

DEVELOPMENT OF VHTs AND ADS LINKAGE STRATEGY:
FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (FGD) GUIDE

A. Arrival, introduction, and informed consent (20 MINUTES):

- i) Objective – to explore ideas on how VHTs and ADS can be linked to work together to improve access to essential medicines and enhance sustainability of ADS in Kibaale district
- ii) Duration of in-depth interview – 2 ½ hours
- iii) Ask for the consent to interview – explain purpose of the discussion and also explain that the information provided will be kept confidential and anonymous (s/he will not be identified as source of the information).

Introduction: Greet the respondents (**Good morning, Good afternoon, or Good evening**). My name is _____ and I'm gathering information on key issues and roles which can be played by ADS and VHTs and how VHTs and ADS can work together to improve access to essential medicines and also enhance the sustainability of VHTs and ADS in the community.

Linkage could involve the ADS and VHTs directly and actively supporting the activities of each other and sharing some of the roles or activities aimed at improving community health.

Please be honest and tell us your opinion according to you. The information you provide will help us refine the ideas we have already gathered from individual VHTs and ADS on how the VHTs can be linked to ADS to improve access to essential medicines in your community and also enhance sustainability of the ADS and VHTs.

This discussion will last not more than 2½ hours. I will be moderating the group while my colleague will be taking notes of the proceedings of the discussion to enable us capture the key issues properly. The information you provide will be treated with utmost confidentiality. If you are willing to participate, please let's proceed with the discussion.

B. Demographic characteristics (40 MINUTES):

- a) Could you please share with us a brief history of your business or activities that you usually do as ADS/VHTs?
- b) What are the key activities/services you offer?
- c) Who are the main customers of your services/business/organisation/group?
- d) How do you get the supplies/services (drugs) to your customers/clients?
- e) What are the payment arrangements for your supplies/services?
- f) Can you share with us your management arrangements in this organisation/group/business?

C. Proposed roles and linkages (40 MINUTES)

- a) As described in the introduction, we are proposing to develop a strategy of linking VHTs and ADS (for working together) in your community. Please share with us some of your views on this proposed linkage.
- b) What are some of the activities you see that could be harnessed to create an active linkage between ADS and VHTs in your community?
- c) What do you think are the advantages of the VHTs and ADS working together?
- d) What are the key roles you think the ADS and VHTs can play to ensure that this linkage works well?
- e) Please share with us the different ways you could support and improve the services and operations of VHTs/ADS in your community.
- f) What are some of the activities that the VHTs can engage in to ensure that this linkage is sustained?
- g) What are some of the activities that the ADS can engage in to ensure that this linkage is sustained?
- h) What are some of the opportunities you see that could be harnessed through linkage between ADS and VHTs in your community?

D. Motivation and operational issues (40 MINUTES)

- a) Please suggest any form of suitable incentive package that can be agreed and accepted by VHTs and the ADS for the proposed linkages.
- b) What activities should have incentives associated with them?
- c) What are some of the key standard operating procedures that should be in place for the proposed linkage to work effectively?
- d) What are some of the ways to manage community perceptions about the proposed linkage and issues related to handling of medicines in the community ?

THANK YOU AND GOOD-BYE.