

MPOX QUESTION BANK: QUALITATIVE QUESTIONS FOR COMMUNITY-LEVEL DATA COLLECTION



INTRODUCTION

The mpox question bank is a menu of qualitative questions on mpox transmission and the response to mpox. It seeks to facilitate data collection on the capacities, behaviours, practices and perceptions of individuals and communities in relation to mpox prevention and management. The question bank can be used by field teams and/or local research teams working in communities with mpox transmission and those at risk of transmission.

This question bank has been developed by SSHAP in collaboration with the Collective Service. It is a one of a suite of question banks commissioned by the Collective Service to support the collection and use of consistent and high-quality social and behavioural data. It draws on those previously developed for cholera, COVID-19 and Zika. The Collective Service's repository of mpox resources can be accessed at www.rcce-collective.net/resources/thematic-kits/mpox/.

Gathering and using data on social, behavioural and community dynamics in relation to mpox prevention and management is vital to:

1. Understand people's ability, capacity and behaviours in relation to prevent and/or reduce mpox infection risks.
2. Support decision-making on communication and engagement strategies that address people's needs and priorities in an evolving context.
3. Provide data that decision-makers can use to adapt mpox response and preparedness strategies and activities.
4. Support public health promoters and outreach workers in engaging with local populations to strengthen community-led actions.

5. Enhance the knowledge of public health promoters and outreach workers and support them to clearly communicate on mpox prevention and control.
6. Inform the design and adaptation of information content/messages shared and discussed with the local population.

This resource is intended to support operational social science research as part of mpox preparedness and response activities undertaken by:

- Social scientists and operational actors designing and implementing operational social science research.
- Field-level staff: implementation staff of local and international nongovernmental organisations, local national public health authority staff and national Ministry of Health staff.

QUESTION BANK OVERVIEW

This resource includes qualitative questions that can be used in different research activities, such as to guide focus group discussions, community workshops and/or key informant interviews.

The question bank includes seven modules:

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USING THE QUALITATIVE QUESTIONS BANK

Each module includes a set of questions, which are not listed in order of priority. The questions are set out in tables, with columns indicating the thematic dimension and the knowledge gap which the question addresses.

Partners will need to identify key areas for investigation according to their operational priorities and identified knowledge gaps. Partners can then select the most relevant questions for each area and adapt them to reflect national and subnational contexts.

This tool has been designed for use among the general population. When collecting community-level data, it is essential to involve (representatives of) a diverse range of population groups. Examples include people of different ages, genders and ethnicity; and marginalised population groups including people with disabilities, refugees and internally displaced people (depending on the context). Analysis of the data collected can then be disaggregated according to the key population groups in any setting.

This tool is not designed to explore mpox risks or transmission among high-risk groups (except for a subset of questions about children). The tool could, however, be adapted for use with particular high-risk groups (e.g., health workers to ascertain their perceptions) and for which many of the existing questions are relevant. Careful recruitment and consideration are needed for hard-to-reach populations for whom speaking openly about transmission and participating in data collection may pose risks (e.g., sex workers, truck drivers or lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer (LGBTQ) communities). In such cases, researchers and data collectors should work with and through trusted community intermediaries.

Some questions are labelled as sensitive. These are questions that relate to sexual behaviours and contacts. Asking these questions may not be appropriate in all settings, especially in group settings. If working with the abovementioned hard-to-reach and high-risk groups, then extra care must be taken to ensure there is adequate privacy.

MODULE 1: COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Q#	Dimension	Knowledge gap	Qualitative question
1.1	Communication	Health information access	Where do you normally get information about your health and the health of your family? Probe: • Has this changed since the mpox outbreak was declared? (Or since there were mpox cases in your community, district etc.?) • Why has this changed?
1.2	Communication	Mpox – information access	Have you heard about mpox? If yes, what have you heard about mpox? Probe: • Is there anything that worries you? • From whom or where did you hear this?
1.3	Communication	Health information and promotion	Are there any mpox health promotional/ awareness activities in your community? Probe: • Who is carrying out these activities? • What kind of information is shared? • Who is normally participating in such activities? [Prompt about different age and gender groups, etc.]
1.4	Communication	Community interest	Are people talking about mpox in your community? Probe • What are they saying about it? • Is it something people are concerned about?

