**VILLAGE BASED FOCUS GROUPS – FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT TOOL**

**About this tool:** This tool is to be used as part of the formative assessment for the implementation of a maternal health project. It should be used to determine a community’s emergency transport needs and their current situation including details such as the distance to the clinic and the road type.

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| **Date of Interview** |  |
| **Location**  (Incl. distance from town) | Km: |

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| **Number of people spoken to** | | | **Nearest Clinic?** | | **Most frequently used clinic?** | | |
| F  [insert number of females] | M  [insert number of males] | | Name | Km | Name | | Km  (if different) |
| **Distance from house to village hub/centre?** | | | **Road Type: Nearest clinic to village? % of each.** | | **Road Type: Most frequently used clinic to village? % of each.** | | |
| Km | | | Hilly | Poor | Hilly | Poor | |
| **Birth preparedness plans?** | | **Does it mention transport?** | Undulating | Fair | Undulating | Fair | |
| Y / N | | Y / N | Flat | Good | Flat | Good | |
|  | |  | **Road Surface**  i.e. compacted earth, mud, sand, gravel, tarmac etc. | | **Road Surface**  i.e. compacted earth, mud, sand, gravel, tarmac etc. | | |
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What proportion of women in the village give birth at home instead of travelling to the nearest health clinic?

What would most women’s preference be?

If travelling to the clinic at what stage of labour do you consider arranging transport?

Early/late/1st, 2nd or 3rd phase?

At what stage of labour would you expect to arrive at the health clinic? Why?

This question tries to establish what the delay is, whether its transport related, or whether it’s a delay that occurs prior to travel.

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| What types of transport are there available to you locally and how many of each?  i.e. Ox carts/bicycles/taxis/private car etc. | |
| In the village: | Passing by (and how frequently does it pass?) |

What type of transport would households use in an emergency?

i.e. if someone needed to reach the health facility.

How long does the journey take to get to the health clinic for different modes of transport?

How would you contact the available emergency transport to make the journey?

i.e. would you have to walk far to arrange it/can you telephone/is it something your husband has to do?

Do you have a telephone? If not can you/do you borrow one if you need to?

Is there a charge for borrowing someone’s telephone?

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| How much would a single journey cost?  And how does it vary in price according to different factors? | |
| Emergency | Non-Emergency |
| Day | Night |
| Dry weather | Wet weather |

How would you pay and who pays?

i.e. payment up front/in kind/by borrowing money/savings? Does the husband have to pay for the journey?

Are there savings groups within the village and are you a member?

Details on membership and what the money is used for that is saved.

If not a member do you save within the household?

Do women have access to this money?

Is the journey to the Health Clinic influenced by seasonal factors? If so, in what way?

e.g. Cost, availability, road accessibility, journey time etc.

Who owns the different types of available transport?

Are transport operators organised into groups and/or unions?

Are there skills in the village and spare parts available needed to repair each transport mode. If not how close can skills and spare parts be found?

Any other comments of useful information.