderator: Others; what do you have to say? What are the symptoms? How do you know that my child or relative has sore throat?

Respondent 1: Me I think also the same; the fever comes in and also you don't eat. You lose appetite.

Moderator: And then umm, so in your opinion or experience, what does the sore throat do to our children? How does it affect them?

Respondent 1: It stops them from eating and loss of weight.

Respondent 4: If not treated even a child can die.

Respondent 3: It can kill the child if not treated.

Respondent 6: Actually the child will just be so weak that they can't do anything. If it is an active baby, they become dull.

Moderator: What does sore throat do to our child; how does it affect them?

Respondent 5: **Speaks native language**

Interpreter: [Inaudible].

Moderator: And then, how severe is the problem of sore throat? Do you take it to be a serious disease that is affecting our children here?

Respondent 1: Yeah.

Respondent 3: It is.

Respondent 1: It is a serious disease. You find that kids suffering from malaria but in the malaria it is the other Gidiuan.

Moderator: Are you seeing many children with it around?

Respondent 1: Not really.

Moderator: It is not common?

Respondent 3: It is common but mostly in the village.

Moderator: In the village?

Respondent 3: Yes, in the villages it is very common.

Moderator: Why is it common in the villages?

Respondent 3: Could it be the environment.

Respondent 1: Poor hygiene.

Respondent 3: Poor hygiene and all that. Even what they eat; the water they take from the village.

Moderator: So in the town areas it is not so common?

Respondent 1: It is not so common.

Moderator: So usually a typical episode, how long does it last? Does it go through quickly or they take some time?

Respondent 1: It depends on how it is treated.

Moderator: What do you mean it depends on the treatment?

Respondent 1: Okay, mostly the treatment lasts for 5 days. So if it is a proper treatment, by the time the child is finishing that last day, you find that he has recovered.

Respondent 2: Actually within only two days, you start seeing some improvement.

Moderator: When you start seeing the improvement, do you continue with the treatment?

Respondent 1: You continue.

Respondent 2: Yes

Moderator: Up to the end?

Respondent 1: Yeah

Moderator: Do you all continue?

Respondent 1: Yes.

Moderator: So what worries you most about sore throat? What gets you worried about sore throat?

Respondent 2: For me sometimes if a child fails to eat, like if I am eating but my child is not eating, I can't also be happy.

***Respondent 6*:** What worries me about sore throat is that if it is not well treated and well managed, the child, you can lose the child

Moderator: Respondent 3, what worries you about sore throat? What would worry you if a child got sore throat?

Respondent 3: [no response]

Moderator: ***Respondent 4:***

Respondent 4: What I know about it is that sometimes when they remove that thing it can even hurt the baby's throat.

Moderator: Is there any disease that you know a child may develop if sore throat persists?

Respondent 1: Yeah.

Moderator: Like what?

Respondent 1: To me I think it can even cause goiter. Let's say if it is a symptom and it is not well treated and the throat is affected, it can even come to that.

Moderator: What do others think?

Respondent 6: What I think is that by removing that, maybe those equipment that the village people use is not sterilized, it can even lead to cancer of the tongue.

Respondent 4: what I know is that if the person who is removing has AIDS and the baby also gets some wounds, it might even cross.

Moderator: Respondent 5, what do you think? Which disease can result into with untreated sore throat?

Respondent 5: **speaks native language**

Interpreter: [Inaudible]

Moderator: Then, how about the children; what do they worry most about it? Do they get worried about sore throat?

Respondent 1: I think they get worried because they would not eat or play.

Respondent 2: When they have sore throat, the kid is not playing and this child becomes so worried. If she/he thinks of taking them to the other person to remove it, he feels so worried actually.

Moderator: That Santa?

Respondent 1: Actually if she knows the person, even if she (the Santa) is just nearby or passing by, she can run and enter the house.

Moderator: How about to the community; what sort of problems does sore throat cause to the community? Is the community affected by our children having sore throat?

Respondents: [murmuring] yes.

Respondent 1: When you lose the child of course someone would be affected.

Respondent 2: Actually the cost of treating is also high because even those people who remove also make some money. After removing you need to rush the kid to the hospital.

Moderator: How much do you pay for the removal?

Respondent 2: It depends on how you have negotiated with that person.

Moderator: But it ranges in how much?

Respondent 2: Me when I took mine to Marie Stopes I spent about 65,000.

Moderator: That was in the hospital, but how about the Santas?

Respondents: [laughs]

Respondent 2: For the Santas, maybe it ranges from around 15000shs to 20000shs there.

Moderator: So when the Santas remove it, does it come back?

Respondent 1: Actually there are some local herbs that they go and get. After giving the kid it doesn't come back.

Moderator: What is the name of that herb?

Respondent 1: I don't know because they don't even tell you the exact name. They don't even show you that herb.

Respondent 2: You just see her working and working.

Moderator: And then, let's look at our children especially those who are in school; how are they affected by this sore throat?

Respondent 6: They don't perform well. When a child is sick the performance also drops.

Moderator: Do they miss school?

Respondent 3: Yeah, they miss because sometimes it comes when you don't even know how it starts or the signs. After talking about it someone who knows it can tell you when you are already down.

Moderator: Typically how much do you spend on one episode of sore throat? You said you spend 15,000shs, how about the rest? How much did you spend?

Respondent 1: Me I don't know.

Moderator: Because you mum is a nurse.

Respondent 2: Me I treated it at Reproductive Health and I spent 65,000shs.

Moderator: How much did she spend; Respondent 5?

Respondent 5: **speaks native**

Interpreter: 5000shs, she brought her to the main hospital and didn't pay any money.

Moderator: How about the one that you took to a "santa"?

Respondent 5: **speaks native**

Moderator: Now, did you say it cures? Can it cure?

Respondent 2: It can't.

Respondent 3: Me what I know is that for some time it will go but after some time it would come back.

Respondent 4: It is not cured; it just compresses.

Respondent 1: Mine cured.

Moderator: Does it get cured?

Respondent 6: It can come back.

Respondent 4: Even in the hospital it comes back. Those people who know maybe those local people have some herbs they use.

Moderator: Who is seconding her, that if you treat it from the hospital it comes back?

Respondents: [murmuring] no.

Moderator: Then um, so let's look at how it affects the larger community. Do you think it affects the community as a problem? The community at large. We have seen at household level, but now let's look at the community.

Respondent 3: Yes it affects the community because it is losing someone.

Moderator: Let's look at those who take the kids to the hospital or to "Santas"; how are they affected?

Respondent 1: You can even lose your money for nothing.

Respondent 4: You find the doctor asking for money and I don't have all that money; I have to start again bargaining and they be like you go and every day you come you bring this amount. Now every day you have to stress your head looking for that money until you clear it all.

Moderator: Now for those who have financers like the husbands; how are they affected when sore throat comes into the home?

Respondent 1: They are affected in terms of getting medication with how much it costs.

Moderator: Are they supportive in treating sore throat?

Respondent 6: Yeah.

Moderator: They do?

Respondent 6: They do.

Moderator: What are your experiences for the rest; do they support you?

Respondents: Yes.

Respondent 3: Yeah, they support us.

Moderator: So in your communities where you come from you have told me that some people go to traditional healers first, right?

Respondents: Yeah.

Moderator: And then some of you have told me that others go to health centers.

Respondents: Yes.

Moderator: And profoundly, those who go to health centers first, what's the difference; why do you think some go to health centers first while others go to the santas?

Respondent 1: To me I think some people don't know, like people who stay in towns, they don't know that those people in the villages can remove it.

Moderator: And that's why they come to the health centers?

Respondent 1: Yeah.

Moderator: If they knew?

Respondent 1: If they knew, trust me they would go to them.

Respondent 2: They go to the Santas and then they come back to the hospital.

Moderator: Any other reason?

Respondent 4: Me what I know is that there are some people who believe in those traditional doctors whereby they feel that if they take their child there, it would be removed and they get fine. With the hospital, it would take time and the child would be feeling pain. So, it would take some time, so they feel better when they go the traditional than in the hospital.

Moderator: Why does it take some time in the hospital?

Respondent 4: That is their perception because they give treatment like for 5 days and the child would be swallowing that medicine and the pain would be there, and yet there (with the traditionalists) they would just go and have that thing removed and the next day the baby would be eating.

Moderator: I really understand now. Are there some people in the community who don't seek treatment at all for sore throat?

Respondent 4: Yeah.

Moderator: They are there?

Respondent 1: There are a lot of them.

Moderator: They don't?

Respondent 1: No.

Moderator: Why?

Respondent 2: Like some people do say that they are saved and don't believe that that thing is there.

Moderator: They believe in God?

Respondent 2: Yeah.

Moderator: Others what do you have to comment? Why don't others even go to Santas?

Respondent 3: They are just religious. They say the pain would just disappear after some time.

Respondent 4: Me what I know about some of them who don't go, they chew something like ginger. They feel like whenever they feel the pain, they would just chew ginger and it would heal.

Moderator: Is it a common practice for people to first try those remedies like herbs?

Respondent 1: That is common at school where someone will usually take the medicine.

Respondent 2: Actually some just go for the onions for the start. You just chew onions.

Moderator: And it goes actually?

Respondent 2: Yes.

Respondent 1: And garlic; just cut and put it in hot water.

Moderator: Does it go forever?

Respondent 4: It goes but it comes back.

Moderator: So onions just bring a relief!

Respondent 4: Yeah, you just get a relief.

Moderator: Has anyone ever heard about strep throat infection?

Respondents: [no response]

Interpreter: or a throat infection caused by strep?

Respondents: [no response]

Interviewer: **speaks native**

Moderator: No? You have not heard about it!

Respondents: We have not heard about it.

Moderator: So the next question is not applicable because you do not know how they treat it if you do not even know about it. So do people in your communities trust the health centers to provide treatment for" Gidiuan" (sore throat)? Let me start with you; do you trust the health centers?

Respondent 1: Before I leave home I have already trust the health centers.

Respondent 4: By the time I am bringing my child I already know my child is going to get healed.

Respondent 2: Yeah they trust because if they go there and they feel like the pain is not stopping, definitely they will run to the hospital for care.

Moderator: What do others think? Do they trust hospitals that they will treat sore throat?

Respondent 6: Actually after going to the hospital, even I'm not given the medicine, they will write for me the medication and I go straight to buy the medicine for the kid and the kid will be alright.

Moderator: Any different view?

Respondents: [no response]

Moderator: So what factors increase confidence in the health system and encourages people to seek treatment? What do you think encourages people to come to the hospital?

Respondent 1: Of course the fear of having it would make me go to the hospital.

Moderator: The fear of what?

Respondent 1: Like, I am not eating or the pain is persisting, yeah; it will of course drag me and go to the hospital.

Moderator: And not to the Santa?

Respondent 1: No, that one is painful.

Moderator: Very painful?

Respondent 1: When they are removing it, it is very painful

Moderator: What do you think can encourage our fathers, brothers and mothers to seek treatment in the health centers?

Respondent 2: Actually to me, I think I would be forced to come to the hospital because I know I will be handled properly. In case of any other cause or any other infection, I would be treated well and that's why I rush to the hospital.

Respondent 4: Some people after going to those Santas and afterwards they get affected in one way or the other, they may again prefer next time when it comes back to go to the hospital. Like sometimes when they remove, the baby might bleed and the baby dies and next time when it happens to another child, they take to the hospital.

Moderator: So they first get the bad experience?

Respondents 4: Yeah.

Moderator: What else?

Respondent 2: What I know, probably when you come to the hospital you know that my baby will be fine when the baby gets treated.

Moderator: Then why are other people shying away from hospitals? What is dissuading them from seeking care in the hospital?

Respondent 2: Others it is the cost involved with the health centers. For others, it is awareness; community awareness. Some of them don't know that when you go to the hospital they can treat it. So they feel going the other side is better.

Moderator: In your communities have you had any awareness campaigns about sore throat?

Respondent 2: Actually to me it is the first time I am hearing about it. I had never heard about it.

Moderator: How about when you come to hospitals, some times they have those health talks. Have you had some?

Respondent 2: When you come to the hospitals and your baby is sick, they will actually talk to you that this is like this and this or that is the cause. That is when you get to know at least.

Moderator: That is if the baby has sore throat!

Respondent 2: Yes.

Moderator: I am talking about if you came for something else and then they come out with sore throat.

Respondents: No, it's not there.

Moderator: Why are other people shying away? You have told me costs, you have told me . . .

Respondent 2: Lack of awareness.

Moderator: What else?

Respondent 1: Sometimes the belief. You know those old women; sometimes they are like, *"you know medicine in the hospital doesn't work"*

Moderator: The medicine doesn't work.

Respondent 2: Others are shying away because when they come to the hospital, after going to the Santas, they are harassed. Because after me saying that I took her to this place and this happened, the doctor will just back and I will just shy away and go

Moderator: What do others thing? Respondent 5, what is discouraging our people from seeking care from health centers?

Respondent 5: **Speaks native**

Interpreter: She is saying that by the time you bring the child, by the time the doctor gets to see the child, it would be too late.

Respondent 5: **Speaks native**

Interpreter: Like, they keep doing a lot of respirations and in the meantime the disease is progressing but now after they found out that they see the doctor immediately, they now bring the children here.

Moderator: So those who have sought treatment in hospitals, tell us about the delay; how much time you spent at the facility. Was it long or short?

Respondent 3: Me since I went to the private clinic, with private you don't delay. But for the government like this, you delay.

Moderator: Like for how long?

Respondent 1: It depends on the number of patients you find there.

Respondent 3: When you come to the public clinic like this, sometimes you can even spend the whole day. There are even times the time ends and the doctor tells you to come back another day.

Moderator: So what can be done at the health facilities to attract people with sore throat?

Respondent 1: You should put more workers.

Respondent 2: Health workers.

Respondent 1: Yeah, more health workers. And then those ones who want to leave very early should come early because some will come at midday and they are like, *"Eh, at midday someone is closing?"* but you have been waiting the whole day!

Respondent 3: I think they can work in schedules

Respondent 1: Yeah, it is better they start working in schedules such that when someone is going they get someone to replace them.

Moderator: More shifts?

Respondent 1: Yes, more shifts.

Moderator: What else?

Respondent 3: Even those ones who shout at patients, they should work on their ethics.

Respondent 3: Actually they should teach them how to handle clients because if I am from the village, after talking to you and you are just barking at me, I will just walk away even without getting any service!

Moderator: How about the distance people walk; what do you have to say about that?

Respondent 6: They should put more facilities so that everyone can . . . instead of coming from another sub county which is very far, let's say I come from Agwel to here, it's very far. At least they should put some center points where we can access this service. They can put two or three

Respondent 1: Actually they should bring in more staff in the health centers to handle those patients

Moderator: Anything else? Any other advice you are giving?

Respondent 1: And also like they should inform the people that that can be treated in the hospitals because some people totally don't know about it. So they should make people aware of it that they can be treated in the hospital

Respondent 2: Even those doctors should be a little nice to the patients.

Respondents: [laughs]

Moderator: How are they usually? What is the typical scenario when you come?

Respondent 2: Of course the first thing when you tell them that you took the kid the other side, trust me they will just bark at you because for them they don't believe in it.

Moderator: Any other issues you want to bring out before we finish?

Respondents: [no response]

Moderator: Okay thank you so much for your time and for your good opinions. We shall use them to come up with better programs to treat our children with sore throat. Any questions before we close?

Respondents: [no response]

Moderator: Does the silence mean none?

Respondent 1: You have to conduct more health talks; radio talks. You need to have more talks on the radios to make the other people in the community aware of what is happening. Sometimes you may even go for outreaches in the health centers just to make them aware; whether you teach like three or five of them, they would go back and teach the rest and then they also get more information about what is taught

Respondent 3: Even at schools, like, inform the students about that because some of them are from those rural areas and when they go home, the parents can be like lets go to Santa and they remove. So even at school

Moderator: Okay.

Respondent 6: Let them teach some parents how to take care of their children.

Respondent 2: The hygiene actually.

Respondent 6: Mainly on the hygiene bit. Some parents don't mind; even they just mind about looking for money and that's all. Leaving the kid behind, you come back when you are all tired and can't even check on her to see if he has fed the whole day; you just come and sleep and the following day you just wake up to go to work and nothing. So they should also take care of their children; once in a while you have to check on your children

Moderator: How can we pass on that message?

Respondent 6: Now if a parent comes to the hospital with such cases maybe during that time of

Respondent 4: Actually they have to go for medical check ups

Respondent 6: . . . they have to pass on that information.