1.5	Communication	Satisfaction with received information	How useful do you find the information you have received about mpox? (causes, prevention, treatment, response) Probe: • Why is the information about mpox useful? • Why is the information about mpox not useful? Follow-up question What other information do you need to know about mpox (causes, prevention, treatment, response)?
1.6	Communication	Access to communication channels	From where or from whom do you get information about mpox? Probe: • Do you face any challenges in accessing information about mpox through these sources? What/how?
1.7	Communication	Access to digital communication channels	How easy is it for you to access digital communication and information channels (e.g., Twitter/X, WhatsApp, online newspaper, podcasts, TikTok) to receive information about mpox? Probe: • Why is it easy/difficult for you to access information through these channels?
1.8	Communication	Mpox – trustworthy information	Which sources or communication channels do you trust to receive information about mpox? Follow-up question What person, organisation, group, app, website, news provider do you not trust to give you accurate information about mpox? Probe: • Why do you not trust this source? • What would make you trust this source more?

1.9	Communication	Communication preferences	Which sources or communication channels do you trust to receive information about mpox?
1.10	Communication	Language preferences	What language do you speak at home? Follow-up question In which language(s) (and if relevant dialect) would you like to receive information about mpox? Follow-up question Do you prefer written or spoken information in this language?

MODULE 2: DISEASE KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTIONS OF RISKS, TRANSMISSION, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

2.1 DISEASE KNOWLEDGE

Q#	Dimension	Knowledge gap	Qualitative question
2.1.1	Disease	Recognition of mpox	Have you heard of mpox? Follow-up questions Have you heard of the current outbreak of mpox? What did you hear about it? When did you first hear about it? Probe: Is mpox a new disease?
2.1.2	Disease	Knowledge and perceptions of causes of mpox	What do you think causes mpox? Probe: - Why do you think this? - If not mentioned, are there any traditional and/or religious beliefs which explains the causes of mpox?

2.1.2	Disease	Knowledge and perceptions of causes of mpox	Do you distinguish between causes of the disease and causes of the symptoms?
2.1.3	Disease	Mpox – local terminology	Are there any local terms being used for the mpox disease? Probe: - If yes, does this local term have a particular meaning? Why is mpox called that or referred to in this way? - What words do alternative health providers and healers (e.g., religious leaders, pharmacists, private doctors, [insert name of key influencers and alternative healthcare providers]) use to describe mpox? And why? Follow-up question What is mpox called in the local language/dialect?
2.1.4	Disease	Knowledge of mpox signs and symptoms	What are the signs and symptoms of mpox? <i>[e.g., fever, rash, blisters, lesions, sore throat, headache, muscle ache, back or joint pain, low energy/exhaustion, swollen glands, anal pain/swelling/bleeding, painful urination]</i> Follow-up question Can you describe (all) the different symptoms of mpox? Probe: - Do these symptoms always appear when someone falls sick with mpox? - Are there differences in symptoms between men, women, children, and older people? [Probe on children aged under 15 years, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and people with immunodeficiencies.] - Is mpox similar to any other diseases? Which? How do you tell the difference?

2.1.5	Disease	Knowledge of mpox transmission	How do you think mpox is transmitted/spread? Follow-up question How is mpox spread between humans? Are there different ways that mpox can be spread between humans? <i>[e.g. touching, sharing bed or clothes, sexual contact, mother-child in utero, breastfeeding/nursing, close face-to-face contact, respiratory.]</i> Follow-up question How is mpox spread from animals to humans? Which animals? <i>[e.g. Hunting, trapping, meat preparation, bites, close contact.]</i> Probe: Do you think there are some behaviours which are more likely to transmit mpox? Why? Do you think there are some ways the disease spreads which are more important than others? Why?
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MODULE 2: DISEASE KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTIONS OF RISKS, TRANSMISSION, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

2.2 PERCEPTIONS OF RISK AND VULNERABILITY

Q#	Dimension	Knowledge gap	Qualitative question
2.2.1	Disease	Perceptions of mpox outbreak	Do you believe the current mpox outbreak is real? Probe: Why do you think this?
2.2.2	Disease	Perception of risk	Do you think anyone can get mpox? - If yes, why? - If no, why? Do you think some people are more likely than others to get infected with mpox?

