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

| **Respondent ID** | 3-LM-1-1 |
| --- | --- |
| **Respondent Group Number** | 1 |
| **Care Group Role** | Lead Mother |
| **Consent to participate** | (missing) |
| **Interview date** | (missing) |
| **Interview start time** | (missing) |
| **Interview end time** | (missing) |
| **Interview location** | (missing) |
| **Interview language** | (missing) |
| **Interview condition notes** | (missing) |
| **Enumerator ID** | (missing) |
| **Fully anonymized** | (missing) |
| **Resident community** | (missing) |
| **Gender** | (missing) |
| **Age** | 37 |

**Section 2: Care group experience**

**50\_What Care Groups have you joined? (Probe for: when, how long, roles in each)**

*Yes I have joined a Care group for the past 6 years as well as a VSL group for the past year.*

**51\_Consider the most recent group, what good things did you experience? What challenges did you experience?**

*The good things that I experienced are teaching women on the kind of food to give to the children for example food that is highly nutritious. I also experienced that men can also partake in taking care of the children.The challenge I face is that some women do not attend sessions hence I have to go door to door delivering sessions for them so that they are not left behind.*

**52\_How did your experience change over time, or between care groups?**

*The lessons women got have a positive impact on the women, women now stand on their feet as they do projects on their own and do not wait for men to cater for their financial needs. It is hard to do follow ups on those women who would have been absent during the group sessions, because some are not close to my home.*

1. **Probe - What was different? Please explain. (Probe for: positive /advantages or challenges/ disadvantages).**

*Children are now healthy in the area, kwashiorkor cases have dropped.*

**Section 3: Care group leadership**

**53\_Tell me about being a Lead Mother…?**

1. **Probe - What are good things about being a Lead Mother?**

*The good thing about a Lead Mother is getting knowledge and sharing it with other people, it brings development to the community when knowledge is shared.*

1. **Probe - What can be difficult about being a Lead Mother?**

*In the beginning it was hard for me to organise the group members together and it takes time for them to listen to the leader.*

1. **Probe - What have you gained by being a Lead Mother?**

*I got knowledge that I should be an active person and care for my children.I am now able to care for myself and I have bought goats and I learnt that I can work with my hands and produce gains. I have become a developed person because I can now handle my family and as I develop I develop the next person.*

**54\_What would help Lead Mothers to carry out their roles?**

**55\_What does a Lead Mother do for the Care Group? *(Probe*: group formation, for each meeting, between meetings, linking with communities?)**

*The lead mother teaches the women how to take care of their children as well as their homes and how to breastfeed their children. When the Promoter has some information to share with the group members she communicates through the Lead Mother. For meetings for the group we put posts at the water source so that people get the information, and we even organise our meetings through the group chat. We link with community through the village head since they give us a platform to talk during community meetings then we talk about how women can develop themselves as well as about the importance of hygiene.*

1. **Probe - Are some of the roles expected of Lead Mothers harder to do than others, in your experience? Why or why not? Does this vary every week or month?**

***D****oing meetings is hard especially if you have other household duties that you have to do. Some women are so opinionated and it requires patience to handle them.Some would be talking during the group sessions hence ‘...akumelanga ube ngunhliziywana…” (you should not be someone who easily gets angry).*

**56\_What do others in the community think or say about Lead Mothers? (*Probe:* special attention or role? Respect? pressure?)**

*In the beginning they thought we were wasting our time but now they have realised that it is paying off.We have changed the community for the better since they now copy what we are doing. Women have become clean and they can ash their children.They respect us in the community because they give us time to talk in community meetings. Yes there is pressure because sometimes you have to leave your duties so that you attend to the demands of being a Lead Mother.*

*I have taught women who are pregnant and lactating and the caregivers of the under five how to breastfeed and also teach them about hygiene.*

**57\_How many households/mothers do you have under your stewardship?**

*I have 10 women.*

**58\_Has your group faced any conflicts? If yes, which ones? How have you dealt with them?**

*Yes I have had conflicts within the group where some women were fighting but the Promoter managed to sit them down and emphasise on working together because if there are conflicts there is no going forward but forgiving each other is important.*