Respondent 5: **Speaks native**

Interpreter: They should find ways of creating that awareness because it is not something just affecting children but also adults. So she has given a scenario of a woman who died because she went to one of these clinics and I think someone cut it and she died leaving six children

Moderator: Eh! Leaving six children? Wow!

Respondent 5: **Speaks native**

Interpreter: She is also giving another scenario where she was taken to those Santas and instead of removing what was there, they removed the thyroid and now when she is drinking she has to drink slowly.

Moderator: What can we do for the Santas? Are you appreciating their services?

Respondents: [murmuring]

Respondent 1: Others even worsen the situation, so me I am not appreciating their work

Moderator: So what do we do for those santas?

Respondent 1: Maybe these medical workers can work together with them and they teach them how to do it in case they want to continue doing it

Moderator: Any other suggestion?

Respondents: [no response]

Moderator: You are exhausted? Well thank you for giving us your time. We appreciate each and every opinion that you have given us. Now I hand you over to Jennifer to give you your money, 20,000shs for your time.

RURAL FGD MBARARA

DATA: 20/11/2019

VENUE: ……..

INTRODUCTION

Interviewer: So I want to ask you to be audible so that we can be able to hear you when we go back. Today is the 20th of November, 2019. We are seated here at ……. and this is the first focus group discussion for the rural population. Okay, so we are going to have a conversation; there are no right or wrong answers. We just want to hear your opinions on how you treat your children when they get sore throat. What do you call it here?

All: Amaraka.

Interviewer: So we want to request you to respect each other's opinions because someone can say something that you don't agree with. That's why we called you all here, so that we can hear all your opinions. We request you to be frank and whatever you tell us is important, that's why we are here. We also request everyone to share their opinions; when I ask a question let everyone share their opinion. But before you give me your opinion, say your number first, you may not be able to say it in Luganda but she will tell me when you say it in Runyankole. Let's not share the views shared here elsewhere, for example, saying "this person said this and that," and we will not include your name in our records. Let's just use our numbers. Should we continue?

All: yes.

Interviewer: I am ……..and this is?

Interviewer 2: ……..

Interviewer: And we are going to chair this discussion. Now, we want to know a little bit about you starting with age, marital status, your occupation and level of education. You can also say the number of children you have.

Respondent 1: I am 41 years old, I stopped in primary seven, am married and a farmer. I have 2 children.

Respondent 2: I am 20 years old. I am a farmer with one child.

Interviewer: Are you married?

Respondent 2: yes.

Respondent 3: I am 50 years old and married with 4 children. I don't have a job.

Respondent 4: I am 39 years old, I am married, and am a hair dresser.

Interviewer: How many children?

Respondent 4: I have 2 children.

Interviewer: What is your highest level of education?

Respondent 4: I stopped in primary seven.

Respondent 5: I have 2 children and am a farmer.

Interviewer: How old are you?

Respondent 5: 55 years old.

Interviewer: What is your highest level of education?

Respondent 5: I didn't go to school.

Respondent 6: 52 years old, I have 6 children and I am a farmer.

Interviewer: Education?

Respondent 6: Primary six.

Respondent 6: I am 20 years old, married, self-employed and I stopped in primary seven.

Respondent 7: I have 35 years, married with 4 children and I studied up to primary six.

Respondent 8: I am 28 years old. I work in a water factory.

Respondent 9: I am 30 years old, I have 6 children, and I am unemployed.

Respondent 10: I am 30 years old. I am married with 5 children. We knit mats with my children

Interviewer: Education?

Respondent 10: Primary seven.

Interviewer: Thank you so much, I hope we now know a little bit about ourselves. Okay, let's continue; we are going to talk about sore throat. We are going to talk about an illness of *Amaraka* in children. Who would like to tell us what happened when a child got Amaraka and what did you do?

Respondent 10: My child is 11 years old, in July he got sores in throat and was unable to swallow. I tried to boil something for him to take before he takes medicine, but he would say he feels pain and something in the throat. However, on touch, I couldn't see any swelling but he kept on claiming he had pain. I didn't have money to take him to the hospital, so I went to a clinic and bought PEN-V and a syrup called Nystatin and gave it to him. I saw a change in 2 days, but it happened again twice.

Interviewer: You treated him the same way when he got it the second time?

Respondent 10: Yes. I didn't have money to take him any further.

Interviewer: Did he get cured?

Respondent 10: Yes. He is there, but I keep on thinking that the illness didn't go and that it will still come back.

Interviewer: That's Respondent 10, another person? I saw someone putting their hand up.

Respondent 8: My child got sore throat in the mouth so I took him to a clinic. They gave me a syrup to give him and tablets to swallow. He got better, but after sometime they came back. Then some people in the village told me that when I use a bean seedling that hasn't yet matured, it will heal him.

Interviewer: Has anyone else used them before? Does it work?

Respondent 3: they work.

Interviewer: Who else has ever used them?

Respondent 11: my child got that sickness, I looked for tomatoes and bean seedlings to put in his mouth but it failed. I tried honey and failed so I took him to the hospital. After 4 days, he said he was not feeling any pain.

Interviewer: What do the rest do?

Respondent 3: my child is 14 years old, he always tells me "I have pain in the throat." So I buy pain killers and walk away. Then when they (sores) come back, I still buy those painkillers. We give PEN V too.

Interviewer: For how long do you administer the PEN-V?

Respondent 10: like 3 days.

Respondent 4: my child who is 13 years old, this is his illness. When he gets it, the doctors told me to get PEN-V and it's what I always give to him.

Interviewer: Did he get fine?

Respondent 4: He gets sick every other time even at school. So when he gets it, I told the people at school to get him the syrup, Cipro and PEN V.

Respondent 5: my 15 year old told me that he had swellings in the throat and I bought him Septrin.

Interviewer: You bought it?

Respondent 5: Yes. In the evening the swellings get worse and in the morning we buy Septrin and he gets fine.

Respondent 4: the other thing, when my child gets that illness, he gets a lot of mucus; his eyes change and he gets a fever too.

Interviewer: How do the eyes change?

Respondent 4: They turn red. He gets rashes that he scratches and the skin gets damaged.

Respondent 7: Mine is 13 years but when he gets that illness I get him herbs.

Interviewer: What herbs do you use?

Respondent 7: I get pawpaw leaves, avocado leaves and cabbage, mix them and give to him. Even when he is at school and they call me that he is sick, I collect those herbs and take to him.

Interviewer: How many times has it happened?

Respondent 7: the child has spent 2 years with that sickness.

Respondent 9: I have 2 children but the 6 year old during the rainy season, she feels the neck with swellings. So I take her to the clinic and they give me Septrin, but the throat is always swelling. But I looked for a way to start treating . . .

Interviewer: like which tablets?

Respondent 9: Personally, I use . . . I go to the clinic, they give me the tablets and I pay. They give me a yellow tablet, it is what they usually give me.

Interviewer: So amongst you, who has ever finished an entire dose? You have all been telling me you take drugs for 3, 4 days!

Respondent 1: When you go to a clinic and buy medicine, they tell you "you swallow, when you get better, stop." If you get better in 2 days, you don't finish the dose.

Interviewer: Is that what you all do?

Respondent 4: when you go to the clinic and they give you the medicine and you tell them it is for a child, the people at the clinic know the dose to give. But the nurses know this illness can't cure. In fact one of the nurses told me that my child will be fine when, so we finish the medicine given to us, but after like 3 days, it comes back. So we would have to give medicine again.

Interviewer: So we have heard everything you use; some of you use beans and Septrin. Now, why do you think our children get this illness?

Respondent 4: some people tell us it is transmitted from parents' blood. Like, if our parents had the same illness, it continues to other people. They spread it to the child and sometimes it is because of bad hygiene, maybe they don't wash plates or boil drinking water, so they get that illness.

Respondent 5: the doctor told me it is allergy. We get it in the morning especially in the rainy season, but by evening you would be fine.

Respondent 7: they told me it is ulcers, and that when they give you this herbal medicine, you would be fine.

Interviewer: What kind of ulcers; the stomach ulcers or throat ulcers?

Respondent 7: Of the throat.

Respondent 10: personally, I also think it is because of the condition we live in; some us of are not able to care for ourselves and sometimes it is the way we cover the children; they don't get enough warmth. I think it passes through such things.

Respondent 3: we don't know what causes it.

Interviewer: Now, um, what happens to your children that makes them sick? What worsens it?

Respondent 8: my child gets fevers, he starts having diarrhea and when that happens, we go to the hospital. You find that there are wounds on the tongue and they are swelling. He gets a red tongue too. So you start treating it with beans like I told you and any other medicines which I have been given.

Respondent 10: Personally, I think it decides to come because . . .

Interviewer: Why does it come at that specific time?

Respondent 10: It is the situation we are in, I will emphasize that. It is not good, so it brings those problems.

Interviewer: What situation is that?

Respondent 10: It is too cold, we don't sleep well and we eat poorly. I think they are related. So I think that's what mostly brings those problems.

Interviewer: What do you think is in the body that brings that illness?

Respondent 4: the child I have, when the weather is bad like in the rainy season, he gets that illness. Secondly, at school when they go for prep, he starts feeling bad. When he works so hard, he tells you that he is very tired, and sometimes you find it is too cold for them.

Respondent 1: I don't have money to buy overalls to cover them very well or get medicine for the illness.

Respondent 2: personally, I think when you get money to buy overalls, you cover them well when it gets cold, and that way you can chase away that illness.

Interviewer: Okay, thank you so much. Is there anyone else with a different opinion? You all agree with what has been said?

All: [no response]

Interviewer: Okay, let's go ahead. Now, what do you think this illness does to our children? What happens to our children when they get sore throat? The dangers you can get from this illness.

Respondent 5: it might grow into cancer.

Respondent 11: you don't know what has caused this illness, you buy little medicine and you don't know whether the child is getting well or not, if it has gone or not.

Respondent 7: I think when he gets pain and they operate to see what's in the throat, you find that he gets other problems out of that.

Respondent 6: The child can die because of hunger simply because he can't swallow.

Interviewer: Can die of hunger!

Respondent 5: I think those wounds that go in the throat first go on the heart and then they come out from the throat. So I think that illness is from the heart.

Respondent 9: I think I am so afraid that it may result into cancer.

Respondent 3: Personally, I think to cure this illness, you have to go to the hospital.

Respondent 1: when you get this illness, you can't even speak.

Interviewer: They can become dumb! Now, do you think this illness is so dangerous for our children?

All: yes.

Interviewer: It is bad?

All: yes.

Interviewer: Why?

Respondent 4: I think that this illness is bad because every illness is bad.

Respondent 9: The illness is so bad because the child would feel pain and you would feel like you can't treat it.

Interviewer: Okay. Um, do you think this illness takes a long time or it cures easily? For you who have had children with the illness, what do you think?

Respondent 7: When treated, it gets cured very fast. Personally, I get treatment the moment I get it.

Respondent 4: This illness of sore throat can't get cured. You may think it can get cured then a child tells you "I can't eat." It's like when someone tells you "I have sickle cell." We got used to this illness in our children. You can be there and randomly the child says "I am feeling pain."

Respondent 3: I think they treat it badly because when you treat something, it has to get cured.

Interviewer: She thinks she treats the child badly, that's the reason why the illness doesn't go away! Why is it like that?

Respondent 7: We don't care as parents because we would have given the entire dose to the child and it gets cured.

Respondent 3: Personally, when I buy like 5 tablets for him to swallow and he gets fine, I stop there.

Respondent 4: I think if you get money and continue to a big hospital, they just check and know where this sickness comes from. We all know it is children's illness.

Interviewer: Another one?

Respondent 4: we don't finish the dose due to lack of money; we go to the small clinics but they don't know what they are doing. They just give Cipro and on the next encounter, they would give you another type. However, if you get money and go to a big hospital, they can check and you get to know what they are treating

Interviewer: What about the rest? Is there anyone with another suggestion?

Respondent 11: Personally, it is because we don't know what we are treating. When you check the tongue, you see the sores so when you give Nystatin and Pen V, they get fine, but we don't know what you have just treated. Others tell us different things.

Respondent 1: In my case. It is due to our laziness. If we cared to finish the doses, they (children) would be fine. You always buy from one type of medicine to another but you don't get to finish the dose!

Respondent 9: It is not just about being careless but it is because of money that we stop taking the tablets. If he tells me that he can now eat and drink, I stop the dosage.

Interviewer: So it's because of money that you do what you do. In your community, isn't there a health center that provides free medicine?

Interviewer 2: They are saying it is only this and the Regional Referral.

Interviewer: If you have these hospitals, we would like to know why you don't use them as patients.

Respondent 4: We always bring these children here, but you find you have no transport or even money to buy drinks. He is a child of 13 years and I can't carry him there on my back, so you find yourself taking the child to the clinic to get those small tablets.

Respondent 1: I think if we reach government hospitals, we don't have money to buy these drugs. Sometimes they have the drugs but they want money, and yet it's supposed to be free of charge.

Respondent 3: We come here and they diagnose the illness, they write the prescription and then we go and buy them.

Respondent 11: When you reach there, they tell you "we need to test the blood and it is 30,000shs." When they see the illness, they write down the drugs and tell you "you go to the pharmacy and buy this." So you find yourself doing this and that.

Respondent 7: at the Referral, you explain to the doctor about the child. When they test blood and there's no malaria, they just give you Panadol. Imagine where your head is the one aching but they only give you Panadol, so you even wonder where to start off.

Respondent 9: I lost a child! They checked for malaria and it came back negative, so they gave me Panadol. Then there was someone else who told me that my child instead had worms because he was vomiting so much, however, when I explained to him, they mainly tested for malaria. They only test for malaria!

Interviewer: Okay, we get it now. Even if you go there, they don't give you medicine.

All: Yes.

Interviewer: Some of you have said that the children are too old to be carried and yet you don't have transportation to come to hospitals.

All: Yes

Interviewer: Now in the clinics where you stay, do the doctors tell you what causes the illness?

All: No.

Interviewer: Have you ever asked? Like "what is wrong with my child?"

Respondent 9: They always tell me it is an allergy or that it is the rainy season and that the weather is just bad.

Interviewer: What is she saying?

Interviewer 2: That it is an allergy because of the weather. That's what they tell her.

Respondent 10: Most times when you go to a clinic, those people didn't study these things. Those people only studied selling drugs so all one cares about is selling their products! He gives you what he finds easy so that the stock can sell out. That's the problem we have.

Interviewer: What about the rest?

Respondent 4: I told you that I once asked a doctor "when will my child stop having this illness?" and he told me, "When the child gets older, he will get fine!" So they also don't know what they are treating.

Interviewer: Okay. And what worries you the most when your children get these wounds?

Respondent 4: Death.

Respondent 10: What worries us the most is that fact that we don't know where the illness comes from? That is what I have to say.

Respondent 4: What troubles me is treating a child who doesn't get cured, because when he is not fine, you can't be fine either. You are troubled with looking for money as a parent.

Respondent 11: the child keeps telling you, "I can't eat or drink" and you ask yourself, "where has it come from? First of all I can't see inside the stomach where the wounds are coming from!"

Interviewer: Is there anything else worrying you?

Respondent 8: Personally, what worries me is treating an illness you don't know. You reach the hospital and they can't tell you what they are treating, but all they do is to just give you medicine, but not the true medicine.

Interviewer: What are they saying?

Interviewer 2: They are not sure of the illness they are treating because they don't have the money to go to hospitals. So that worries them a lot; they don't know the illness.

Interviewer: Now, what worries our children when the sore throat appears? Especially the older ones; what do they tell you?

Respondent 3: Going through a lot of pain.

Respondent 4: What worries them so much is when they ask me, "Do you think my throat will get fine?" For those who are educated and are going to school, they feel bad when they don't go to school; the child becomes uncomfortable.

Interviewer 2: Missing school because of this illness!

Respondent 7: What worries me the most is giving a child food and they can't eat it. It worries me so much. The child worries me so much because he feels pain, and yet when you give him tablets, it goes for only 3 weeks.

Respondent 10: There is only one reason; he is unable to swallow and as a parent you have to get worried because you don't know what will come next.

Interviewer: Is this illness common in the communities you live in?

Respondent 7: I have noticed that this illness is common in our village. I don't know what you as doctors are going to do to treat it.

Respondent 10: That illness is rampant but each person only cares for themselves in whatever way they can.

Interviewer: What of the rest?

Respondent 3: many children have the illness.