2.2.2	Disease	Perception of risk	Probe: • If yes, why? Who do you think is more at risk than others? Why? [e.g. different population groups (older people, babies/infants, children aged under 15 years, mothers, those who are immunosuppressed) and about social groups (occupations, refugees, migrants, etc.)] • If not, why? Follow-up question For yourself, do you think you are at risk of getting infected with mpox? Probe: • Why do you think this?
2.2.3	Disease	Perception of susceptibility	Is mpox disease more serious/severe in some people? Probe: • If yes, which groups of people (e.g., children, older people, pregnant women, people who are already sick)? Why? • If no, why? Follow-up question What should be done to prevent these people getting infected? What should be done to help these people if they do get infected?

MODULE 2: DISEASE KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTIONS OF RISKS, TRANSMISSION, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

2.3 KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTION OF MPOX PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

Q#	Dimension	Knowledge gap	Qualitative question
2.3.1	Disease	Knowledge of measures to prevent mpox	Do you think mpox can be prevented? Probe: • If not, why?

2.3.1	Disease	Knowledge of measures to prevent mpox	• If yes, how? Follow-up question What can individuals do to prevent mpox? Probe: • How can you avoid infection (e.g., handwashing, avoid close contact, get vaccinated against mpox)? • How can an infected person avoid infecting others (e.g., cover scabs, self-isolate)? • Are those measures feasible/easy to follow? If not, why? • Do you think there is any practice/measure which is more important than others? Which one? Follow-up question What can a household do to prevent mpox? Probe: • Infection control within households (e.g., avoid sharing beds, sheets, clothes). • Are those measures feasible/easy to follow? If not, why? • Do you think there is any practice/measure which is more important than others? Which one? Follow-up question What can the community do to prevent mpox? Probe: • Are those measures feasible/easy to follow? If not, why? • Do you think there is any practice/measure which is more important than others? Which one? • Does the community have a role in preventing stigma? What can they do to prevent it? Follow-up question for people in employment (formally or informally)
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2.3.1	Disease	Knowledge of measures to prevent mpox	What could be done in your place of work to prevent mpox? Probe: • Are those measures feasible/easy to follow? If not, why? • Do you think there is any practice/measure which is more important than others? Which one? • Are there aspects of your work/job which you think put you at risk from mpox? • Have your employers/managers implemented any
2.3.2	Disease	Mpox prevention and infection control challenges	Are there any people, groups or professions for whom you think mpox prevention is especially difficult and why? Probe: • Children, pregnant women, breastfeeding infants and mothers, within families, in workplaces, different socio-economic groups, healthcare workers, healers
2.3.3	Disease	Knowledge of mpox prevention measures	Are there any settings which you think would benefit from extra infection control measures (e.g., schools, playgrounds, health clinics, markets, workplaces)? Probe: • What would these measures be? • Are those measures feasible/easy to follow? If not, why?
2.3.4	Disease	Knowledge of mpox management	What should you do if you and/or family members falls sick with mpox-like symptoms? Probe: • Of the things you mentioned, what do you think would be most important?

2.3.5	Disease	Knowledge of mpox treatment	Do you know if there are treatments for mpox and for the symptoms of mpox? Probe: • Do you know where to get advice about caring for someone with mpox? • What is the advice about how to care for someone with mpox? • What is the advice about how to look after a child with mpox? • Do you know where to get treatments from or where
2.3.6	Disease	Knowledge of mpox infectiousness	When someone has mpox, how long do you think they are infectious? Probe: • In what ways are they a risk to other people during this time?
2.3.7	Disease	Practice of mpox preventive measures	Have you taken any actions to avoid mpox? Probe: • Which ones? • If not, why not? Follow-up question How easy is it for you to take these actions? Probe: • What makes it easy? Follow-up question Is there anything which makes it difficult to take these actions? Probe: • Why? What makes it difficult? Have you taken any actions to avoid mpox? • Probe: • Which ones? • If not, why not? Follow-up question How easy is it for you to take these actions? Probe: • What makes it easy?