**59\_What are the most common challenges faced by mothers/households under your stewardship?**

*In the beginning men did not understand they have to help care for the child and it was a duty for the women only. Some family members do not understand what is done in the Care groups but we visit them and explain to them what we are doing and hoping to achieve*

**60\_What tips would you have for another lead mother?**

**Forming the Current/Most Recent Care Group**

**61\_Consider your current Care group, or most recent. What do people call it? (Probe, if there is a name other than Care group: who decided on the name?)**

*VSL group is called Siyikukhanya and we decided on the name as a group.*

**62\_What is the purpose of the group?**

*The purpose is to help each other grow. To develop the community, stand on our own as women without the help of men as well as doing businesses for ourselves.*

**63\_(Lead Mothers only) Who are/were members?**

***T****he age groups range from 25-34 years , the group comprises of people who have small businesses , sell vegetables and fruits, It is people from Zion, SDA,Weasel and Pentecostal church and those who do not go to church.We are all different because we have separate lives but by joining the group we stand to be similar. Some of us have financial problems hence they come with money for contributions some days after the stipulated date.*

**64\_Can you describe the members? (Probe: livelihoods, ages, religion. How are you similar or different from the members? How are they similar and different from each other?)**

*Pregnant and lactating women with children who are under five. Anyone who wants to join the group.It is people who stay in the same community,the group (VSL) is made up of married people only but we did not chase away those who are not married and there are also grannies in the group.*

**65\_Can you walk me through your process for deciding is part of the group? (Probe: where they live, age of child, age of mother, number of children, language, married/unmarried, etc)**

*We chose people who live in our village, and were willing to be in our group.*

**68\_Before joining the group, did you and the members know each other? (Probe for: interactions/friendly? How did you meet the members? How did they get to know each other?)**

*Yes but we were not seeing each other but now we have built a relationship and live as a family.Some of them met in the group.*

**67\_Are there other decisions lead mothers make?**

*Yes I do make some decisions for the group for example when it comes to scheduling meetings as well as the topics to be covered and when, if someone is absent for more than 3 times then is a fine that one pays and if one cannot come to the meeting they have to communicate so that we know what held you up.I come up with the dates for the meeting and then we decide on the date which is fine by them.*

**69\_What do you expect each group member to do?**

1. **Probe - Did every member do this? (Probe: Did every member attend regularly? Did every member engage in discussion by speaking up in meetings?)**

*Yes they all participate,we give each other chances to talk and contribute according to how we understand the topic.*

**70\_Tell me the story of what I would experience if I visited [insert care group that was mentioned]: what would happen from the time I arrived until the time I leave.**

1. **Probe - Where will I arrive? Who will be there?**

*We do our meetings from the the community creche where children weigh and where we cook porridge from.Women bring their children and bring different food which we add on to the porridge for example beans,matemba and macimbi.We also do demonstrations as we show each other how to prepare it so that we see if someone is going to be able to make those recipes when they get home.We give each other different duties, as someone is cooking as the one dishes up.*

1. **Probe - How long will it last?**

*The meeting lasts for two hours.*

1. **Probe - Is there interaction among the group? Does the group engage in interactive activities (games, activities, etc)?**

*Yes we do dance and songs and we also do drama and poems encouraging us on how to take care of our children and the development in the area about Amalima.*

*Group members take part with the help of the lead mother and the promoter.*

1. **Probe - What do group members do during this time?**

*Yes they give each other time to participate so that no one dominates in the group because some would not share because they will be overshadowed by others.We decide together how to offer social support to a certain individual or group member. Some volunteer for tasks and activities that we do what one would choose a role which you want. Some people would refuse to take some roles especially shy ones and we change roles suiting each one of us.*

***Care Group experiences (Amalima area only)***

***71\_(Structure)* Do you as the Lead Mother make any decisions for the group? What kinds of decisions, and how frequently?**