Respondent 2: I see it a lot in the community

Respondent 1: It is so common; even my child has it.

Interviewer: We have talked about how it affects our children. You have talked about missing school, having pain, not being able to eat and play.

Respondent 10: The child is also not at peace when he has that illness.

Respondent 3: He would be in bed sleeping all the time.

Interviewer: Is there any other way that the children are affected?

Respondent 10: They get frustrated.

Interviewer: How?

Respondent 10: He is always sleeping, he can't even eat a nice thing you have bought, so his siblings would eat it. So he gets tired and at times gets mad at you the parent thinking that you are not caring for him and yet you are trying your best too.

Respondent 9: if they stay without eating, they get hungry.

Interviewer: In your opinion, how does it affect them?

Respondent 1: My eight year old loses peace and he doesn't play.

Interviewer: Is there any other way that our children get affected that we haven't discussed?

All: [no response]

Interviewer: Is that all?

All: Yes.

Interviewer: As a family, how are you affected when the children get sore throat?

Respondent 10: In my family I get affected in these ways; since my income is not stable, that has to worry me whenever I see the child in that state. Firstly, I don't know what the illness is, and secondly, I can't see it because it is internal. So I start getting worried.

Respondent 4: I have already told you that as a parent, you get tired; you have no money, the child is always sick and is isolated in the family. In fact he isolates himself from his siblings which makes your life hard as a parent. So you find yourself worried about the child as a parent.

Respondent 6: You give the child food but he wouldn't eat it.

Respondent 5: When the sore throat starts, he starts feeling pain and doesn't want to eat, and after 3 days, the wounds worsen. When it is cold, you find that the wounds increase in number.

Interviewer: How does it affect your family?

Respondent 5: Drinking water is very hard. I took him at the Council and they gave him small tablets and whenever he swallows them, he gets better. However, when they are finished, I never find more money to get him more.

Interviewer: Is this illness affecting your income in the family?

Respondent 2: It affects because I don't have money. Sometimes I only have 10,000shs from which I have to buy food and also get medicine! When you go to the university hospital, you have to take the child to the scan and you find that you don't have any money on you, so you become helpless.

Respondent 4: This children's illness affects my family; for us who are renting, you find that you are overdue on rent because you don't have enough to pay the land lord. The child can make you poor because of that illness.

Respondent 5: When I don't take him to the hospital, I am told that there's a certain herbal medicine that you can boil, add salt and then put inside the mouth.

Interviewer: Does he get fine after using it?

Respondent 5: Yes, he gets fine but you can still see those sores.

Interviewer: How does it affect your income?

Respondent 10: If you had saved up money for school fees and she falls sick, you will have to take some of that money to pay for medicine. When the examination period begins at school, she is sent home because the school fees were not completed because of the sum you deducted when she fell sick.

Interviewer: What about the men, how do they act when the child is sick?

Respondent 3: He gives you money to buy things at home, and it the same sum you have to use to pay for medicine. If the child is not getting fine, you will find quarrels in the home.

Interviewer: What about the relationship between you and the husband?

Respondent 4: someone has to stay at home to take care of the child, so your work would be affected.

Respondent 3: The fathers have little love towards their children and money becomes a problem too. So you find that the child's state requires money but he (father) just keeps quiet. That's the problem with our husbands.

Respondent 5: he would just tell you, "Go and buy him tablets" and remember he doesn't spend the day at home, so he has no clue how the child has been through the day. You tell him, "the child is not doing well" but since he doesn't know how the child has spent the day, it is still you the mother to do something. The money he leaves at the table is not enough for the home.

Respondent 10: The money to use at home is never available. When you have a sickly child, the man gets fed up and at times he might go and get a new wife who doesn't have any child to bother him.

Respondent 5: I am the one who takes care of the children, so I usually go and get a loan. But currently it is hard for me; you find a child covered in bed and yet there's no money to even buy posho! The man just spends the day keeping away from me.

Interviewer: where would the father be at that moment?

Respondent 5: It's just me who takes care of my children.

Respondent 2: The child is not his so I find it hard to ask him for money for treatment. My ex-husband always asks to first see the child before he sends money because he thinks I am always lying to him, so you find that you haven't taken the child to the hospital because of that.

Respondent 3: The husbands don't have money either. They leave home in the morning leaving you with 1,000sh but remember you have 3 children. The husband doesn't have the money, so if you tell him that the child is sick, he has nothing to do either. All he can tell you, "go to the University."

Respondent 6: When I tell my husband to give me money to treat the child, he says "go to the university and find a solution; I don't have any money."

Interviewer: What should we do so that these men can stand with us?

Respondent 6: If you talk to him, he quarrels and sometimes he beats you and threatens, "I will get another woman!"

Respondent 7: Personally, I think that's like a game! We should just pray for our husbands to get a loving heart to take care of their children.

Interviewer: Now, how has this illness affected our daily lives?

Respondent 1: This illness becomes a problem because it comes and goes, and then comes back again. Our village can't develop because you can't find any work, not even government work, simply because you have to sit at home and take care of your sink child. Remember you can't bring the child to your place of work!

Respondent 7: The people who get this illness get troubled; you can't get any income because there's no hope.

Respondent 10: Most times it is us the women who take care of these children, so at times when they want us to attend a women's meeting, we fail to. But remember it is us to plan for our community, so when we are not there, the community gets worse.

Interviewer: Now, um, you have talked about some of them. The things you have mentioned you do when these children get sore throat are; some use a bean seedlings, some buy medicine from the clinic. There are some herbs where you put salt and you give him to chew. Can this illness be bewitched?

Respondent 3: You can't think of going to witch doctors because they (medical doctors) have already said that it is transmitted through blood. You can't waste your time going to witch doctors.

Interviewer: Now, besides what we have talked about, do you have people that operate them?

Respondent 4: There are some people who get the herbal medicine and a safety pin and then burst them. Alternatively, one gets a stick and bursts them (sores). They put a safety pin through the nose and burst them. People do all that but personally I can't go there.

Interviewer: Are they medical doctors who do that or?

Respondent 3: There are people who are professionals in bursting those wounds.

Interviewer: Did they study it or?

Respondent 3: They just learned that; they just learned to do that.

Interviewer: Who has ever gone there?

All: [no response]

Interviewer: do you think this illness cures?

Respondent 4: Personally, I don't have any hope of it curing at all, because someone gets well today and get sick the next day. It can't get cured.

Interviewer: the medicine they give in the hospital, do you trust it?

Respondent 7: I have trust in it because some medicine they give works. This medicine works but the illness comes back again, so someone is forced to say, "I gave the child medicine but he didn't get fine!"

Interviewer: Do you know about the bacteria in the body that causes sore throat called streptococcal? Have you ever heard that this illness is caused by bacteria called streptococcal? Is there any doctor that taught you about it?

Respondent 1: On radio.

Interviewer: What did they say?

Respondent 1: that those with this illness should go to the hospital where it could be managed. However, you can't always go with the same illness to the hospital and yet it is not going away. That's why I have told you that I won't bring the child to the hospital again. I can't waste my time here at the …… yet I am not getting the real treatment. In this hospital, they give tablets but you can't get cured completely. I asked the doctor if this illness can get cured and he said "it will be fine when the child grows up."

Interviewer: What do you think can encourage us as a community to go to hospitals? What do you need us care providers to help you with? What can make you take your children to hospitals and stop using herbs?

Respondent 4: I think if there's medicine that can completely cure it, then we can go there and support them. For example, if I know that when I go there my child gets well, we can always go to the hospital. We don't go to the hospitals because they give us medicine that cures just for a while

Respondent 9: If there's a department where we take children to be treated, like for malaria, then maybe I can take my child so they can treat that specific illness.

Respondent 10: As researchers, I wish you could do something so that they can bring us a hospital nearby with qualified staff. That would be helpful.

Interviewer: What else?

Respondent 9: If you reach the hospital and they run tests on you like they do for HIV, you will know that you have been tested for this illness and got its treatment.

Interviewer: What do you want to be done to encourage you to go to hospitals?

Respondent 3: When you go to the hospital, I wish you are able to get treatment and get cured. You can't just go to a hospital where the treatment they give only gives relief from the illness.

Interviewer: When you are in the hospital, is it easy for you to ask health workers what causes this dieses?

Respondent 5: I have told you, I always ask doctors why this illness occurs and if it will get cured because I can't always continue going to hospitals all the time, and besides, the children too get tired.

Respondent 9: There's a doctor who is easy to ask and others who aren't easy. Some don't care about the questions asked; he just sees what's wrong with the child. This makes us feel bad.

Respondent 6: The doctor quarrels that we don't feed the children well and we don't give them warm clothes. When you ask them, they can answer but not correctly.

Respondent 10: People in the clinic don't give us time; they are just too busy selling drugs. He doesn't even know what illness he is treating but just hears about it.

Respondent 1: 1. If you ask the doctor, he tells you they are tonsillitis.

Respondent 9: The doctor in clinic is better than the one in a referral hospital. The one in the referral hospital doesn't care. He just asks, "Where did you put the child? Just go and feed the children well!" Then he tells you to take the child for a scan and then you start looking for money.

Interviewer: Is that all?

All: Yes

Interviewer: What challenges do you face when you go to these hospitals?

Respondent 4: You reach in the government hospital early in the morning, get a number, and remember you have not eaten or drunk anything before coming but at the end of the day then you don't get any medicine! It is better to go to a clinic because there you don't waste any time. Why would I go to a hospital when I won't even get the medicine? I would rather just remain home.

Respondent 2: when you go to the ……. hospital, they ask, "do you have money to buy the child's medicine?" But honestly, if I had money, do you think I wouldn't have taken the child to a big hospital?

Interviewer: Where do they ask the money from?

Respondent 2: They ask the money from the doctor's room and in the children's room. If you don't have money, they write it down and you buy from other places. However, when you have money they give you medicine. These doctors first go to their clinics to work because they know they have medicines there.

Interviewer: What about the rest?

Respondent 5: They write the medicine for us to buy but the clinics belong to the doctors themselves! You find the same doctor who has attended to you at the …… hospital at the clinic too.

Interviewer: If he tells you to go to a specific clinic, can't you go to another clinic and buy medicine?

Respondent 9: At the children's clinic they don't ask for money, but we wake up at 6am but the clinic opens up late. The only place they ask for money is at the pharmacy; you tell the doctor that you don't have this and that so he only gives you 5 tablets of Panadol at 300shs! So if I have that 300shs, I will just buy them (Panadol) at a nearby clinic and stay at home.

Interviewer: Anything else? Is that all?

Respondent 5: When you go to the Council, which is also a government facility, they give you a lot of medicine and you see that the medicine has worked. When the child gets an infection, you go back and they give you the medicine.

Respondent 1: Personally, when I reached there, they asked me, "Do you have money so we can give you medicine?" and I told them "If I have failed to find food to cook, do you think I have money to buy medicine?" So the doctor helped me and gave me some little medicine and then I went back home.

Interviewer: Okay, thank you so much for you opinions, we will use this information to see how we can provide better care for children with sore throat. You had a lot of questions in the beginning, so maybe we can start hearing them now.

URBAN FGD MBARARA

DATE: 21/11/2019

NO OF PARTICIPANTS: 6

INTRODUCTION

Interviewer: Okay, today is the 21st November 2019 and we are seated here in the ……. in …….. and this is a focus group for urban setting. Okay, thank so much for coming to talk to us. Like she has told you, respect each other's opinions; they may not be the same but we should listen to one another. And if you have something to say, please tell us your number so that we can know who has said what. The other thing, talk loudly when we are recording. We don't want to go back and fail to hear you; we don't want to hear ourselves and we can't hear you, because what you are going to say is important. We should be honest and when we leave this place, don't go on saying "this person said this." Remember we are not going to say our names, we should use numbers. Should we go ahead?

All: yes.

Interviewer: you know us already, I am ……. and my colleague …….. Now, we are the ones going to moderate this discussion. Before we start, we would like to know a little bit about each other. Don't say your names, but let's talk about your age, education, occupation, if you are married or not, and the number of children you have. What we are saying is that we want to know small things about you, but we don't put the age. Tell us your age, occupation, your level of education, and if you have any children, tell us how many you have. I am going to start with number one. Say, "I am number one, I am this old, and I have this number of children, I studied this and that . . ." Let's begin.

Number 1: I have 23 years, I have one child, I am a famer and I stopped in primary four.

Interviewer: Is she married?

Number 1: yes, I am married.

Interviewer: Okay.

Number 2: I am a married woman. I am 47 years old, I have 5 children and I am a farmer.

Interviewer: Level of education?

Number 2: I only reached primary five.

Number 3: I am 38 years old years, I am a married woman. I have 5 children and I am a farmer.

Interviewer: education?

Number: I didn't go to school.

Interviewer: What's your number?

Number 5: number 5.

Interviewer: How old are you?

Number 5: I am 29 years old. I have only one child.

Interviewer: How many children do you have all together?

Number 5: I have 3 children.

Interviewer: What level of education did you reach?

Number: only up to primary 3.

Interviewer: What's your occupation?

Number 5: I am a farmer.

Interviewer: Is she married?

Number 5: yes.

Interviewer: What is your number?

Number 4: number 4.

Interviewer: How old are you?

Number 4: I am 48 years old. I have 8 children.

Interviewer: Are you married?

Number 4: I am a married woman.

Interviewer: Did you go to school?

Number 4: I didn't go to school.

Interviewer: What is her occupation?

Interviewer 2: She is at home. She is a house wife.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewer: Number 6, how old are you?

Number 6: 39 years old.

Interviewer: What is your level of education?

Number 6: only primary two.

Interviewer: Are you married?

Number 6: I am married woman. I am a farmer. I have 9 children.

Interviewer: What does she do?

Number 6: I am farmer.

Interviewer: She is a farmer.

Interviewer: Okay, thank you. Now we know each other. Now I want you to speak loudly, it is bad to hear ourselves and fail to hear you because I won't come back making calls so as to find out what the other person said. So I request you to speak loudly like parents. Isn't it?

All: yes.

Interviewer: Okay. Let's start. Remember there is no right or wrong answers but we just want your opinion. Don't be afraid that maybe what you have said is not what we want to hear. Just tell us what you know. Now, can someone tell us their experience with a child with sore throat; tell us what happened, what she did. Anyone can start, we will all request you to say something about everything we have asked.

All: [agreeing]

Interviewer: When you had a child who suffered from sore throat/ wounds in the mouth what did you do?

Number 3: when I got a child with sore throat, I took him to the hospital and they checked him. Then the doctor said he has sore throat but he gave me medicine. But he also had fever then they treated it too and we were later discharged.

Interviewer: Did he get fine?

Number: Yes, he got fine but after three months.

Number 5: for me I have not yet treated him because I don't have the money yet, but he has wounds on the throat.

Number 4: he got sore throat and they advised me certain herbal medicine to boil and give him.

Interviewer: After giving herbal medicines did he get fine?

Number 4: yes.

Interviewer: Where did she take him?

Interviewer 2: She gave him herbal medicine and he cured.

Interviewer: Okay.

Number 6: the child told me that I have wounds in the mouth but I don't have money to take him to the hospital yet. I also got a sore throat.

Interviewer: Did you get fine?

Number: Yes.

Number 4: I have not gotten the money to go back for medicine but I have also been waiting because he was saying there are also some things on the throat that are paining.

Interviewer: Is there anyone who can remember anything about sore throat and has been treating the child?

Number 5: for me I have not treated him but when he swallows, he feels pain. When he takes water, he still says he feels pain deep in the throat.

Number 2: when my child got sore throat I took him to the hospital and they gave him medicine.

Interviewer: What medicine?

Number 2: PEN-V

Number 4: they directed me for herbal medicine and I also got the same infection but I had no money for the hospital, so I used the herbal medicine and he is fine now. But for me I have not taken him to the hospital.

Interviewer: Okay. Thank you. We have heard what you all did; some of you used or went to clinics and others used herbs. However, how long did you use these drugs? How many days did you give the children medicine?

Interviewer 2: For those who went to the hospital and got medicine, how many days did you give the drugs to the children?

Number 1: used it twice and he got fine.

Interviewer: By twice, do you mean two times or two days?

Number 1: two days; I was giving him two tablets three times a day.

Number 3: I was admitted.

Interviewer: How long were you admitted?

Number 3: the whole week. I spent the night there on Saturday and was discharged the next Saturday.

Number 2: for me I was giving him 2 tablets thrice a day.

Interviewer: For how many days?