2.3.7	Disease	Practice of mpox preventive measures	Follow-up question Is there anything which makes it difficult to take these actions? Probe: • Why? What makes it difficult?
2.3.8	Disease	Practice of mpox prevention – sexual and reproductive health/intimate contacts	SENSITIVE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH QUESTIONS (only ask if appropriate, depending on privacy and context) What can sexual/intimate partners do to prevent mpox spreading between themselves and others? Probe: • Are these measures feasible/easy to follow? If not, why might they be a challenge? • Do you think there is any practice/measure which is more important than others? Which one? Follow-up question Since you heard of mpox, have you taken any action between yourself and intimate/sexual partners to reduce contact which could spread mpox? Probe: • What measures have you taken? • How have you changed your behaviour? • What challenges do you face in doing this? Follow-up question If you were diagnosed with mpox, would you be comfortable sharing the names and contact details of people you have had contact with, including sexual partners? Probe: • Why would you be comfortable/uncomfortable? • Is there anything that could be done to encourage you to share contact details of partners?

2.3.9	Disease	Practice of mpox prevention – intimate partner violence	SENSITIVE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH QUESTIONS (only ask if appropriate, depending on privacy and context) Do you think you would be at risk of violence if you refused to have sex with a partner who had mpox symptoms?
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MODULE 3: HEALTH-SEEKING BEHAVIOUR

3.1 HEALTH-SEEKING BEHAVIOUR

Q#	Dimension	Knowledge gap	Qualitative question
3.1.1	Health-seeking behaviour	Health-seeking behaviour for mpox-like symptoms	If you or someone in your family falls sick with mpox-like symptoms, what will you do? Probe: Is this what would happen to all members of the family? [Prompt about differences in terms of treatment-seeking behaviour for different age-gender groups, such as infants, children aged under 15 years, older people, female community members, pregnant and breastfeeding women, male community members and immunosuppressed people.]
3.1.2	Health-seeking behaviour	Home treatments – mpox-like symptoms	Would you treat yourself or a family member with mpox-like symptoms at home? Probe: - What home treatments would you use? - Who/where would you get them from? - How long would you treat someone with a rash or blisters at home? - When would you seek outside help? - Is this what would happen to all members of the family? [Prompt about differences in terms of treatment-seeking behaviour for different age-gender groups, such as infants, children aged under 15 years, older people, female community members, pregnant and breastfeeding women, male community members and immunosuppressed people.]

3.1.3	Health-seeking behaviour	Seeking assistance outside the home for mpox like symptoms	If you or a family member develops mpox-like symptoms, would you go outside of the home to receive care? Probe: • Who would you go to? Why? • At what point/when would you go? • What would you do if this treatment did not work? • Is this what would happen to all members of the family? [Prompt about differences in terms of treatment-seeking behaviour for different age-gender groups, such as infants, children aged under 15 years, older people, female community members, pregnant and breastfeeding women, male community members and immunosuppressed people.]
3.1.4	Health-seeking behaviour	Healthcare access	What kind of health provider do you usually visit when you or a family member are sick? Probe: • Is the provider a government facility, private facility, pharmacist, traditional healer, or religious healer? • How far away is the provider and how do you get there? • What are the costs associated with visiting the health provider (e.g., travel, treatment fees, food/accommodation) and how does this influence your decision to access healthcare? • Do you attend different providers depending on the problem/illness? • Can everyone in your community go to these types of providers/healers? [Prompt about marginalised population groups?] If not, why?
3.1.5	Health-seeking behaviour	Healthcare satisfaction	How satisfied were you with the service/ medical care you received the last time you went to a public health (government-run) facility? Probe: • Were medicines available? • Were medical staff available?

3.1.5	Health-seeking behaviour	Healthcare satisfaction	• Did you have to wait to get treatment? • What was the attitude of the staff?
3.1.6	Health-seeking behaviour	Healthcare access	Do you face any difficulties in accessing healthcare for yourself or family members? Probe: • Were medicines available? • Were medical staff available? • Did you have to wait to get treatment? • What was the attitude of the staff?
3.1.7	Health-seeking behaviour	Healthcare – decision-making process about mpox treatment-seeking behaviour	If you or someone in your family falls sick with mpox-like symptoms, who in your family will decide how they will be treated? Probe: • Is this what would happen to all members of the family? [Prompt about differences in terms of treatment-seeking behaviour for different age-gender groups, such as infants, children aged under 15 years, older people, female community members, pregnant and breastfeeding women and male community members.]