***72\_(Structure)* Has the group ever made a decision together? For example, about the Care Group structure, a special speaker, or a topic to discuss? Please tell me about this time.**

**73\_How did the care group go about making decisions as a group (e.g. topics for discussion, activities, delegation of tasks, etc.)?**

***74\_(Focus)* What topics are group members able to practice at home after the meeting? Why do you think this is so? (Probe for: specific action, no additional resources needed, family support, peer encouragement?)**

*They practise what we teach, we visit homes to do observations to see if people are able to feed the children and whether they give them the right amount of food.The also need help in building toilets since we encourage hygienic practice but they lack in finances.*

**75\_*(Community linkages)* Was the group recognized by the community? How? By whom?**

*Villages know about the group, men encourage their women to join the group through seeing the outcomes of the group.Some of them are aware of the group.They notice what we doing since we operate in the area.*

1. **Probe - If yes, how did this recognition or linkage to the community happen? Please explain.**
2. **Probe - Does the group continue to this day? Why or why not?**

*Yes it still continues to this day.*

**76\_Can you tell me a story about a memorable care group experience? (Probes: Who was there that day? Who spoke? What did they say? How did the group react?)**

*We met as a group,we sang,did poems and sketches and I learnt a lot on that day. (She spoke with so much energy) We learnt that as a woman, ‘…akumelanga uhlale ukhongozile,ungathandi umthunzi, Ngafunda ukuthi ubuvila,yinto embi,ngokufika kwe Amalima sesihlangana singomama sisenza into enhle…’We were taught by the promoter, she taught us that if you are a woman who has nothing you will always be angry at your husband even if he has no money, now love exists in a home because I can buy salt and books for my child due to the training I got I can work on my own. Before I could do things on my own usually had conflicts with my family members but now there is harmony.*

1. **Probe - Have you had other care group experiences like that one?**

**77\_Recall a group session that was valuable to you? What made it valuable?**

**78\_Some group members may do something different as a result. Did you notice differences in the members after participating? (Probe: confidence, level of participation, support to each other in the group, behavior change, community engagement.)**

*Some group members were shy but now they are all live and come up with ideas and participate in discussions.We also support and help each other with some duties.The behaviours of many people has changed, people know their rights and and are also open with each other.*

1. **Probe - When do you usually see these differences in the Care Group cycle?**

*In the middle of the Care group cycle.*

1. **Probe - Are there some members who do show these changes? (Probe: why? who?)**

*Yes because If you are alone you cannot go far but now we help each other out.*

**79\_Can you describe or demonstrate how you facilitate a group session? (Probe: Differ by topics? Changes over time?)**

*We start our meeting, I state the agenda , state the topic and then teach,and then give them an opportunity to say what they do not understand and then I ask questions.*

**80\_What activities do you use for group sessions?**

*It depends on what we are doing or the topic that we are covering, but we usually use song and dance and then sometimes we use drama.*

**81\_What activities do members like best? What activities allow members to speak or share most? (Probe for: joint problem solving, hands on practice, expert visitors, games, or open conversation)**

*They love singing and dancing most but drama allows them to engage since they all are involved and take up roles.*

*We had visitors who were community members, we also play games and we would do competitions with other villages.*

1. **Probe - How did you facilitate this type of activity?**
2. **Probe - Would you be willing to try different styles such as joint problem solving or open conversation? Why or why not?**

*Yes we would want to try joint problem solving so that people who have the same problem will tackle the problem and find solutions as a group.*

**82\_Have you heard any feedback on topics or activities? When? What did they say? Who?**

*Yes, community members who have seen compete in competitions give us feedback and tell us where we can improve as a group.*

**83\_For Care Groups in other areas, we want to learn from your experience. Is there anything you recommend that care groups try? Please provide examples, if you have them.**

1. **Probe - In terms of membership and recruitment?**

*You should not choose people but have mature group members, people who have children and understand children, have patience with youth and take your time with them. Make sure to have married and old people in your group because they are mature and understand concepts better than young mothers.*

1. **Probe - In terms of who leads the group?**

*It should be someone who is not proud, listens to other people’s ideas. It should be a person who is live and patient.*