Number 2: for three days.

Interviewer: Did he get better?

Number 2: he got better but I was just feeding him only milk and water with a spoon.

Interviewer: You gave him treatment for 3 days?

Number 3: yes, 3 days.

Interviewer 2: The rest didn't give any drugs?

Interviewer: but did they cure?

Interviewer 2: no, they still have them (sore throats).

Interviewer: Okay, why do you think our children get sore throat?

Interviewer 2: Why do you think our children get these wounds in the mouth? Everyone is going to tell us what they think.

Number 2: it comes when some ones has allergy.

Interviewer: What about the rest?

Number 2: I think it comes when a child has syphilis.

Number 4: me I think when a child has allergy, they get wounds in the mouth.

Number 6: they tell us cancer, they say it is a sign of cancer.

Interviewer: What about number 5?

Number 5: allergy.

Interviewer: Why do you think they keep on coming?

Number 1: we don't know.

Interviewer: You don't know?

All: yes.

Number 3: it is you doctors who should tell us.

Interviewer: You don't know what causes it?

All: yes.

Interviewer: What do you think is happening to these children when they fall sick?

Number 6: we don't know.

Interviewer: All of you don't know?

All: -agree-

Number 2: I think that it can be caused by the environment, like when it rains too much and the child gets wet.

Number 4: I think that bad weather can cause those wounds to come in children.

Number 3: when my child got sick, he got wounds all over the mouth so I took him to the hospital and they gave me a tube that I smeared around his mouth.

Interviewer: What do you think happens to our children when they get this illness?

Number 5: my child failed to eat.

Number 2: the child fails to have peace.

Number 3: the child gets a fever, fails to eat or drink and loses weight due to failure to eat.

Number 4: when my child got sore throat, he failed to eat and cried a lot especially when he wasn't eating or drinking.

Interviewer: Okay, what can happen if these wounds are not treated well?

Number 3: the child can die.

Interviewer: Anyone else?

Number 4: me I think they can get cancer.

Interviewer: What about the rest?

Interviewer 2: What about the rest? What happens to our children when we fail to get them proper treatment?

Number 5: those wounds can bring cancer.

Interviewer: Okay. Some of you have said you treat for 2 days or 3 days, how many days do the doctors tell you when they are giving you medicine?

Number 2: when you give him medicine and he is fine in a day, you stop giving the treatment. But the doctors advise a number of days. Sometimes we go to the clinic and only buy medicine that we can afford; I can buy like for 200shs and he gets better.

Interviewer: They don't tell them in the clinic?

Interviewer 2: They buy from the clinic with the money that they have. She might even pay just 200shs and they give them drugs.

Interviewer: So they don't tell you that "treat for this long?"

All: no.

Interviewer: Okay. And for those who use herbs, how many days do you use them?

Number 4: they tell you to use it for 3 days, and you can continue until it gets better.

Interviewer: For those who go to the hospital and they tell you to take drugs for 5 days, why don't you finish the treatment?

Number 3: I was admitted for 6 days and when I got better I got discharged.

Interviewer: Did they give you drugs to take home?

Number 3: yes, I took it all.

Interviewer: What about the rest, why don't you finish the dose? Why don't you give the children the full dose given to you?

Number 2: we don't care about the dose, the important thing is that the child can resume eating and drinking. When he can eat and drink again, you stop giving the treatment.

Number 1: I gave my child the full treatment given to me but just a few days before or after it's gone, the illness came back. So I took him back to the hospital. So I don't know why they keep coming back.

Interviewer: But you finished the dose given?

Number 1: yes.

Interviewer 2: She finishes the dose but they keep on coming back!

Interviewer 1: According to you, do you think this illness of tonsillitis or sore throat takes a short or long time to heal? According to you as care takers?

Number 4: it takes a short time to heal and then comes back.

Interviewer: But can you treat it and it goes?

Number 4: yes.

Number 6: I have a child in boarding school but I get calls from the school telling me to buy medicine for sore throat. You treat it and then it comes back, all the time. I go to ……Pharmacy to buy medicine and then go to ……. to take it to him. So that is expensive for me going to ……..

Interviewer: Do you think this illness goes away?

Number 6: It doesn't go away, I think. Because I hear it can turn into cancer.

Interviewer: What do the doctors tell you?

Number 6: the doctor says it is infections that bring this illness and he also says they have to be operated.

Interviewer: Could you tell us what scares you the most about sore throat in your children? Some of you have said cancer and death, what do the others have to say.

Number 7: what worries me is that sore throat can cause cancer.

Interviewer: You are not worried about anything else?

All: yes.

Interviewer: What about the children who get sore throat, what do they tell you worries them the most?

Number 4: the child gets a lot of pain and fails to eat or even drink.

Number 1: my child who is 3 years, he says "mother, I want to eat and drink but I have pain in the mouth and yet I am hungry." So he doesn't drink or eat, then he losses weight. He also lacks peace.

Interviewer: Anyone? Any other person who has been treating a child and can remember what happened or what the child goes through?

Number 6: For me when my child got an infection, I took him to the hospital and they gave him medicine. But after taking the medicine, he took so long to get fine. The next time it happened, I got herbal medicine which I gave him and I also took him to the hospital. From the hospital they told me that its allergy and they gave him medicine that's when . . .

Interviewer: do you remember the medicine given to him at the hospital?

Number 6: No, but I remember they gave him a blue tablet, a syrup and medicine which I think was for the stomach ache.

Number 3: when he got sore throat, I went in a clinic and I bought some tablets.

Interviewer: These wounds on the throat, how have they affected our families? This illness of the throat, how has it disturbed our families?

Number 1: like us mothers who have to take the children to the hospital, you find that other family members that we leave at home have failed to get someone to cook for them, so they end up sleeping on an empty stomach.

Number 3: something which you could have saved becomes a loss. We get a problem because this illness comes after 3 months or every after 3 months and when it comes like that, you find yourself taking out money. You go through those expenses of going to the hospitals instead of going in your farm to dig and get money.

Interviewer: Then how are the children at home affected?

Number 6: you find yourself going to …… Hospital and leaving them there unattended to. You then have to spend money in …….. and they can ask for like 150,000shs. However, that's the money you could have used to pay for school fees.

Interviewer: These wounds, number 4, how has this illness affected our families? Number 4, should we say that they don't affect you?

Number 4: huh, they affect me so much.

Interviewer: Tell us then, how does it affect you?

Number 3: this illness looks like allergy and the wounds can cause heart illnesss. Personally, I delivered a child but when he was three months old, he started breathing heavily. Whenever he is breast feeding you find him with difficulty in breathing and when you put him on the mattress to sleep, he starts crying. So he suddenly got problems with his breathing.

Number 3: the problem which has come with illness is that it wastes money. You find that you have taken him to this hospital and another hospital but he is not getting fine.

Interviewer: Number 5?

Interviewer 2: number 5, has this problem of sore throat affected you in your family?

Number 5: for me I am not sick, it's the child who is sick.

Interviewer: So for you, it has not been affecting you?

Number 5: no.

Interviewer: What about the husbands, how is the relationship with your partners especially that the children are always sick?

Interviewer: Our partners, do they help us with treating these children with sore throat? Do they help you out?

Number 3: when the child is sick, you find the man doing his personal things and you ask yourself, “am I the one who got myself pregnant?” So that’s the problem you find at home. When you come to the hospital, you find that you have not been able to sow your beans, so you are left in a complex situation.

Interviewer: And others, how have our husband helped us in this condition? Speak about your own husband.

Number 1: personally, my husband tries to take care.

Number 2: personally, you find that the income is affected. You find that the money which was going to be used to take the child to school has been used to take the child back to the hospital. You find yourself telling the husband, “I don’t have money to take the child to school” but he continues with his personal things and doesn’t give you money. Your husband will give you money when he is fed up of seeing the child falling sick every other day. So that is the problem; income in the family.

Number 6: many times women suffer because when you deliver a child and he gets such and such infections, he (child) disturbs you. If you fail to give birth or when you want to give birth, the husband tells you “you give birth but I won’t take care of it” So you use family planning and if you fail to manage it and conceive again, your husband tells you, “I told you not to use family planning!” but again when you give birth, the child gets sick. So we are not educated enough to get some good income but the only big thing is (subsistence) farming; you only grow beans, dry and sell them. When you have a goat, you will have to sell it sometimes, and also we take care of them (children) ourselves, not our husbands. If I get money I get it, if I don’t get it, that’s it.

Interviewer: Thank you so much. We have talked about some of them, but our children, for example those in school, how are they affected by these wounds?

Interviewer 2: Does this illness affect us in the education of these children?

Number 3: you see these children, when you take them to school you need school fees and also at the hospital, you also need money to buy medicine. So that will makes you say “I don’t have money to take him to the hospital or school!” So you end up not taking care of the child and then you go to your neighbor borrowing money for them to go to school. You don’t have any money yet the child wants money! If you are spending the money recklessly, you fail to get peace and you make yourself stressed because of that. That’s why we are so affected by this illness.

Number 4: personally, my husband left me with 8 children, I tried to educate a few until failed to get money, so they sat at home. Only two are the ones still going to school but the money is also scarce.

Interviewer: Is there any other person who has something to say about it?

Number 2: for a married woman to educate a child, you are supposed to take care of your child on your own. The child isn’t not concerned of your financial situation! For me when I get 300,000shs and I tell the husband, “the child has taken up all the money through treatment and now I don’t have money for school fees” he says, “let the child sit at home because there’s no money.”

Number 3: I have 6 children and they ended up sitting at home with no school fees.

Interviewer: Are these wounds in the mouth a big problem in your communities? Can it be spread through witchcraft?

Interviewer 2: Where you come from, is this sore throat a very big problem? How is our community affected by this illness?

Interviewer: You have said the places you live in have this illness, how does it affect you? How has it affected you in your area?

Number 1: this illness can't get cured; when you treat it comes back, then it goes, like that.

Number 2: there are quarrels in the village every morning and evenings; the pain is there and the quarrels can't miss.

Interviewer: Besides quarreling, what other problems are there that are caused by this illness?

Number 4: this illness has caused separation because when you go to your neighbors, they say "don't bring your child to my home because he will bring the illness to my children." So those are the problems we see in the villages; separation.

Number 7: you see every time you go to the hospital . . . where we live we have clubs of women where we work and save money together, so others may be saving but you find yourself not having any money to save. So they spend the entire day quarreling simply because you have failed to bring in your saving contribution. So this illness has brought problems on our income. When you ask a friend who has been in the saving club meeting and you tell them that you have been at the hospital, they say that "maybe you were hiding!"

Interviewer: Those people in the village, how do they treat sore throat?

Number 2: you can't know how someone treats him/herself. There are some illness which come in the villages and people look for how to treat themselves.

Interviewer: So we asking you, how do people in the village treat this illness? How do people in the village treat it? How do other people in the village treat it?

Number 1: so when their children got this illness, they came and asked me "how did they treat your child?" I also told them "I got herbal medicine and the child got fine"

Number 2: personally, it's my parents who told me about the medicine.

Number 3: when this illness came to the village, the nurses came and they taught us "there's an illness that has come in the villages and when you find that a child has got this illness, you give him this medicine".

Interviewer: Those doctors who told you that, where were they coming from?

Number 3: they said that they were doctors from government, so every after three months, they pass by and tell us what to do. So they call us and tell us about it then the next day they get another shade and they teach us.

Interviewer: Have any of you had doctors come to you?

All: yes.

Interviewer: What did the doctors tell you?

Number 5: in the side of ……., they came and taught us about this illness.

Interviewer: Do you have any men or older women who scrab these wounds locally?

Interviewer: We are not talking about *Bino (false teeth),* we are on sore throat. Have you ever seen those people who get those herbs and they scrab the wounds off manually? Have you ever seen them there?

Number 7: people came and said there's s something that goes to the tooth and then it bursts.

Interviewer: Have you heard of other things?

Number 3: so this madam has told us that before this illness came, other people said its allergy and others said they used to scrab them and then they apply herbal medicine. However, when this illness came, they got them and put them in jail.

Number 6: they used to get a stick and put in the teeth, then grind until they spit blood, then put *Obutendwe.* The doctors taught us that when we see them, we should know that it is not right.

Interviewer: do you believe in the treatment that the traditional doctors give to you? Do you trust it?

Number 3: if I was believing, I wouldn't have come here. I would have been using herbal medicine. Runyankole medicine.

Number 2: the medicine which they give whether they treat sore throat or *Bino (false teeth),* I don't believe in them. Because, if I believed in them, I wouldn't have gone to the hospital; I would have gone to my friend so that they can give me herbal medicine to give to the child and not go to the hospital. But then, when you fail to get money to go to the hospital, you go to your friends and they give you herbal medicine.

Number 5: for us we believe that this medicine of the hospital works.

Interviewer: If it works, then why do you go to herbalists first?

Interviewer 2: If this medicine works, then why do we start with herbal medicine?

Number 6: we start with this herbal medicine because I had told you earlier that we don't have money, that's why we use those herbs. That's why after using the herbal medicine, we go to the hospital after getting the money. So when someone directs you that someone has herbal medicine that they gave to the child and they got fine, you also run there to get that herb for your child to get fine. Then they say, "For me, mine got better" while another person may say, "Mine died."

Number 1: what we don't believe is this; in the village when they say a child is getting this illness but when you take him to the hospital, they tell you other things. We use herbal medicine because we couldn't have known what illness this is. When you go to herbalists, they say "this is the medicine, try this maybe the child will get fine." However, when you go to the hospital, the doctor tells you "take this medicine" and then your child gets better.

Interviewer: So you use herbal medicine because you don't get sensitizations at the hospital?

Number 3: yes. You see someone may claim that they know this illness very well but after reaching the hospital after having used herbal medicine and failed, that's when they believe. Remember the first day the fever doesn't come but that child tells you, "I am feeling pain." Then after the next day or 3rd day, the pain and fever comes and then that's when you will go to the hospital.

Interviewer: Okay, do the traditional doctors treat this illness?

Interviewer: Are there people who think that taking a child to witch doctors, can cure this illness?

All: we don't think so.

Interviewer: What of the rest?

Number 6: many times we may use herbal medicine and other times we use tablets. So you don't continue using herbs but end up using the tablets for swallowing when you go to the hospital.

Interviewer: What we mean is, can they bewitch a child to get this illness?

Number 6: you don't get the truth from the witch doctors but you get the real truth from the doctors when you take the child to the hospital.

Interviewer: Have you heard of bacteria that cause sore throat called streptococcal?

Interviewer 2: You have said this illness is for the hospital, have you ever heard that this sore throat infection is caused by bacteria?

Number 7: for me when I took the child to ……., they told me that it is bacteria which bring tonsillitis and that when you give the child sweet things, they increase. Sometimes they used to put him on drips and sometimes medicine or sometimes they give syrups and sometimes they advise you that when you are giving food, you first give some warm water. They used to say that the medicine takes about 1 week but it can also be treated with water which is warm mixed with some salt which he can take, rinse and then spit out.

Interviewer: What about the rest?

Interviewer 2: What about others, have you heard of this germ that causes this illness?

Number 4: we have not heard.

Number 3: they say that in a child, it occurs when you have given unwanted food or food that is not covered or playing in muddy or dirty water.

Interviewer: The last questions.

Interviewer 2: these are the last questions.

Interviewer: Now, you said that you believe the hospitals treat this illness, right?

All: yes.

Interviewer: What things can be implemented so that you can go to the hospital for treatment? What do you want to be put in the hospital so that you can go there?

Interviewer 2: You have said that treatment is for the hospital, so what should we do so that you come to the hospital because you said that you first go to herbalists.

Number 1: personally, what I was thinking is that when you see that a child is suffering, before you go for herbal medicine, you have to go to hospital first in order to get the real treatment. So instead of saying "the other person has given herbal medicine and it worked," go to the hospital.

Number 2: for us we want to know what to do when we have this illness.

Number 3: they should get us a place where we can take these children when they get this illness.

Interviewer: Should they get the place in the hospital or outside? Where should they get it?

Number 3: it think they should put announcements that they have medicine that cures this illness so that people who first go to villages for herbal medicine instead bring their children to such places. You will put announcements and tell us the place and tell us that anyone who gets the illness goes there. Whether in …….. or …….. or ……. or ……., but the people in villages don't know where they can go in ….. for treatment. So people first get herbal medicine, apply it until it fails. But remember when those sore throat (herbal) medicines fail, the wounds keep moving down causing that fever and then the intestines get destroyed too.