3.2 SEEKING HEALTHCARE FOR CHILDREN

Q#	Dimension	Knowledge gap	Qualitative question
3.2.1	Health-seeking behaviour	Childhood diseases	What are the most common diseases children get in this community? Follow-up question What are the most common diseases infants/nursing babies get in this community? Probe: • Why are children particularly at risk of these diseases?

3.2.2	Health-seeking behaviour	Childhood healthcare	When a child is sick, who looks after them? Follow-up question When a child is sick, where are they taken for treatment? Follow-up question Who makes decisions about children's healthcare? Probe: Is this the same for children of different ages, such as infants, children aged under five years and children aged under 15 years?
3.2.3	Health-seeking behaviour	Mpox symptoms in children	What are the symptoms of mpox in children? Probe: - Are there any other childhood diseases which appear similar to mpox? - What are the symptoms of these other diseases, and how can you tell the difference?
3.2.4	Health-seeking behaviour	Caring for children with mpox	What would you do if you think a child in your family has mpox? Follow-up question Do you know the advice on how to care for a child with mpox? Probe: Is this the same for children of different ages, such as infants, children aged under five years and children aged under 15 years?
3.2.5	Health-seeking behaviour	Mpox prevention in children	How can children be protected from mpox? Probe: Within households, at school, etc. Follow-up question What can be done to protect breastfeeding infants if their mother has mpox?

MODULE 4: VACCINATION

These questions ask about knowledge of the mpox vaccine and willingness to be vaccinated. Some questions may not be appropriate in settings where the vaccine is unavailable and unlikely to become available.

Q#	Dimension	Knowledge gap	Qualitative question
4.1	Prevention – vaccination	Mpox vaccine – positive and negative information	Have you heard about the mpox vaccine? Probe: • How do you feel about the vaccine? • Have you heard anything that worries you? • Who did you hear this from? • Have you heard anything that makes you feels positive or negative about the mpox vaccine?
4.2	Prevention – vaccination	Mpox vaccine – vaccine confidence	How important do you think getting the mpox vaccine will be for your health? Probe: • Why do you feel that way?
4.3	Prevention – vaccination	Mpox vaccine – vaccine confidence	How safe do you think the mpox vaccine will be for you? Probe: • Why do you feel that way? • Do you think that your body will react to the mpox vaccine? Is this something which worries you? • Do you think there is still a risk of getting infected with mpox after you have had the mpox vaccine?
4.4	Prevention – vaccination	Mpox vaccine – decision-making process for mpox vaccine uptake	Have you thought about getting the mpox vaccine if it is offered to you? What did you decide? Probe: • Why do you want to get it? • Why do not you want to get it?

4.5	Prevention – vaccination	Mpox vaccine – decision-making process for mpox vaccine uptake	Who in your family will decide whether you or other family members will be vaccinated against mpox? Probe: • Is there anyone else involved in the decision? • Who else would you discuss it with? • Who will make the final decision about whether you get the mpox vaccine? Follow-up question Besides your family, is there anyone who will influence the decision about whether you get the mpox vaccine? Probe: • How about your friends, community leaders, religious leaders, colleagues or employer?
4.6	Prevention – vaccination	Mpox vaccine – vaccine uptake	At which location would you like to get vaccinated against mpox? (For those who have not yet received it.) Probe: • Why? • What the things would you need to do before leaving your house? • Where would you go to get it? • How would you get there? • Would there be there any cost involved for you (e.g., transport)?
4.7	Prevention – vaccination	Mpox vaccine – perception	Overall, do you believe the mpox vaccine will reduce the spread of the virus in your area? Probe: • Why do you think that way? • Do you think that maintaining protective/ preventative measures will be still necessary after you have been vaccinated?
4.8	Prevention – vaccination	Mpox vaccine – communication preferences	In which language (and, if relevant, dialect) would you like to receive information about the mpox vaccine?

