**3.2.B.1 Baseline interview transcript**

| **Respondent ID** | 1-GM-1-1 |
| --- | --- |
| **Respondent Group Number** | 1 |
| **Care Group Role** | Member |
| **Consent to participate** | (missing) |
| **Interview date** | (missing) |
| **Interview start time** | 12:10 |
| **Interview end time** | 13:05 |
| **Interview location** | Siambizi |
| **Interview language** | (missing) |
| **Interview condition notes** | (missing) |
| **Enumerator ID** | (missing) |
| **Fully anonymized** | (missing) |
| **Resident community** | (missing) |
| **Gender** | Female |
| **Age** | 39 |

**Section 2: Group Experience.**

**1\_Are you a member of any groups now (Care group of VSLA or others)? Have you been a member of any group in the past.**

*Yes, I am a member of the group, as we have registered our names. Hmmm, I have never been in any group, this is my first group.*

**2\_What is the purpose of these groups?**

*The group’s purpose is to equip each mother and woman in the community with health information and promote healthy-seeking behaviour among pregnant and breastfeeding women. Also, the group is there to promote the nutritional status of children and pregnant women in the communities.*

**3\_What made you decide to join the group?**

*Hmmmm, the main reason that made me to join the group was the desire to get information about on health and agriculture. Through the information obtained through agricultural lessons it will help to increase my agricultural yields and also to get modified seeds.*

1. **Probe - Can you please highlight some of the activities you do as a Care Group?**

*As a Care group we engage in a number of activities which help to improve our welfare and keep us together. We always engage in educating each other about health issues that we should keep our houses and home smart. Also we meet as a care group teaching each other on hygiene. As women we help each other to paint our houses using the mud. We also help each other in fields digging and measuring holes for conservation agriculture.*

1. **Probe - What benefits do or did you get from the group?**

*Aaaaah personally, there are no benefits that are tangible which I can say I have benefitted from the group. I have only managed to get information and knowledge on hygiene and health.*

*Health workers and Amalima Loko staff have encouraged us to build toilets but we have no resources for those toilets so the benefit is low.*

1. **Probe - How often do you meet as a Care Group?**

*Hahaha, am not sure about the frequency but we meet probably three to four times a month. If we fail to meet the lead mothers and the VHWs always visit us at our homes.*

1. **Probe - As a Care group what are some of the challenges/successes you have experienced?**

*There are no challenges we have faced so far because we have faced so far considering that we have limited activities that we are doing as a group. But one of the challenges am seeing is that the organization just selected a few people from our village the number must be increased to make sure women are provided with adequate information.*

*Then when it comes to success, we have noticed an improvement in the health of our children who are getting support from Amalama Loko. The information relayed to us has seen us being able to know when and why should we seek healthy services on time to the clinics and the health personnel. Through the meetings as the care group, unity and togetherness have been built among women in communities because those in the same care groups usually meet and share information concerning the program*.

1. **Probe - How have solved these Challenges?**

*We have never solved any of the problems, however what we do in the village whenever we learn something new we discuss with other women telling them on the issues of hygiene and upkeep of their homes. This will help in bridging the gaps of knowledge within the village.*

1. **Probe - How often do you get home visits from your peer group members/ Lead Mothers?**

*The group members visit us more often whenever they feel like coming because some of them are my neighbours. While the Lead Mothers maybe once or twice a month.*

1. **Probe - Do you have any challenges with joining and participating in the groups? Please explain.**

*Hmmmmmm, I don’t have any problems when it comes to joining the group or participating because these are so supportive and now we are a family together and there is a lot that I have learnt from this group. When it comes to participation I don’t have any problems as they teach me as a young mother I am learning from them and they teach me a lot on how to keep the house tidy and how to take care of my child.*

**Section 4: What constitutes care group quality.**

**26\_What characteristics of a care group make it of high quality for you?**

*A quality care group is one that takes into consideration the needs of its group members. A group that is inclusive in nature including everyone in the community despite their social status. A high-quality group should be characterised by high levels of respect for each member considering that we are all adults in this group so we need to be respected.*

1. **Probe - Who is the group?**

*The group constitute married women, single women, young mothers, older women and men.*

1. **Probe - If yes what has been their contribution towards group’s activities?**

*Men have been supportive considering that Binga is still a patriarchial society where men make all decisions about the homestead, so having them in these groups makes it easier for decisions to be made easily at home. Also, man have helped us in giving the direction on how to manage the groups. The grandmothers are making a huge contribution when it comes to issues of pregnancy and giving birth on how to take care of the child, they give us advice which is critical in the upkeep of the child.*

1. **Probe - Who leads the group and how?**

*The groups are led by the Lead Mothers as they are the ones who organize the meetings and call all members when necessary. When they are not there and they have not called a meeting we don’t meet as a group, so that’s why I am saying they are the ones who lead the group.*

1. **Probe - Who participates in a meetings? How are solution s identified?**

*In these meetings, the VHW or the Lead mothers teach us and when she does she will be asking us questions and we participate during the entire process. This helps us to grasp and to share our experiences as mothers. When it comes to decision making we usually agree as a group on what we think works well for us other than having one person telling us what to do.*

1. **Probe - Practicability of discussions to apply at home?**

*Most of the things we learn are practical and they can be applied at home. For example when it comes to painting our homes, and doing conservative agriculture. We have been taught on using toilets and this is practical, however, the only challenge we have is a shortage of resources to do and make sure we build these toilets.*

1. **Probe - Interactive Activities.**

*The activities are so interactive in nature, the lead mother or VHW usually asks questions to us and we respond making the session to be so alive and enjoyable. This makes everyone to feel belonging to the event or group rather than having one person doing the taking along.*

1. **Probe - Social Support from members.**

*As a group, we provide social support to each other by visiting each other’s homes. When we visit we encourage each other on how to live healthily and remind each other of what we could have learnt in our previous lessons.*

1. **Probe - Recognition by community leaders or structures?**

*No idea.*

**Section 5: Recommendations.**

**29\_Do you have any recommendation for programs that support groups for women in your community?**

*There is a need to increase women's participation and involvement in all community development programs. For Amalima Loko, they need to drill boreholes for us, so that we can have access to water which will help in promoting hygiene.*

**30\_Do you feel there are any other topics or groups who could benefit from participating in a Care Group in your Community?**

*No idea.*

**Section 6: Conclusion and Remaining Thoughts.**

**31\_Would you ever consider becoming a Lead Mother for a Care Group? Why or Why not?**

*For now No. I still want to learn a number of things from the current lead mothers. There are still a lot of things that I need to learn for me to be a lead mother.*

**32\_Is there anything else you would like to add?**

*No.*