Interviewer: And others who have been telling us that they use herbal medicine, what should we do in order to bring you to the hospital before you use the herbal medicine?

Number 2: I have said that you put these advertisements in order to know where you are.

Interviewer: Where should we put them?

Number 2: on radio so that we know the place where you are such that in case a child gets that illness, I know there so I take my child. Instead of taking our children to herbalists, just tell us a place in the big hospital so that when a child gets the illness we take them there. We need to first know the hospitals and then we take them such that people who come from far can also get treatment. You said you never wanted us to say our names but if it is possible, we would have known our names so that we know that people with sore throat in this area are going on this and that day. And another thing, people have little money because we are in the villages. Because we don't have enough income, we are interested in hospitals but we don't have money. Now you have told us that you are from Mulago, so do you think we can get money to treat it (sore throat) in Mulago? No! You (care providers) have to come when you know we have low income because we have told you we don't get support from our husbands. So when a child is admitted, you have to take care of him and other family members on your own, with your low income. I have a debt of 200,000shs and yet I use 100,000shs for treatment! So that's why we end up treating our children poorly.

Number 7: what I am requesting the government or doctors is that they should search for us or can we at least vaccinate this illness like we do for measles? Alternatively, they can put something which can vaccinate this illness such that we can help these children who haven't yet got this illness.

Interviewer: Number 5 has said that she has never treated the child, what should we do so that this woman can bring this child to the hospital?

Number 3: we give her transport so that she can take the child to the hospital.

Interviewer: We have talked about it, but let's hear it again. What mostly stops you from coming to our hospitals?

Interviewer 2: We had talked but what had stooped us from taking our children to the hospital. But do you think there are other things that stop us from taking children to the hospital?

Number 3: sometimes we know that we have this and this, but there are sometimes when you get a sick child yet you don't have a single coin to go in the hospital. Remember the child you have left at home also wants to eat and yet the one you have brought to the hospital also wants to eat! So we in the village die because of poverty.

Number 2: lack of income can make our children fail to get treatment. Yes, we may hear the announcement but we shall fail to get transportation. Now if you don't have money, what can you do?

Interviewer: Besides transport or money, is there anything else that hinders you? When you reach the hospitals, do you find the doctors? Is there medicine or not? Is there anything else that stops you from going to the hospital besides money?

Number 3: if you are lucky enough to leave the village for town but without money for transportation, they will treat you well when you spend there a month or a week . . . You see this child, today if you find me with 50,000shs, it is because I requested a neighbor to give me that money. When I came to …….. with no transport, a Good Samaritan would see me and just give me food.

Number 4: My husband had been admitted in the hospital but buying food there was a problem. Yes, we got treatment but food.

Number 1: someone felt pity for me and gave me 20,000shs. I got sick day and night, I didn't have a phone line, I got all the treatment but with no food. So I went to the village to get money, you eat only 1,000shs a day.

Interviewer: Do you pay money for the laboratory, or they check for free?

Number 3: For a blood test, it costs 15,000shs. If my husband says, "I don't have money," then I would have to forego the blood tests. So when I called my husband, he told me, "Money is not enough!" However, he got lucky and received money from someone, so he sent me 50,000shs. Like now, they can say, "we want to take off blood from the child, so we need 15,000Shs" but the treatment you get is free. The money which we don't have is for food and transport.

Interviewer: Is there anything else, because we have finished.

All: no response.

Interviewer: Okay, thank you so much for giving us time to talk to you. We will use your opinions to see how we can provide care for sore throat. We said we will welcome question when we are done. Now we are going to give you something to compensate your transport and for the time spent. However, thank you so much.

Moderator: Let's start from here. So I will request each of you to introduce themselves briefly. Let me remind you that everything you tell us here is of interest to us and that is why we didn't call one person. I request that we respect each other and respond as honestly as possible. We would also like for everyone to comment on everything we shall ask. So before we start, I would like us to get some details about each other. Respondent 1, what's your name; just the first name?

Respondent 1: Respondent 1

Moderator: How old are you Respondent **1**?

Respondent 1: 20

Moderator: How many children do you have?

Respondent 1: 3

Moderator: Are you married?

Respondent 1: Yes

Moderator: What is your highest level of education?

Respondent 1: Primary seven

Moderator: What is your employment?

Respondent 1: None

Moderator: What is your tribe?

Respondent: I am Muganda

Moderator: You are welcome. Respondent 2, what name should we call you?

Respondent 2: …….

Moderator: How old are you?

Respondent 2: 32

Moderator: What is your highest level of education?

Respondent 2: I didn't have any education

Moderator: Do you have any children?

Respondent 2: Yes

Moderator: How many?

Respondent 2: 5

Moderator: What is your faith?

Respondent 2: Catholic

Moderator: Are you married?

Respondent 2: Yes

Moderator: What is your tribe?

Respondent 2: Muganda

Moderator: What is your employment?

Respondent 2: None

Moderator: You are welcome. Respondent 3!

Moderator: How old are you?

Respondent 3: 20

Moderator: What is your employment?

Respondent 3: None

Moderator: Are you married?

Respondent 3: Yes

Moderator: Do you have any children?

Respondent 3: No, I have just gotten pregnant recently.

Respondent 5: [Bursts into laughter]

Respondents: [murmuring and laughter continues]

Moderator: Do you have anyone at home who has sore throat?

Respondent 3: Yes

Moderator: How are you related to them?

Respondent 3: He is my grandpa

Moderator: What about the child!

Respondent 3: The child is my sibling

Moderator: Has he had that illness too?

Respondent 3: Yes

Moderator: What is your highest level of education?

Respondent 3: Senior four

Moderator: You said you don't work!

Respondent 3: Yes

Moderator: What is your tribe?

Respondent 3: Munyankole

Moderator: Want about your faith!

Respondent 3: Born again

Moderator: So we have ***Respondent 3***, Respondent 8 and Respondent 1. Respondent 4,

Moderator: Are you married?

Respondent 4: Yes madam

Moderator: How old are you?

Respondent 4: 40

Moderator: How many children do you have?

Respondent 4: 5

Moderator: What is your faith?

Respondent 4: I am catholic

Moderator: What is your highest level of education?

Respondent 4: I never went to school

Moderator: What is your tribe?

Respondent 4: I am Muganda

Moderator: Respondent 5! How old are you?

Respondents: 41

Moderator: Do you have any children?

Respondent 5: Yes

Moderator: How many?

Respondent 5: 5

Moderator: Are you married?

Respondent 5: Yes

Moderator: What is your highest level of education?

Respondent 4: Senior four

Moderator: What is your employment?

Respondent 5: I own a saloon

Moderator: What is your tribe?

Respondent 5: Mutooro

Moderator: What is your faith?

Respondent 5: Muslim

Moderator: What about you Respondent 6!

Respondent 6: I am ***Respondent 6***

Moderator: How old are you?

Respondent 6: I am 44 years old

Moderator: Are you married?

Respondent 6: Yes madam

Moderator: Do you have any children?

Respondent 6: Yes madam

Moderator: How many are they?

Respondent 6: They are six

Moderator: What is your employment?

Respondent 6: I am a farmer

Moderator: What is your tribe?

Respondent 6: I am a Muganda

Moderator: What is your highest level of education?

Respondent 6: Primary seven

Moderator: What is your faith?

Respondent 6: I am catholic

Moderator: You are welcome. What about you dear! How old are you?

Respondent 7: I am 30 years old

Moderator: What is your employment?

Respondent 7: I don't work

Moderator: Are you married?

Respondent 7: Yes

Moderator: Do you have any children?

Respondent 7: Yes

Moderator: What is your faith?

Respondent 7: I am Protestant.

Moderator: What is your highest level of education?

Respondent 7: Primary five

Moderator: Well we are happy to receive all of you here. We at least know a little about each other and I think you know us too, right?

Respondent 1: No, we don't know you yet

Moderator: Well I am ……. and my colleague …….. We come from the heart institute and we are here to speak to you about sore throat. Can we continue?

Respondents: Yes

Moderator: Do you all agree to participate in this focus group discussion?

Respondents: Yes

Moderator: Well thank you. Now, umm, who of you got a child with sore throat last year? What do you call it anyway?

Respondents: We call it tonsillitis

Moderator: So who had a child with sore throat last year?

Respondent 2: I don't have a child but I had sore throat myself

Moderator: What did you do?

Respondent 2: I used mwetango (a local herb), I don't know if you all know it. You boil omwetango and add some salt in it.

Moderator: For how long did you do that?

Respondent 2: I did that for about 4 days and then the sores healed

Moderator: How many times have you had sore throat?

Respondent 2: You mean since my birth?

Moderator: Yes

Respondent 2: From the time I started understanding, I think I have had sore throat thrice.

Moderator: Haven't you had any children with sore throat?

Respondent 2: No

Moderator: Who else?

Respondent 8: I had a child with it

Moderator: Tell me what you did when your child got sore throat.

Respondent 8: I gave her omwetango (Chenopodiaceous)

Moderator: Well if you will be saying something, let's get some details about you before we continue

Moderator: How old are you?

Respondent 8: I am 49

Moderator: What is your employment?

Respondent 8: I am a farmer

Moderator: How many children do you have?

Respondent 8: I have three children with two grandchildren. Now this one is the grandchild that I live with.

Moderator: So let's continue. One member had shared with us, so what about the rest. Tell us about your experience

Respondent 4: My child had it once but I used mwetango too although I mixed it with Kisula (black salt) and when I swallowed it healed.

Moderator: Did you swallow any medicine?

Respondent 4: No, I never swallowed any medicine

Respondent 7: I had sore throat once and I used tablets from a hospital, but it didn't heal

Respondent 5: I also had sore throat once but the tablets didn't work

Moderator: What about the children; what did you do?

Respondent 2: Of course when my children fall sick, I just buy tablets and give them to the child

Moderator: What are they called?

Respondent 2: Penicillin

Respondent 1: When I get sore throat I used some tablets

Moderator: What medicine did you use?

Respondent 1: Pain killers

Moderator: Where do you get the painkillers? Do you prescribe to yourself or you go to a health facility?

Respondent 1: I go to the health center.

Moderator: So when you take painkillers, do you get an improvement?

Respondent 1: Yes, it heals but later on comes back

Moderator: How do you do it for the case of children when they have sore throat?

Respondent 1: They use pain killers

Moderator: What did you say you do?

Respondent 4: Personally I got it last month but I always buy pain killers and in about five days, it heals gradually.

Moderator: What do you do dear?

Respondent 8: I have never had it

Moderator: What about the rest!

Respondent 8: Well for the children, they get that sore throat in case of a cough or flu and he says, "I feel pain in the throat; I cannot swallow anything." Maybe it is tonsillitis but I usually give him cough tablets.

Moderator: And he heals?

Respondent 8: Yes, and then he heals

Moderator: What about the others; what do you do?

Respondent 3: I also used Mwetango and mixed with Kisula

Moderator: For how long do you give that portion to the child?

Respondent 3: In about four days he would be fine

Moderator: When you give your children mwetango, does the sore throat heal or it comes back?

Respondents: They heal

Moderator: Thank you. Now why do you think children get this illness? What causes sore throat or tonsillitis?

Respondent 1: Sometimes it just happens; I don't even know its cause because I just find myself weak in the morning and unable to do housework but without any extra pains.

Moderator: What about the rest; what causes tonsillitis?

Respondents: we don't know its cause

Moderator: What do you think happens when your child starts falling sick?

Respondent 1: When a child gets tonsillitis, he may first get a fever and then that fever causes him a spasm which then results into wounds.

Moderator: What did you do for the baby who got tonsillitis?

Respondent 1: I gave him akamwanyimwanyi (Rauvolfia vomitoria), mixed it with some onions and told him to chew and swallow. He swallowed and swallowed for about three days

Moderator: And he healed?

Respondent 1: Yes, but he first developed a fever and complaining of pain here and there. He was then unable to swallow anything through the throat and whenever you gave him anything, he would get pain. So I gave him some akamwanyimwanyi.

Moderator: So in your view, what exactly does tonsillitis do to children?

Respondent 1: Since tonsillitis happens in the throat, it can even cause an ear problem and then the ears stop hearing properly. So after spoiling the ears, since they affect this area [points at area] they cause spasms all around here to the extent that he may even complain of a headache

Moderator: Thank you. What do the others think?

Respondent 8: The child will feel a lot of pain that they cannot even drink water when you give them pills to swallow. Despite putting the pills in his mouth to swallow, whatever you do the pills would never slide through the throat. If it is a child who cannot take care of themselves, he becomes even a bigger burden to you.

Moderator: What do the others have to say?

Respondent 1: It is only that we are blessed by God to find omwetango but there's one who may even fail to get mwetango and yet that sore throat is sometimes really hard. In fact I think that if one delays to get treatment they might get throat cancer.

Moderator: What about the rest; what do you think?

Mariam: I also get some herbs and take [in a very low tone].

Moderator: Is tonsillitis a serious issue in your community?

Respondent 2: No, it is not a very serious issue; there are just a few people. It is not yet a very serious issue.

Moderator: How have you managed to keep it lesser serious to you?

Respondent 4: God is just blessing us

Respondent 2: It is God's blessings. For example an illness like measles, it can be in one area but not in another. So I think it attacks randomly; sometimes it may attack one area and another time in another area. So we are not sure if we are blessed enough simply because it hasn't attacked us yet because it may attack us some other time.

Respondent 7: Well with this kind of illness, I may pass by you with this illness which is not the case with measles where one can easily identify you that you are sick or have measles. So we can say that it is not rampant and yet many other people are suffering with it. So it could be common in the community but we just can see it.

Moderator: Can it be spread?

Respondent 7: You cannot spread it

Moderator: Can one be bewitched to get it?

Respondents: [murmuring and laughter]

Respondent 3: Who would bewitch ones throat anyway!

Interviewer: What about the traditional healers; do you think they can treat this illness?

Respondent 5: Unless with mwetango and akamwanymwanyi, I don't think you can go to a witch doctor and be healed.

Respondents: [murmuring]

Moderator: So you all disagree with that!

Respondents: Yes

Moderator: So in your view, is this a serious illness or?

Respondents: It is very serious

Respondent 2: It is so serious because it can . . .

Respondent 5: Personally, last month I was even admitted because of that illness!

Respondent 4: There is a way it can stretch your throat! Hmm! It is very serious

Moderator: Can it be cured?

Respondents: Yes

Respondent 2: It can be cured if you treat it

Respondent 3: I think it just relaxes because it strikes again after some time. So it only relaxes because I have had it twice now

Respondent 1: If you swallow medicine, it can be healed.

Moderator: Does it take long to cure?

Respondent 1: If you get it and start treatment immediately, like for my case; when I swallow drugs I would be healed in about 5 days. When I swallow the first day, I would then be able to swallow some saliva. On the second day, I would be able to drink and on the third day, I would be able to eat. By the fifth day I would be healed

Moderator: What about the rest; do you go through the same?

Respondent 6: It took me two weeks

Moderator: Did you finally get healed?

Respondent 6: It came back

Interviewer: So for some of you that take your children to hospitals, when you are given medicine for your children, do you complete the dose? If they give you a five days dose, do you complete it?

Respondent 2: We complete it fully

Respondent 8: The challenge we have here is that the moment you are given drugs, you swallow for three days and feel relieved, let's all be honest; when you feel relieved, you never swallow again

Respondents: [laugh]

Respondent 8: When you feel healed, you never swallow any more pills. There are very few that swallow the entire dose

Respondent 4: There are some that fear pills

Respondent 8: Yes; they are few. The moment one feels relieved, they stop, even if it is a malaria drugs

Moderator: What about the children; what do you do for them?

Respondent 6: Of course when you notice that the child has started to eat

Respondent 8: Or playing

Respondent 6: Yeah, so you stop. Besides, children hate swallowing pills so the moment you notice that he has started to eat or playing, you be like; "it seems this child has healed."

Moderator: Do you think it is important to complete the full dose?

Respondent 8: Yes it is important

Respondent 2: It is important

Respondent 7: Yes

Respondent 2: It is important but . . .

Moderator: But?

Respondent 8: Fear of swallowing the pills

Respondent 2: and laziness

Moderator: Then what is the biggest fear about tonsillitis?

Respondent 1: I am afraid of catching cancer

Respondent 8: Of course it is the cancer that we fear, so that is why we rush to start medication to avoid it

Moderator: What is the biggest fear for others about that illness?

