

DEVELOPMENT OF VHTs AND ADS LINKAGE STRATEGY: DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

1.1 Key Informant Interview Guide: ADS and VHTs

A. Arrival, introduction, and informed consent (10 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 – 1 ½ hours
- iii) Ask for the consent to interview – explain purpose of the interview, 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 respondent (**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 me what is true according to you. The information you provide will help us to compile a list of ideas, which we could further discuss in a group of 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/interview will last not more than 1½ hours and I will be recording and writing down your responses and the key points from this discussion to enable me 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 (30 MINUTES):

- a) Could you please share with us a brief history of your business/organisation/group/job as a VHT or ADS seller?
- 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 problems do you face in relation to providing your medicines/supplies to your clients?

- f) What are the payment arrangements for your supplies/services?
- g) Can you share with us your management arrangements in this organisation/group or business?
- h) Please share with us the staffing arrangements of your organisation/business/group and qualification of the key staff.
- i) How many hours do you operate per day and how many days do you operate in a week?

C. Proposed roles and linkages (30 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. What do you know about ADS and the role they play in the community?
- b) What do you know about the training they have received in relation to the tasks they are performing?
- c) Are there any negative aspects related to the way ADS are doing their work?
- d) Please share with us some of your views on this proposed linkage.
- e) *What are some of the activities you see that could be harnessed to create an active linkage between ADS and VHTs in your community?*
- f) What do you think are the advantages of the VHTs and ADS working together?
- g) What are the key roles that you think the ADS and VHTs can play to ensure that this linkage works well?
- h) Please share with us the different ways you could support and improve the services and operations of VHTs/ADS in your community.
- i) What are some of the activities that the VHTs can engage in to ensure that this linkage is sustained?
- j) What are some of the activities that the ADS can engage in to ensure that this linkage is sustained?
- k) What are some of the opportunities you see that could be harnessed through linkage between ADS and VHTS in your community?

D. Challenges and recommendations (20 MINUTES)

- a) What are some of the challenges you envisage that may affect this linkage?
- b) Please suggest ways in which you think some of these challenges or barriers could be addressed.

THANK YOU AND GOOD-BYE.

1.2 Key Informant Interview Guide: National- and District-Level Stakeholders

A. Arrival, introduction, and informed consent (10 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 – 1 ½ hours
- iii) Ask for the consent to interview – explain purpose of the interview, 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 respondent (**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 me what is true for you. The information you provide will help us to compile a list of ideas which we can further explore in a group of VHTs and ADS on how the VHTs can be linked to ADS to improve access to essential medicines in the community and also enhance sustainability of the ADS and VHTs.

This discussion/interview will last not more than 1 ½ hours and I will be recording and writing down your responses and the key points from this discussion to enable me 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.

A. Basic characteristics, collaboration, and partnerships (50 MINUTES)

- a) Explain the major roles VHTs play in relation to medicines. What challenges do they face when performing this role?
- b) Have you heard about the accreditation programme for drug shops? What do you know about it?
- c) What linkages exist/do you foresee between VHTs and ADS?
- d) Which health activities can the ADS and VHTs deliver in collaboration?
- e) What are the likely incentives that can maintain the relationship and the proposed working arrangements, including reporting lines, referral, supervision, and mentoring?
- f) What are some of the challenges that you foresee that may affect this linkage?

- g) What are some of the opportunities that are available at the district, MoH, and national level that can support and sustain this proposed linkage in the country?
- h) How can the ministry-, district-, and national-level partners support this linkage for sustainability?

B. Policy regulations and operational framework (30 MINUTES)

- a) What legal or policy framework is available to regulate this kind of linkage in Uganda/the district?
- b) How does this policy or legal framework support or constrain the proposed VHT/ADS linkage?
- c) What roles can the ministry-/district-/ and national-level development partners play in the operation and sustaining of the proposed ADS-VHT linkage strategy?
- d) What can be done to improve on the proposed linkage strategy between the ADS and VHTs?

THANK YOU AND GOOD-BYE.