

Title of Study: Analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on employment, economic status, and HIV risk and vulnerability among women living in urban informal settlements in two cities in Uganda: a participatory action research.

Thank you very much for accepting to participate in this FGD. My name is..... from MakSPH. We are collecting data which will later be analysed to explore how to improve the design of COVID-19 recovery interventions to meet the current socioeconomic and health needs of women living in urban informal settlements as well as safeguarding them from HIV risk and vulnerability. This study is being conducted in Kampala and Mbale cities. Our discussion will be about what we have experienced as a community, we shall not be sharing personal experiences especially those that one may not feel comfortable sharing with others. In this discussion, every answer is valid, and we will start by setting up some ground rules together. Brainstorm on ground rules and start the discussion using the guide below.

Guiding questions

To the Moderator: PLEASE READ INFORMED CONSENT FORM and obtain written consent from all participants before you commence with the group discussion:

Setting the stage for discussion

- Introduce yourselves and read out the consent form and obtained consent from all participants before proceeding.
- Also set ground rules of the discussions together with the participants.

Introduction question/ice breaker

- 1) Let us discuss COVID-19, what do you know about COVID-19?

Discussion questions

- 2) How has COVID-19 been experienced in your community?

(Probe: how has it affected your daily life? what has changed and what remained the same?)

- 3) How has COVID-19 affected the community in which you live?

(Probe for: Livelihoods, education, social behaviour etc.)

- 4) What are some of the most difficult moments that you have experienced as a community during the COVID-19 pandemic?

(Probe for: exposure to any risk, hunger, domestic violence)

- 5) How did you cope with some of these difficult situations you faced or are facing because of the COVID-19 pandemic?

(Probe for: coping strategies, reducing number of meals in a day etc.)

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- 6) How helpful were these copying strategies for your community?
- 7) Is there anything positive that you would say started or was strengthened due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

(Probe for: social behaviour, support interventions etc.) who want to completely stop having children)

- 8) Did the community receive any support from government or NGOs to help you overcome the difficulties you mentioned above?

(Probe for: Masks, cash transfers, food items, support with learning materials for children etc.)

- 9) How helpful were these strategies to the community?

(Probe for: Reduced exposure to risk, domestic violence, hunger, etc.?)

- 10) If these interventions were to be improved, what recommendations would you make and to whom?

Thank you very much for accepting to participate discussion