Respondent 1: Pour biggest fear, you know the throat is the passage for everything; water, food and everything. So if you get tonsillitis, swallowing would be a problem. So if you don't act quickly, the throat walls might even connect.

Moderator: What about for our children; what do they go through when they have tonsillitis?

Respondent 1: He will just cry because he wants to eat but when you give him something to eat, he cannot swallow. So a child is not like an old person; our children are our biggest fear because a child will not . . .

Respondent 6: He won't complain about discomfort here or there

Respondent 8: Exactly, he wouldn't tell you about discomfort here or there unless you think and wonder why the child is not eating anything you give him. You can give him water but he spits it out saying, "I don't want."

Respondent 6: Because of the pain from the wounds, they are always salivating because they couldn't eat.

Moderator: How about the bigger children; what is their fear with tonsillitis?

Respondent 6: Eh, you would really worry seeing that the child is not eating anything

Respondent 4: It would appear like something is grabbing his neck!

Respondent 6: You know with something that you cannot see, you would just feel the pain; you cannot swallow or chew!

Moderator: Is that what the children fear too? What do they tell you when they get those tonsillitis?

Respondent 2: He would show signs of wanting to eat but however much you try to feed him, he couldn't swallow. That is the sign that your child is doing badly because everything you give him, he would not eat it. As a parent you develop fear.

Moderator: What happens when we don't give children drugs?

Respondent 2: They die

Respondent 7: Of course he would just die

Moderator: Is that what all of you are saying?

Respondents: Yes

Moderator: Now let's look at the problems from tonsillitis to the community. How do you think your community has been affected by this illness? You told me it is not rampant, but when it is there, how is it affected?

Respondent 8: Everyone takes care of themselves. One might be having it when we don't know, so you the person with it have to take care of yourself. Besides, we don't have any health facility where people with sore throat can go, like it is the case for pediatricians in the village where in case a child falls sick, you go to so and so. So everyone makes their own attempts.

Moderator: How have children in the school going age been affected by sore throat?

Respondent 2: They are affected because when one has that illness they would not go to school

Respondent 8: I have a daughter and although I don't live with her, they always call me when she has that illness. Sometimes she is even taken to hospital but it (sore throat) comes back after some time.

Moderator: How about the family; how is it affected when our children get sore throat?

Respondent 1: In some homes, when you tell the husband that the child has sore throat, he might even face the opposite direction. So you suffer with your child with his sore throat and besides, the child will always look up to you since his father doesn't even bother checking on him. So you have to carry your child on the back and start walking to …….. only to find that there are no drugs. They then write down a prescription for you to buy from a clinic and by the time you wait for him to return and give you money to buy the pills, it would be so late. So that's when you omwetango to fill up that gap.

Respondent 7: So we the women would be so affected because hospitals are so far away.

Respondent 8: And yet there are no drugs.

Respondent 5: You will go there and find no drugs

Moderator: Don't the fathers involve themselves in the treatment of your children?

Respondent 6: Come on. Do you expect the man to mind the children? That's a myth!

Respondent 1: The man will be involved when he sees that the child is starting to convulse or when the condition is too bad. That's when he rushes, but telling him that the child has pain in the throat and yet he is seeing him playing with friends.

Respondent 3: He can just be like, "it will heal."

Respondent 8: Or, "get him some tablets."

Moderator: So what can be done to involve these men?

Respondent 4: I wish you invite them for such sensitizations

Respondent 1: Exactly

Moderator: You said the men don't bother, so where do you get money to bring children to the hospital?

Respondent 1: We prepare mwetango to fill up that gap

Respondents: [murmuring]

Respondent 7: You will go to a health facility and won't find any drugs

Respondent 1: Actually we even planted the herb at home, so you can pick some, squeeze and give him some to chew.

Moderator: Do you mean that in case you are given money, would you come to the hospital?

Respondent 2: Why not? Is there anyone who would not want their child to be fine?

Respondent 1: Why not? We use mwetango just for the mean time before we get money to come to the hospital

Respondent 2: That is when God even helps and heal the child

Moderator: So it means you prefer going to the hospital!

Respondents: Yes

Moderator: But?

Respondent 1: Besides, there are sores that you treat with mwetango and they heal. Because, you cannot let a child chew mwetango for a week and the second one; you must find means to go to the hospital.

Moderator: So it means that only when they are too ill is when one goes to the hospital?

Respondent 1: Yeah

Moderator: When you get to the hospital and asked for how long the child has been sick, what do you say?

Respondent 1: Of course you tell him

Respondent 3: You tell him

Respondents: [murmuring]

Respondent 8: You tell him that the child has been suffering with the pain for three days. What do you gain anyway by lying to the health worker?

Moderator: How do they treat you when you take a child and the entire throat is in pain?

Respondent 1: They abuse and blame you

Respondent 8: They can be like, "you have taken so long to bring the child" not knowing that it is the money that you didn't have. Secondly, we are so interested in knowing the cause of those sores!

Respondent 1: That's what I was about to ask too.

Moderator: Now let's finish and then respond to that. Right now we are first getting your opinion and then give you information. So generally, what do people in the community do when a child gets these sores?

Respondent 1: Mwetango (Chenopodium opulifolium)

Respondents: Mwetango

Respondent 8: They use mwetango a lot.

Moderator: And you told me that the reason why you use mwetango is?

Respondent 1: Failure to get money

Moderator: Is there any other reason apart from lack of money?

Respondent 8: There is none

Respondent 1: None

Moderator: We hear that some people immediately go to a health facility when a child gets those sores. What do you think motivates them to go to the health facility immediately?

Respondent 1: It is because when you take the child to the hospital, he is checked properly and given treatment. The problem with us here is that we just provide treatment

Moderator: So that is what motivates them to go to the hospital! What do the others think?

Respondent 8: The capacity.

Moderator: The capacity! Why else do you think others choose to go to a health facility?

Respondent 8: The reason why they go to hospitals is that when those sores are untreated for a long time, they merge into one and the more that happens, it is even worse.

Moderator: Most of you have told me that the moment the child gets some relief, you stop giving him drugs!

Respondent 8: You stop

Moderator: What about for some that go to hospitals! Do we have any people here that go to hospitals for sore throat?

Respondent 1: Yes, we take them

Moderator: When the child is suffering with tonsillitis?

Respondent 8: You can treat them with mwetango but they fail to heal so you take the child to the hospital

Moderator: So when the health workers ask you to return to the facility after five days to follow-up on the child, do you return?

Respondent 8: We go back

Moderator: What motivates you to go back?

Respondent 8: What motivates me is that I see his condition, whether he has healed or not. So I must take him back to confirm that he has healed.

Moderator: What about the others! If a child gets some relief after 3 days but the health worker told you to return after 5 days, do you go back?

Respondent 2: Some of us don't return; that is the truth. Now if the child has healed, why else would I go back? I can't imagine suffering with that distance again.

Moderator: Is the facility nearer?

Respondent 1: Hmm

Respondent 8: It is far

Moderator: How far is it from where we are now? How much does the boda charge?

Respondent 1: 2500

Respondent 8: 2000

Respondent 1: Sometimes we move there on foot.

Moderator: Do you find the health workers there? You walk there on foot?

Respondent 3: There are some people that go there on foot or else you get a boda of 2500shs to take you there.

Moderator: Is it easy to find bodas?

Respondents: Yes

Respondent 1: Bodas are available

Moderator: Do you find the health workers there?

Respondent 8: Sometimes you find them there and other times you don't

Respondent 1: They are only there in the morning but when you go there at around 1pm . . .

Respondent 3: They are there sometimes but there aren't any drugs

Respondent 8: There are even times you get there and they tell you that there aren't any drugs, so they write down the prescription to buy it from a private pharmacy

Respondent 1: But sometimes you go there at 2pm and find someone to attend to you!

Respondent 2: You only got a chance

Moderator: What is the cost of sore throat drugs? Can people afford them in this community?

Respondent 1: It is cheap

Respondent 8: Sometimes we buy Septrine or sometimes they tell us, "It must be the cough which has caused sores in the child's throat." So we buy Septrine

Moderator: Is it expensive or not?

Respondent 8: Of course it is expensive; it costs about 3000shs or 5000shs

Moderator: So are you confident that the health workers that treat you in ……. can effectively heal this illness in your children?

Respondent 1: We don't know that because the illness stops and later reappears. So we don't know whether we treat to create a relief or to effectively cure it.

Respondent 4: Otherwise, we just accept because we have been given the drugs and therefore confident that the children will heal.

Moderator: Do you trust in your health workers?

Respondent 1: Yes we do trust them

Moderator: Have you ever heard about a bacterium called streptococcal which causes sore throat?

Respondents: No, we have never

Respondent 1: I have never heard about it

Moderator: Have you ever had any sensitization about treating sore throat in children or yourselves when they fall sick?

Respondents: No

Respondent 8: We have never.

Moderator: You have told me that sometimes there are long queues at the health facility and that it is one of the reasons that stop you from going to hospitals, they stop work at 2pm . . .

Respondent 1: You have to be early but if you don't, you would lose out.

Moderator: What else demotivates you from going to the hospitals? You also talked about the distance; that it is far!

Respondents: Yes, it is really far

Respondent 8: Now personally, there was a time I had sore throat and went to …… health center and there is a doctor called ……. So when I got there I told him that I am sick and feel pain in my throats. He then asked how I contacted it and I told him that it was the night before. He then asked if there is any drug that I used, and I was like, "it started the previous night, so I haven't used any drugs." On that day I had gone to the facility with my medical records book, so he told me; "go there and if you find any drugs, they should give you some and if you don't find any drugs, you go and buy them." So I went there and they gave me four pills of Septrine.

Moderator: Four!

Respondent 8: Yes, and after giving me those pills he wrote a prescription of more drugs that I went and bought. So I bought them and felt some relief

Moderator: Did you get the sore throat again?

Respondent 8: It reappeared but I fought against that man until he left that health facility. His behavior wasn't good. In fact we are the people that even built that facility but when I went there after hearing several complaints from other people, so when I moved out someone told him that I am a Councilor. So during a certain meeting, he said, "do you see that lady there? She would have told me that she is a Councilor." I then asked him, "do we have any special services for councilors?" I added, "The reason why I am here is that I had heard several complaints from people but I wasn't supposed to introduce myself as a Counselor." In fact I went to ……. (district headquarters) and reported him, and now he was transferred. Now with the health workers that are at the facility lately, some people now say that they are at least trying compared to the previous lot of health workers.

Moderator: Does that mean that the behavior of health workers is . . .

Respondent 8: The behavior of health workers is also hard lately; people have completely stopped going to public health facilities and yet they are paid. In fact that is why even in these UPE schools, teachers are paid a salary but pupils fail and yet their salary is much higher than the teachers in private schools. But still, their students run or they desert them because they know that whether or not they teach, they would still get paid. It is the same thing that health workers in public hospitals are doing

Moderator: So that is what scares you from going there?

Respondent 8: Yes

Respondent 2: Because you will know that even if you go there you won't get any drugs.

Respondent 6: You go there and despite not being checked, when you complain to them that your child has sores in his throat, even without checking they just give you Septrine. So you take the Septrine just to save the child since you have no option.

Moderator: So what can be done to see that people go to health workers?

Respondent 1: They always say that there are no drugs in the hospitals so we don't know if it is true or not. Otherwise our facility never has any drugs; when you go there and you are lucky to get your blood taken off, you will have to buy the drugs. So when I go there they give me Panadol and ask me to go and buy drugs and yet I would have to board a boda to go to ……. So instead of wasting my time going there, I would rather go directly to …… Hospital and get treatment. We don't know if they use the drugs for their private clinics but those health facilities never have any drugs.

Moderator: What else can we do for people to start trusting these health facilities?

Respondent 8: What we have to do is that people are not patriotic anymore; everyone does what they want. People are not kind anymore either. In fact I told that ……. that he would have been in the army instead of coming to the health facility; a health facility doesn't need a person who behaves like a soldier because a soldier is always rude, but a health worker needs to counsel a patient. In fact I told ……, "Some of you people study things that are not even your talent." People are no longer patriotic; love for money has become a problem in this country, whether amongst teachers or health workers; they don't care about anyone anymore as long as one gets their money. They don't care. That is the cause of this problem

Moderator: What else would motivate you to go to the clinic? You said when the drugs are available!

Respondent 1: Yes, then you wouldn't mind walking a long distance to the facility

Respondent 4: …….. facility is one of those that provides that kinds of drugs

Respondent 1: And yet they handle people with care. I have personally gone there four times and the care providers are great except that it is a little far and sometimes it is hard finding the means to go there.

Respondent 8: But imagine here at …… you enter the doctor's room and you greet her and she is like [rudely], "I am fine. What is your problem?" So in your mind you start laughing wondering, "Where can I start now?" You might even fear to talk about the sore throat and end up saying, "malaria." So if one is that rude, how will you tell them that yesterday you got a boil here? How would you even show her the hidden boil when she has a rude face?

Respondent 2: People are not kind anymore.

Moderator: So we are concluding; what can we do to see that we reduce tonsillitis in the country?

Respondent 1: The problem is that we don't know what causes it and therefore there is no way we can prevent it. In fact we just get surprised seeing it and then we mistake it for cough or sometimes flu

Respondent 8: We don't even know about the cause of the bacterium that you just mentioned

Respondent 3: We have even never heard about it

Respondent 1: We don't know whether it is spread through air or some other way

Moderator: So you prefer to first find out!

Respondent 1: Yeah, we want to first know its cause and then know how to prevent it

Moderator: Okay. Well thank you. Is there any question before we finish?

Respondent 8: Well first respond to that and then we start asking questions; what is the cause of this illness and then we know how to prevent it.

Moderator: Okay thank you so much; we are going to answer your questions.

URBAN FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION WAKISO

VENUE: …….

NO OF PARTICIPANTS: 9

SEX: FEMALES

INTRODUCTION

Interviewer: Dear ones we are happy to see you, thanks for coming to talk to us.

All: You are welcome

Interviewer: Before we start off, has every one agreed to be part of this discussion?

All: Yes.

Interviewer: Now let me first tell you the rules we are going to follow during this session that we are going to have. We are many and everyone has an opinion that could be different from another person's, so I am asking that we all respect each other's opinion because if we wanted an opinion from one person, we wouldn't have called all of you at once. But since we have gathered all of you here, it's because we need each and every one's opinions, and let whatever we say remain here; let's not talk about it outside here. And we ask you to be honest with your response and let everyone say their opinions because we are learning from you. Otherwise if we knew them, we wouldn't have come here. The other thing you should know is that what you are going to tell us is confidential and we won't share it with anyone else and that's why we won't mention anyone's name. That's why we are going to give you different numbers that will serve as your name so that we can know that this voice is for someone else. Should we use numbers or we use one of the names? What would you prefer?

All: We should use one of the names.

Interviewer: So what we are requesting is that when you are giving your opinion, say your name first. That is, *"it's Ann and this is my opinion . . ."* such that we learn from you. Should we continue?

All: Yes.

Interviewer: Okay. So I will request everyone to share with me a few details about themselves; your age. You first mention your first name because we are going to use it through the conversation. We can alternatively give you numbers that you will each use before talking. How old is Respondent 1?

Respondent 1: 26 years.

Interviewer: What's your highest level of education?

Respondent 1: I stopped in senior four.

Interviewer: What do you do?

Respondent 1: I have a hardware where I work.

Interviewer: And are you married?

Respondent 1: Yes I am married but not yet wedded.

Interviewer: What religion are you?

Respondent 1: I am Protestant.

Interviewer: Thank you ***Respondent 1:*** Do you have any children?

Respondent 1: I have two children; a 6 year old and the other is 7 months.

Interviewer: We are pleased to have you. That's ***Respondent 1:*** Let's go to the second one.

Respondent 2: Ms. Respondent 2.

Interviewer: We are happy to have you Respondent 2. How old are you?

Respondent 2: 26 years.

Interviewer: What do you do Respondent 2?

Respondent 2: I am a housewife.

Interviewer: Do you have any children?

Respondent 2: Yes.

Interviewer: How many?

Respondent 2: Three.

Interviewer: Am I saying your name right?

Respondent 2: Yes.

Interviewer: What is your religion?

Respondent 2: I am Protestant.

Interviewer: What tribe are you?

Respondent 2: Muganda.

Interviewer: What's your highest level of education?

Respondent 2: Senior four.

Interviewer: Okay, we are pleased to have you. Are you married?

Respondent 2: No [laughs].

Interviewer: I didn't get Respondent 1's religion.