1. **Probe - In terms of what information is shared and how it is shared?**

*Share information that moves a person from being lazy to a more responsible place.*

1. **Probe - In terms of continuing after the formal group has been closed?**

*I would recommend that they continue with vegetable gardens and men should also take part in maintaining hygiene and also be proud of women who can work on their own.*

**84\_Is there anything that you recommend they never do? Please provide examples, if you have them.**

1. **Probe: In terms of membership and recruitment?**
2. **Probe: In terms of what information is shared and how it is shared?**

*Don’t talk about politics.*

*Don’t share information that was shared in confidence.*

1. **Probe: In terms of continuing after the formal group has been closed?**

*They should not stop with the formal group after the program ends, and should also continue with the things that they would have been taught.*

**Section 4: What constitutes care group “quality”**

**85\_Close your eyes. Envision a care group which is high quality or very successful. How would you describe this group? What makes it high quality or successful?**

*I see a group with tangible things that is a vegetable garden,and have people who have homes that have developed, has a toilet, garbage pits, tippy taps, as well as pot rack in their homes.*

**86\_For each below, ask their opinions. Does this make sense for Care groups? Why or why not? How could it be achieved?**

1. **Probe - groups where members actively share and problem-solve together for each topic**

*Yes it can be achieved because some people have problems in joining the group but the lead mother and promoter have to find a way to chat with them and join the group so that their issues can be tackled.*

1. **Probe - where the group is supports and encourages each other**

*Yes it can achieved because we can work together and take turns to give each other support.*

1. **Probe - where members follow each session by doing the behaviors at home with their families**

*It is achievable because even now we visit each other’s home and we see some of our members who were dirty but now they know how to bath and wash their clothes.*

1. **Probe - where the group is recognized by the community.**

***Y****es but even now the community is aware of our presence in the area through the achievements that we have done as a group.We support each other and the community is aware of how we support each other.*

**5 Whys: Root of Challenges and Successes of Care Groups**

**Now we would like to learn more about the challenges and successes of care groups, from your perspective. We will start the discussion and then ask “why” five times, to make sure we have the deepest understanding of the root of the challenges and successes. [Give example]**

**87\_Think about your experience leading care groups: What is the key to a care groups’ success?**

*Having love towards each other is the key to success.*

*Everyone is energised in making the group develop and for them see the progress of the group.*

*It gives us praise and respect and achieving the unachievable would make the community recognise us more.*

*When you are trying to make the group members understand how important it is to attend the meetings.*

**a.** **Probe - Why is that the key to success?**

**b.** **Probe - Why is that important?**

**c.** **Probe - Why… why… why…**

**88\_Sometimes care groups have challenges. What is the biggest challenge or frustration you have seen occur in a Care Group? Can you tell me about a time when your care group experience was frustrating or challenging? What did you do? How did the group react?**

*They would not come to the meeting but they come to the collection of porridge.*

*It is important because them not attending the meeting meant that their children would not weigh and this would make it had to monitor their growth.*

*It is important because weighing and monitoring their weight is good in tracking their growth and health*

**a.** **Probe - Why is that a challenge?**

**b.** **Probe - Why did the challenge or frustration come up?**

**c.** **Probe - Why is that important?**

**d.** **Probe - Why… why… why…**

**Section 5: Recommendations**

**89\_If a newly formed group asked for your advice, what would you say?**

*As a lead mother one should be understanding, be someone who knows how to encourage other people and be a patient person when dealing with people.*

1. **Probe - What would you say to the Lead Mother(s)?**

**90\_What additional support would help Lead Mothers? Other Care Groups?**

*I would show the Lead Mother how to be considerate of other people and help in the modules where they lack.*

**Section 6: Conclusion and remaining thoughts**

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

*I would like to thank Amalima Loko for the knowledge, now I can work produce tangible things and have since bought my goats using the VSL money.*

**49\_Would you like to learn the results of this research? If so, how?**

*Yes I would want to know so that we know where we are doing wrong and where we are lacking.*