



2.11

Interview Guide for Country Contacts

A THEME

General Health System Issues

Probe: What is your sense of the issues around human resources for health at the national, regional, and local levels?

- Are there any issues unique to NCDs or ARF/RHD in particular of which you are aware?

Probe: How are healthcare workers trained in your district/region?

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Allied health care professionals
- Community health care workers
- Other relevant to your system (e.g., clinical officers)

Probe: Describe the typical referral system in your district.

- How does a patient get from a health center to the district hospital?
- If the patient needs specialised/tertiary care, how does that occur?
- Are there common barriers to the referral process (e.g., road conditions, expense of travel, waiting lists)?

Probe: What are the estimated costs to patients for care in your region and how do these work?

- At the Dispensary Level?
- At the Clinic Level?
- At the District Level?
- At the Tertiary Level?
- What happens if a patient presents for care but cannot pay?

B THEME

ARF/RHD Policies and Programmes

Probe: What is your understanding of ARF/RHD-related policies at the national, regional, or local level? For instance, around disease notification, screening, prevention, and treatment?

- If these policies exist, how do they integrate with other policies or programmes, e.g., around infectious diseases, adult chronic care, maternal/child health, etc.?
- What is your understanding of how these policies came to be? Can you describe the process of government engagement if they were initiated outside the ministry of health?
- Are other ministries besides health, e.g., education, finance, housing/development engaged in these policies?
- If there are gaps between promulgation and implementation for these

policies, what are some of the perceived barriers? Opportunities for improvement?

Probe: What sort of leadership and oversight exists within the public (or private) health care sector regarding ARF/RHD prevention and control (again, at the national, regional, or local level)?

Please compare/contrast this with...

- Infectious diseases like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, or malaria
- Maternal and child health issues (including obstetric care and immunisation)
- Other NCDs, e.g. hypertension and cervical cancer

Probe: Are you aware of national, regional, or local NCD strategies and policies? How would ARF/RHD integrate with other relevant NCDs?

Probe: Please describe any ARF/RHD-related public health activities (e.g., awareness campaigns) or research programmes (e.g., echocardiography screening studies) that you are aware of at a national, regional, or local level.



RF/RHD Clinical Care

Probe: What guidelines, protocols (e.g., Revised Jones Criteria), or resources are you aware of (again, at the national, regional, and local levels) that help providers detect and manage...

- Strep throat
- ARF
- RHD
- How do these integrate with other guidelines (e.g., IMCI)?

Probe: What is the process for reviewing cases of RHD in your district, if any?

- Do you have an ARF or RHD registry? If so, tell us a bit about it.
- If not, are there medical record systems in place to review clinical cases and determine follow-up and referral plans?
- If so, are these systems being utilised? If not, do you know why?

Probe: For patients with RHD, is there a priority system for follow-up? How are priorities classified/defined (e.g., mild, moderate, severe RHD)?

Probe: Are people with RHD given care plans or pathways, and if so, are these plans standardised (e.g., using protocols or guidelines addressed above)?

Probe: When do you decide that someone needs to be referred for follow-up of known RHD? How often do you refer patients to a more specialised unit?

Probe: Suppose an RHD screening programme were to be implemented in your district. Is there capacity to deliver advanced medical or surgical care (either within the district or via a robust referral pathway) for cases of RHD identified through screening?

ARF/RHD Stakeholders

Probe: Who do you perceive to be the key stakeholders to delivering RHD care and developing public health care programmes at the...

- National level
- Regional level
- Local level

Probe: Are there other projects/NGOs that you are linking with/leveraging additional resources? If so, please explain?

Probe: To date, have any of the stakeholders you've identified been heavily involved in RHD programmes, e.g., as "champions?" If so, tell us more.