Respondent 1: You got the religion, maybe the tribe.

Interviewer: Yeah. What is your tribe?

Respondent 1: I am a Muganda lady.

Interviewer: Okay. Now number three.

Respondent 3: I am Respondent 3.

Interviewer: We are glad to have you Respondent 3. How old are you?

Respondent 3: 35

Interviewer: What do you do?

Respondent 3: House wife

Interviewer: What's your religion?

Respondent 3: Protestant.

Interviewer: What's your highest level of education?

Respondent 3: Senior six.

Interviewer: How many children do you have?

Respondent 3: Three

Interviewer: Are you married?

Respondent 3: Married

Interviewer: You are welcome. Number four.

Respondent 4: Respondent 4.

Interviewer: How old are you?

Respondent 4: 35 years.

Interviewer: What do you do?

Respondent 4: I stay at home.

Interviewer: Do you have children?

Respondent 4: Yes.

Interviewer: How many?

Respondent 4: Five.

Interviewer: Are you married?

Respondent 4: I am married.

Interviewer: What's your religion?

Respondent 4: I am Protestant.

Interviewer: What is your tribe?

Respondent 4: I am Mugisu.

Interviewer: We are happy to have you here. Number five!

Respondent 5: I am Respondent 5

Interviewer: How old are you?

Respondent 5: 28 years

Interviewer: What do you do?

Respondent 5: Works in a saloon

Interviewer: Okay. What's your highest level of education?

Respondent 5: I did a degree.

Interviewer: In what?

Respondent 5: In Catering and Hotel management.

Interviewer: How many children do you have?

Respondent 5: I have two children.

Interviewer: Are you married?

Respondent 5: I have a boyfriend but we are not married?

Interviewer: What's your religion?

Respondent 5: I am Muslim

Interviewer: What's your tribe?

Respondent 5: I am Munyoro.

Interviewer: We are happy to have you here. Number six. What's your name?

Respondent 6: Respondent 6.

Interviewer: How old are you?

Respondent 6: 27 years.

Interviewer: What do you do?

Respondent 6: I stay at home.

Interviewer: Are you married?

Respondent 6: No

Interviewer: Do you have children?

Respondent 6: Yes.

Interviewer: How many?

Respondent 6: Four.

Interviewer: What's your religion?

Respondent 6: I am a Born-again Christian.

Interviewer: What's your highest level of education?

Respondent 6: Primary 4.

Interviewer: What's your tribe?

Respondent 6: Munyoro.

Interviewer: Number seven. What's your name?

Respondent 7: Respondent 7.

Interviewer: How old are you?

Respondent 7: 27

Interviewer: What do you do?

Respondent 7: I am a housewife.

Interviewer: What's your highest level of education?

Respondent 7: Senior four.

Interviewer: How many children do you have?

Respondent 7: Three.

Interviewer: Are you married?

Respondent 7: I am married but not wedded.

Interviewer: You are a housewife?

Respondent 7: Yes.

Interviewer: What's the religion?

Respondent 7: Muslim

Interviewer: Tribe?

Respondent 7: Muganda.

Interviewer: We are happy to have you here. Number 8. What's your first name?

Respondent 8: I am ……..

Interviewer: How old are you?

Respondent 8: 23

Interviewer: What do you do?

Respondent 8: I am unemployed.

Interviewer: Are you married?

Respondent 8: No.

Interviewer: Do you have any children?

Respondent 8: I have one child.

Interviewer: What's your religion?

Respondent 8: I am a Born-again

Interviewer: What's your tribe?

Respondent 8: I am a Muganda.

Interviewer: What's your highest level of education?

Respondent 8: I finished senior four.

Interviewer: Now at least we know a little about each other. One of you is not here but she will join us later. So we are going to use our first names, and that means that when you want to say something you say your first name and then make your contribution. Can we continue?

All: Yes.

Interviewer: Now I think you know us, so we don't need to reintroduce ourselves!

Respondent 8: I didn't get to know you

Interviewer: Well I am …….

Note taker: And I am …….

Interviewer: We are from Mulago at the Heart Institute and we are the ones that are going to have a chat with you. Okay let's start; I told you that this discussion is about sore throat which some of you call tonsillitis. What do you call it in Luganda? [New member joins the group]

All: It's still called sore throat or tonsillitis.

Interviewer: Can anyone share with us your experience with a child with sore throat? You tell us when the child got the sore throat and how you managed it. Anyone can start.

Respondent 2: I am Respondent 2

Interviewer: So before you start Respondent 2, I am requesting that the new member gives us her first name which we are going to use here.

Respondent 9: Respondent 9.

Interviewer: How old are you?

Respondent 9: 31 years.

Interviewer: How many children do you have?

Respondent 9: Six

Interviewer: Are you married?

Respondent 9: Yes.

Interviewer: What's your religion?

Respondent 9: I am a Catholic.

Interviewer: What do you do?

Respondent 9: I have a wholesale shop.

Interviewer: What's your tribe?

Respondent 9: I am a Muganda.

Interviewer: What's your highest level of education?

Respondent 9: Senior four.

Interviewer: Okay. The rest had already introduced themselves by the time you came in.

Respondent 9: Okay madam

Interviewer: So Respondent 2, how was your experience when your child got sore throat? When did it happen?

Respondent 2: This is not the child who got it [laughs].

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent 2: It is the second one who usually gets the sore throat and remember whenever he gets it, he also develops a fever.

Interviewer: Okay. When was the last time he got sore throat?

Respondent 2: I think in February.

Interviewer: What did you do?

Respondent 2: Whenever he gets sore throat, I give him Panadol and herbal medicine.

Interviewer: What herb do you usually use?

Respondent 2: Omwetango with a little salt

Respondent 3: [compliments] and Kayayaana.

Respondent 2: That is what I usually give my child but I don't know about the rest. Otherwise whenever I give him those herbs he becomes fine.

Interviewer: He gets better?

Respondent 2: Yes.

Interviewer: How long does it take for it to reoccur?

Respondent 2: it hasn't happened again yet.

Interviewer: How many times has he had the sore throat?

Respondent 2: Twice but it has taken a while before reoccurring.

Interviewer: Okay. What about the rest? When a child comes crying that mummy I have wounds, what do you do?

Respondent 1: What I do when he has pain from those sores, besides, he first shows signs of cough so we treat the cough but after sometime he will say, *"mummy, I can't swallow easily."* You would even notice that his saliva is starting to drip! So I first give him warm salty water and asked him to rinse the mouth. After there I give him Panadol and then buy Pen-V and give it to him too. So since we had been treating cough regularly, sometimes we keep Ampiclox in the house, so we give it to him too because all we want is to see him fine.

Interviewer: For how long do you give the Ampiclox and Pen-v?

Respondent 1: As long as he says that he doesn't feel any more pain or when he resumes eating, I stop.

Interviewer: That's how Ms. Respondent 1 handles it, what of the rest? By the way, Respondent 1, how old is your baby?

Respondent 1: Six years

Interviewer: And Respondent 2's?

Respondent 2: Five years

Respondent 4: My first daughter, who is now 12 years old, one day returned from school complaining, *"Mummy, I feel like I cannot swallow anything through my throat. In fact I have failed to eat food at school today."* She also had a lot of fever, so I took her to a clinic and they gave us tiny tablets to swallow and they also told me prepare warm water, add salt and then give it her. After giving her that warm water and the pills, she took that treatment for almost a week and then she resumed eating slowly by slowly. Otherwise it is not so long ago when she got that problem; it's about a week ago.

Interviewer: Respondent 4 took the child to the hospital for treatment. Let us hear from …….; what did you do?

Respondent 5: To be honest, he hasn't had that sickness yet because my first born is now 14 years old. Personally, that sore throat disturbed me a lot because it starts as a cough and when it is so heavy, it causes that sore throat. So whenever I get that sore throat, of course it doesn't start immediately, so before going to the hospital I first swallow some pills since I always keep medicine in my home. So when it finally starts, I first lose my voice and feel a blockage in my chest. I couldn't swallow properly and then I would get wounds in the throat. When that happens I decide to take it to the next level, so I come here for some medicine and swallow. Otherwise, I first swallow some Cotrimol (Cotrimoxazole) and Panadol and when that fails, I swallow Amoxyl and add some Cotrimol and then it gradually reduces, because it's usually a cough.

Interviewer: How about the rest; what do you do for your children when they get it? Respondent 6 what do you have to say?

Respondent 6. My baby fell sick at three months but at two months, he didn't have any wounds. Ever since I started giving him that bottled (powdered) milk, NAN 1, he developed sores in the mouth. That sickness also caused him a spasm, so I took him to the doctor who gave him a syrup and he healed. However, personally I had a cough which caused an itchiness around here and then sores developed too. So I went to the clinic and they gave me Pen-v and Amoxicillin. Otherwise every time I get a cough, I get sores first.

Interviewer: So she goes to the hospital. Have you used omwetango?

Respondent 6: I tried it out but it failed.

Respondent 5: When my daughter got sick, I first used omwetango mixed in warm water plus some salt. I would then add some honey and if all of that failed, I would give her Amoxicillin and then she heals.

Interviewer: Does that heal her?

Respondent 5: She hasn't had the sickness again

Interviewer: How long has it been since?

Respondent 5: About a month.

Interviewer: How old is she?

Respondent 5: 9 years old.

Interviewer: How about you ***Respondent 8***, number two!

Respondent 8: It is me who usually gets that problem. It starts like I am about to get a flu and when it clogs around here [points on the neck], I would feel like I can't swallow or breathe properly. Consequently, I would feel an irritation here and feel like I want to cough but cannot. So what I do about that problem, I mix Kayayana with salt.

Interviewer: What about for your babies?

Respondent 8: It was only my third born who got that sickness; he got a lot of wounds which made the whole head rotten. You know he first told me, "Mummy, I feel some pain around here" but he rot from the head to the feet. Anyway I treated him; I took him to the hospital where they gave us some medicine and I also gave him some herbs. He is now fine although you can notice that his skin is still black.

Interviewer: What kind of local herb did you give him?

Respondent 8: I used a lot of types.

Interviewer: Who hasn't given her opinion yet? Respondent 3, what do you do when the baby gets it?

Respondent 3: My daughter is nine years old, but she got the sores for a full (school) term and it started like a fever. So we treated a fever at first until she said that she couldn't swallow properly. I then told her, "You are lying!" She later on got more serious and when I realized that she wasn't lying, I gave her omwetango mixed with water and salt and told her to take. She used it for about two days and she became fine.

Interviewer: So it means omwetango works!

All: It works

Respondent 1: It works. It is what I usually use after mixing it with some honey, without even going to the hospital/clinic.

Respondent 5: Honey is also very effective

Respondent 1: It really works

Sarah. But all that failed to work for me.

Interviewer: Some people are saying that that failed to work for them!

Respondent 1: It works for some and to some it doesn't. I depends on one's body.

Interviewer: Why do you think our children get sore throat? What causes it?

All: We don't know,

Respondent 1: We are also asking ourselves.

Respondent 4: For me out of the five children only two have not got it yet. Well the older ones, I mean the 15 year old and the 13 year old, since they are mature enough I can easily put them on pressure to Because the fifteen and three year old you can tell them to take some leaves because they are older.

Respondent 8: Personally, I mostly use Ampiclox but I also keep on asking myself why they (children) always get it (sore throat). In fact, one time I spent an entire week with it and yet I was on treatment although I don't remember the drugs they gave me at the hospital because they usually give different drugs. Otherwise, I am always wondering why I keep getting it. Yesterday I was in town and when the doctor checked the child, there were a lot of wounds in the mouth, but I always end up giving him some honey although I was given good treatment. Well yesterday he slept well and today he has tried to eat. Otherwise I also asked him (doctor) to show me and when he torched there, I felt so bad.

Interviewer: He is always disturbed by them?

Respondent 8: and yet they are always large, but am always asking myself why.

Interviewer: what do you think causes it?

Respondent 8: maybe cough:

Interviewer: who else?

Respondent 2. Sore throat which is also called tonsillitis is caused by flu and dust but it begins with a lot of cough: Besides, we find a lot of dust everywhere we pass, plus the poor hygiene in our homes; that's what I think.

Interviewer: what do the others have to say? Respondent 7 is disagreeing; what do you think?

Respondent 7: I think you get cough and consequently you feel that the cough is too much and then you start feeling pain around here. Consequently, you start feeling pain on swallowing and then you start feeling pain from the sores every time you eat anything salty.

Interviewer: ***Respondent 8***, what do you think?

Respondent 8: I also think it is caused by poor hygiene because I went and asked the doctor why the baby was sick and he told me that it was because I wasn't swabbing the baby's mouth and yet he was taking milk which clogged in the mouth and that that is why the wounds come; it is the poor hygiene.

Respondent 2: Personally I think that the same way you catch a fever and people say that so and so is sick, is the same way those wounds just come. It is the same way I can say that today I caught a fever or a cough or flu; I think it just happens.

Respondent 7: Yes, and fever too. In most cases a person with those sores in the mouth has a fever too.

Interviewer: Can someone or a baby get bewitched to get that sore throat? Maybe after a fight with someone some bewitched you with them?

All: No, you cannot be bewitched to get sore throat.

Respondent 6: It's impossible.

Respondent 2: Those wounds just come.

Respondent 9: When I got those wounds a lady who stays down there is the one who gave me local herbs. No one can bewitch you to get that sore throat

Interviewer: Even after a fight with your neighbor!

Interviewer: now, some of you have said that it's due to poor hygiene, fever or cough. You all have different opinions.

All: Yes.

Interviewer: now what happens to the body that it brings the tonsillitis; that you can see that they have occurred? Why do you think they occur, for example when they keep on reoccurring? What causes it?

Respondent 9: I don't know.

Respondent 2: I think it's due to the body's cells; when your body is easily attacked by that disease. That's what I think.

Respondent 2: personally, I think that when someone is coughing, the friction damages the throat causing sore throat.

Interviewer: anyone else with a different idea?

All: No response.

Interviewer: okay. What do you think happens to the children when they get the sore throat?

Respondent 4: what happens is that they get pain and they won't be able to study or eat even when you force them because they will have pain swallowing.

Respondent 7: That's true because they won't eat even if you force the***m.***

Respondent 9: the child is depressed due to what has happens to him, wondering what's wrong with him/her.

Respondent 7: Imagine it's stressful to an adult. Personally, I thought I wasn't going to make it through the night but when I got to the hospital, I got so much better though I still had some pain.

Interviewer: okay. Anyone to add on that?

All: silence.

Interviewer: Okay. Now how is the occurrence of sore throat in your area? Is it high or low? How do you see it?

All: It's high.

Interviewer: why in Nabweru?

All: We don't know why.

Respondent 1: I have friend of mine whose children get it one after the other.

Respondent 7: Its bad hygiene, and you can't stop a child from playing with friends. So germs are spread amongst them; when one of them coughs it's caught by another, then it leads home.

Respondent 2: in school where they share food and drinks, you find that when a child gets it (sore throat) even his\her friend gets it.

Respondent 6: Children even make fun of each other!

Interviewer: they make fun of each other?

Respondent 6: Yes. They can say "I have been sick and unable to eat" and the rest laugh at her. The same thing happens when another child gets it. They laugh at each other!

Respondent 2: But sometimes even we parents do it, for example when we get an eye infection and we say "so and so get an eye inflammation", she\he gets it! so the kids copy that too. I once witnesses a parent at home who said those things hence the children doing the same.

Interviewer: which means that someone can send you sore throat by just saying so?

Respondent 6: every time Amelia gets them, her friend gets the***m too.***

Interviewer: u***m...*** They are spread?

Respondent 8: Am not sure. No.

Respondent 7: Sore throat spreads.

Interviewer: ***Respondent 8*** is saying they are not spread!

Respondent 6: personally, I know they are caused by poor hygiene. So someone with a poor hygiene, can't spread it to someone with a good hygiene.

Respondent 1: I sometimes see that a child always has cough, when they get the sore throat. However, just when they get better, you hear that there is a measles outbreak. They usually occur during a measles outbreak.

Interviewer: how long does sore throat take to heal? Does it take long or it heals fast? Do you think they heal?

All: No.

Respondent 6: I think if you follow the doctor's advice you heal in a week. That's if you only have cough and sore throat.

Respondent 2: They can disappear in a week, however, they usually reoccur if you don't treat yourself or the child well. And also if you don't finish the dose given they reoccur.

Interviewer: ***Respondent 8*** says they don't heal!

Respondent 8: personally, I don't believe, because am disturbed by sore throat all the time.

Interviewer: They don't heal?

Respondent 8: They don't.

All: They don't heal.

Respondent 7: They heal for a while then come back.

Respondent 8: personally, I should say we don't have their treatment.

Interviewer: There isn't treatment?

Respondent 6: There is.

Respondent 8: Where?

Interviewer: So ***Respondent 8*** is saying there isn't treatment and this one is saying there's.

All: There's.

Respondent 7: There's medicine that they give, but they heal if you finish the dose. However, they reoccur after some time.

Respondent 6: They always re occur. My children have had them twice!

Interviewer: So do they reoccur? Do they heal?

Respondent 6: personally, I say they heal.

Ha. They reduce a little.

Respondent 7: In adults one can tell you "take aloe Vera and cover yourself until you sweat." So the next day you will feel better and give up on treatment. Even when you take the first dose of tablets, the moment you get some relief, you stop and forget how you were feeling before.

Interviewer: Who among you usually finishes the treatment?

Respondent 6: Me I usually do.

Respondent 8: I do.

Respondent 7: There's something I had forgotten to tell you; I think I got them (sore throat) around January, they would get painful at night and I was reluctant to get treatment. I told people that I have sore throat and they advised me to take drugs. One day I went to a tomato vender and I asked her for any other treatment besides tablets and she told me "take this chili and pour it there (in the mouth) before bed, then drink a lot of water. You will wake up feeling better." So I bought one for 100shs and asked the children's father to open and pour it in my mouth. I woke up feeling worse!

Interviewer: Some of you have told me that you finish the dose and some of you don't!

All: Yes.

Interviewer: For those of you who finish; why do you finish the dose?

Respondent 8: To get better. However when I get cough they reoccur.

Interviewer: For those who don't finish; why don't you finish?

Respondent 7: Getting a relief and eating especially after you have not been able to.

Interviewer: when your children get sore throat, what worries you the most?

Respondent 4. Not being able to study. I can't know what they lead to because they reoccur a number of times.

Respondent 5: They cause complications if you don't give them the full treatment because we said they don't heal. So the treatment just makes them dry up like scars and when you get a strong cough the scar wears off and they reoccur.

Respondent 2. They cry.

Respondent 5: When you think of the days she will spend without being able to eat.

Respondent 7. What worries me is the health of the lungs and the heart, because these wounds can move to the heart or the lungs. Imagine when a child gets fever they tell you he has wounds in the stomach, now imagine they are on the lungs and heart.

Respondent 9. What worries me is that say when you get sore throat a lot, you might get throat cancer or get swollen throat that doesn't heal.

Interviewer: Now, what do you think can happen to a child if the sore throat is not treated?

Respondent 7: The child can die.

Respondent 5: The child can get cancer or damage on the lungs.

Respondent 8. It might damage the heart and lungs.

Respondent 2. [Compliments] Those are the things that can happen. Those wounds can move and damage the intestines causing death.

Respondent 9. They are the same, you worry that your child might die because you don't know what's happening in there. Yesterday I looked at my child crying and I cried too. However, you try to be strong because you see he is in pain.

Respondent 4. The other worry is that they be chronic. For example if they started at nine years, won't they turn into a disease that they have to live with the rest of their lives?

Interviewer: okay. Now, has sore throat affected your community? Let's first look at the children; you said a child misses school what else? How have you been affected by sore throat?

Respondent 1: Lack of money. Most people don't understand these wounds and they don't have any one to inquire from.

Interviewer: You don't have people to talk to? What do the doctors say?

Respondent 2. They tell you to buy drugs for them.

Respondent 4. We have them, but we as people, should have an idea about it. Like ask one another "when these wounds come what should I do?" They (people in the community) also don't know.

Respondent 5: Because they will tell you to use omwetango. Most of them use "omwetango".

Interviewer: You don't have people inquire from.

All. No.

Interviewer: What do the rest say about it? How have you been affected in your community? You have said money and children missing school, what else?

Respondent 7. When you ask someone they will say "my children don't get those, go to the hospital"

Respondent 9. Even the doctors don't teach us how to manage a child with sore throat, they just give us treatment. They just prescribe drugs and when they don't have drugs, you go and buy from a clinic.

Respondent 4. When you go and tell the doctor that your child is not able to swallow they tell you "get these drugs she will be better"

Respondent 2. You see these people specialized in different departments; pediatricians are there but most of us go to clinics where one studied OPD. So they give you everything they think will help the disease you have described. However, when you go to health facilities near you and see a pediatrician they will explain. If you asked me, I will always direct you to the hospital but most parents make a mistake of going to clinics where they will find an intern who will give you treatment that she studied about.

Interviewer: Is it easy to question doctors in government hospitals?

Respondent 2: There are usually many people so they just write you the drugs, and if they are no drugs they tell you to go and buy them.

Respondent 1: Just to stop you there, the mistake is yours! These clients know that when they come to the hospital, they should sit on a bench as they wait to see the doctor with your sick child. So when your chance comes, explain to the doctor everything especially now that we don't give health talks anymore. Personally, when someone asks me something I listen to them, then show them where to go next after I have registered and counseled enough.

All. Most of them don't give it, they work on you fast.

Respondent 4. When you ask "what's wrong with my child?" they say "that happens in children go ……."

Interviewer: How have your families been affected by sore throat?

Respondent 1: I might have saved my money to buy something but then it is all spent buying drugs for sore throat. so am usually affected.

Respondent 5: The expenses! Sometimes you don't have that money at hand yet your child is dying.

Respondent 7. Sometimes you only have money for their meals.

Respondent 2. You can't sleep when your child is sick and sometimes they have not studied. The neighbors chase away the child when they find out they are sick.

Respondent 4. They (neighbors) chased away my son the moment they realize he's sick. They say "that one's child falls sick a lot! Maybe he didn't breast feed well"

Respondent 2. My son is at school, but he got measles everywhere on Tuesday. I didn't tell anyone. It's my family matter. The only thing I did was call them (people at home) and see how my son was doing, so just don't care what the neighbors say. just treat your child. Let them talk.

Respondent 6: but the family is already affected.

Respondent 2: yes, that's the expense!

Interviewer: is there any other way you are affected?

All: no response.

Interviewer: okay. You have told me it's a big problem here. That's sore throat is a big problem.

All: Yes.

Interviewer: Now, you have all told me how you manage your children when they get a sore throat. What do other people community do besides what you do?

Respondent 7: They take them to the hospital to get medicine.

Respondent 4: "Mwetango" because they might inquire from you and you direct them where to find it.

Respondent 9: If one has money they take them to the hospital.

Interviewer: Why do you start with omwetango?

All. It's the first aid. If it fails you try onions or proceed to hospital.

Interviewer: What works better between omwetango and tablets?

Respondent 1: Tablets.

Respondent 4. Tablets are better, just that it's too sour.

Interviewer: But tablets work better!

All. Yes.

Interviewer: Where do you mostly go to get the medicine?

All. Clinic.

Interviewer: Why clinics?

Respondent 4. The child is sick yet you have things to do but if you come you are going to sit on a bench and move on by one.

Respondent 7: You are like 80 patients.

All: when you reach and they tell you it's (drugs) not there. They write it for you and you still end up in the clinic.

Respondent 5: You make a line and the person who has prescribed it to you doesn't tell you that it's not there. You reach the window and they tell you "it's not there, go to the clinic."

Respondent 1: You can't know what's in store. The medicine is stocked weekly. However, when it's done before a weeks' time, then…

Interviewer: who among you has gone to traditional doctor to treat sore throat?

All: [laugh] no. No one.

Respondent 4: (laughs) unless they have directed that "that's where you can find omwetango." Then maybe you can go and request for some.

Respondent 7: But most people grow their own at home in a bucket.

Interviewer: which means you use clinics!

All: Yes.

Interviewer: Then when do you come to the hospital?

Respondent 5: When you want to be checked.

Respondent 6: When you see that the child is in bad state.

Respondent 4: personally, the doctors in government hospitals are different from those in private, because the ones here check you to find out what the problem is but those in clinics don't.

Respondent 5: When I come here, I know my child is going to be tested. So if they tell me she has malaria I go to the clinic to buy the medicine.

Respondent 6: The reason why I go to clinics is because government hospitals have working hours. I once brought my child who was ill and they told me that the laboratory attendant had left. At 2pm!

Respondent 1: When was it?

Respondent 6: I think it was Monday.

Respondent 1: Yes, clinics are better especially when a child falls sick in the night. However, when you come at night we always open. And on Mondays we have different people who work in the laboratory, the one who works on Monday is carefree; he only works Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays. On the other hand Sheedah is still here even now, apart from Fridays.

Respondent 4. People are dying and you see he's carefree! If he's too careless why don't they hire a new one!

Interviewer: When they ask you to bring back the child for review; do you come back?

Respondent 5: If I bought treatment from a clinic then I bring the child here in the government hospital, they will still write me the same dugs. So I just go back to the clinics and tell them "the treatment failed" so that they change it.

Interviewer: So you only go back if the child didn't get better, but if he got better you don't bother!

All: Yes!

Respondent 9: But he can't tell you to come back if he only gave some of the treatment and told you to buy the rest in a clinic.

Interviewer: Okay, when do you decide that this time you are going to finish the treatment given to the child?

Respondent 4: When you see the child falling sick again, you tell yourself that "maybe it's because I didn't finish the treatment, this time let me finish the dosage."

Respondent 7: My daughter tells me "mother I have not finished the medicine the doctor gave me, I have to finish it"

Respondent 2: Mine does the same too.

Respondent 6: Me too.

Interviewer: What motivates you to finish the treatment, to an extent that a child reminds too?

Respondent 6: If they notice that the past two days treated them badly and they are getting better now. They say "let me adhere to my treatment"

Interviewer: Now, the drugs they give you; how are you confident that it will work? You have come here and they have given you drugs for sore throat; what kind of confidence do you have that it will work?

Respondent 6: the confidence I always have is because it's the doctor that has given it to me. If I realize that the night fever she had has gone and she's no longer hot, I get relived and adhere to the treatment.

Interviewer: So do you believe in the treatment they give you here?

All: Yes. We do because it works.

Respondent 8: Though after using it, it takes like three months and they reoccur.

Respondent 1: Because they might give some of it and tell you to buy the rest from a clinic. You might not buy it because you don't have money so you don't finish the dose.

Interviewer: Okay, so sometimes the problem is money!

All: Yes.

Interviewer: The distance between hospitals and homes; are the health facilities close to you?

All: it's mostly the clinics that are closest compared to government facilities.

Interviewer: Is this hospital far from where you live?

Respondent 8: from where we live, by the slopes, we have to board a boda of 1,000shs to reach here.

Interviewer: And how do the health workers treat you here?

Respondent 6. Like I told you, you come at 2pm and they tell you "the doctor who was supposed to examine you left, what have you been doing at home? The doctor is off duty you will come back tomorrow." But remember your child spent the night sick.

Respondent 1: The other problem we have is lack of drugs in government hospitals. You might come to the hospital, find the doctors but there are no drugs. So they just write it for you and leave but remember you have invested transport.

Respondent 9: Truth is; if you want to be treated well you have to come in the morning.

Respondent 4: But if you don't have money and go to a government hospital hoping to get treatment, you end up only getting Panadol. Yet you had come to the hospital for help.

Interviewer: Has any of you ever heard of streptococcal bacteria that attack the throat? Have you ever been told; maybe at a hospital that there's this kind of bacteria that attacks the throat?

All: No, madam.

Interviewer: Okay. You have told me that you believe a hospital like this one can treat this disease!

All: Yes, we believe. Although sometimes there are no drugs so they just write it for you.

Respondent 6: Maybe they have Panadol, Piriton and Coartem and amoxylin. However, if a child has fever they administer an injection.

Interviewer: Do you believe that the health care providers know what they are doing?

All: we trust them, but the problem is drugs!

Respondent 4: And even working hours; if you come after 2pm you will find the doctor has left already.

Respondent 5: Some doctors also work on their relatives first and ignore us. So it sometime makes me angry and I decide not to go back.

Interviewer: And how are you treated when you bring a child that has had sore throat for a long time?

Respondent 2: They ask you what you have been doing at home.

Respondent 6: I was also asked "what were you doing home till now?" and I said "I was being patient thinking she will get better".

Respondent 1: But that was right of them; you had slept with a sick child!

Respondent 6: you are a parent right?

Respondent 1: yes

Respondent 6: Does your child only fall sick in the morning?

Respondent 1: If a child is sick in the afternoon it means that child slept with the fever and was given Panadol. It only means the fever has just come back.

Interviewer: Okay, now have you been trained about this disease and its complications?

All: This is the first time. We only study about family planning.

Respondent 3: You have never been trained! Now, um... what are some of the things that prevent people from coming to hospital? You have said you come at 1pm and there are no drugs, what else?

Respondent 8: Line; since there are a lot of people, so when someone has some money they go and buy the drugs. Because you sit here patiently only to reach and the drugs are not there.

Respondent 2: Even the distance. You spend transport and regret why you didn't just buy tablets for first aid.

Interviewer: So you have said; line, transport, lack of drugs.

Respondent 5: And sometimes absence of the doctor.

Interviewer: And for those who come it's because you don't have money!

Respondent 7: You choose to just come here because you don't have money.

Respondent 4: although they don't have drugs, their tests are free.

Respondent 2: Free counseling and they honestly tell you what's wrong with your child. If they have not found any malaria he tells the truth, but in clinic they would want to get that money so they tell you other things.

Respondent 8: they tell "you he has typhoid" so as to sell drugs and you also have to pay for those tests.

Respondent 3: What advice would you give us to prevent this disease from our children?

All: they should educate people about the causes, what medicines they should take when they get it and if it's curable or not.

Respondent 3: if it can cure and not appear again.

Respondent 7: but is there a disease that heals!

Respondent 1: the other thing, they have invested a lot of money in family planning but they don't put any money in things that involve our children.

Respondent 6: apart from malaria.

Respondent 1: The government mostly targets HIV and family planning. But our children get a lot of problems.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent 2: I want to ask something.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent 2: when a child gets sore throat, you open his/her mouth and see some swollen things that at times turn to yellow but are red in the beginning. They turn yellow when they are ripe. So what I want to ask is that, do they eventually burst and go to the stomach or?

Interviewer: We will talk about it later. Let's finish first.

Respondent 1: they dry. You take medicine that dries it up.

Interviewer: See, they have even answered you now.

Respondent 2: because the way I have said it…

Respondent 1: they dry, but if you don't swallow (medicine) and they take long, remember they swell like pimples and burst. However, when you take medicine, they dry. If they reach that stage (when they burst), you just know that you have delayed to get treatment.

Interviewer: Okay. Now, is there any other advice you can give us besides sensitizations?

Respondent 5: the medicine should be available in the hospitals. So that when you come they say "get, drugs are available."

Interviewer: anything else before we finish?

Respondent 2: I want to know the difference between sore throat and tonsillitis.

Interviewer: You want to know the difference!

Respondent 2: yes.

Interviewer: Is there anything else?

Respondent 7: they should pay the health workers on time. Because the medicine can be available but if the doctor has not been paid, he's renting and has debts. He gets stressed.

Respondent 1: he lets out all his stress on you. He just looks at you like this (expresses) and leaves. They also have needs.

Respondent 7. The other thing, I think it's only we the mothers who care about this disease. The men look at it as a normal thing. You tell him "this child is sick. He can't swallow…" it's like they don't know about it.

Respondent 2: not all of them.

Respondent 1. No. what I think is that the fathers love the children too. Personally, my child got sick and I told the father, he sent the money immediately and he also sent it today morning. So if you go back and tell him that we have studied about this. Explain to him that it's a bad disease, he will hurry to give you the money the next time the child fall sick.

Interviewer: They don't care about the sore throat?

Respondent 6: no.

Respondent 1: you have to explain to him.

Interviewer: So men don't care about you when the children get this disease?

All: yes.

Interviewer: they don't take this disease seriously?

Respondent 1: some of them. Men love children so much.

Interviewer: What should we do so that they get involved? Sensitization?

All: they won't come.

Respondent 6. But a mother!

Respondent 1: if you learn here it can't be hard to teach him when you go home.

Respondent 8: a child bothers the mother more, so if she learnt about the disease then maybe she can tell him. Personally, I say they teach the women.

Interviewer: Okay. Thank you so much for the good ideas, we will listen and compare it to others so that we make a report that we will give to our bosses. The intention is that our children can have a good life.