4.8	Prevention – vaccination	Mpox vaccine – communication preferences	Follow-up question Do you prefer written or spoken information in this language? Follow-up question Do you have any suggestions about specific actions to help people receive the vaccine in your country/community?
4.9	Prevention – vaccination	Mpox vaccine – community engagement	Follow-up question Have you been consulted on any matters in relation to the mpox vaccine? Probe: • Could you please specify on which matters have you been consulted? • How have you been consulted? Follow-up question Were other people in your community consulted about the mpox vaccine? Probe: • Who has been consulted in your community? • Did the consultation process include all groups in the community including those who are most vulnerable and/or marginalised?
4.10	Prevention – vaccination	Mpox vaccine – community feedback	Are you aware of complaints about the mpox vaccine in your country/community? What are they? Follow-up question Do you know how to provide feedback or make complaints about the mpox vaccine in your country/community? Probe: • How do you provide feedback and complaints? • How useful are these mechanisms to provide feedback and complaints? • Is there anything that could be improved in the way that feedback and complaints are reported?

MODULE 5: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND DYNAMICS

Q#	Dimension	Knowledge gap	Qualitative question
5.1	Community engagement	Community support	If you are experiencing a health crisis (e.g., illness, disease outbreak, environmental threats) who do you trust most to provide you with care or counselling or support during this situation? Probe: • Why are you going to seek care/counselling/ support from this person or group? • What does the person or group do in such a situation? What types of decisions does the person or group help you make? • Among the people you mentioned, who do you trust the most to help you through your crisis? • Is this what everyone in your community does? [Prompt about differences between men and women, adults and youth, children aged under 15 years, people with disabilities, marginalised community groups, etc.]
5.2	Community engagement	Decision-making at community level	If there is a health crisis or emergency in your community (e.g., extreme weather, environmental threats, disease outbreak, high fatality events) and a decision needs to be made about what to do, who in the community takes this decision? [Prompt about elders, chief, religious leader, government, council, etc.] Probe: • Do people trust their decision-making? If yes, why? If not, why? Follow-up question Who makes decisions in your community about issues that affect the community as a whole? [Prompt about elders, chief, religious leader, government, council, etc.]

5.2	Community engagement	Decision-making at community level	Probe: • How do they involve you and other community members in the process? • Do they ensure that all groups in the community have an equal say when it comes to decisions that affect the whole community, or is there anyone or any group left out? If yes, who is left out? Do you have any suggestions on how they could be included in any future decision-making processes? • Can you provide an example of the impact on the community by their decision-making?
5.3	Community engagement	Trust in formal and informal community actors/ community influencers	Are there any individuals and/or groups that you trust most to take actions that benefit you (and your family)? Probe: • Who? Why do you trust them?
5.4	Community engagement	Trust in formal and informal community actors/ community influencers	Who are the individuals and/or groups that you trust most to take actions that reduce the risk of the spread of mpox in your community? Probe: • Who? Why do you trust them? • Does everyone in the community trust their decisions? If not, why?
5.5	Community engagement	Community-led actions	What has your community done to reduce mpox infection risks in your community? Probe: • Do they notify cases to health authorities? Do they try to identify people who have mpox? Do they provide information about mpox? • Who makes the decision about these activities? Who leads these activities? Who carries these activities out? Should anyone else in the community be involved? • Does everyone in your community agree with these activities? If not, why? Who does not agree?

5.5	Community engagement	Community-led actions	• Do you think they work well? If yes, why? If not, why? • What would be your suggestions to improve these measures? What type of support is needed? • Are there any measures not currently being implemented in your community that you think would be effective in stopping the spread of mpox? What are they? • Do any of the measures taken within the community
5.6	Community engagement	Capacity building and training	Do you know if anyone in your community has been trained on how to prevent and manage mpox? Probe: • Who participated in the training? • Who provided the training? • When was the training conducted? Has there been repeat/refresher training?
5.7	Community engagement	Consultation	Have you been consulted by local authorities about matters relating to managing the mpox outbreak? Probe: • If not, why do you think you have not been consulted? • How have you been consulted? By whom? Follow-up question Were other people in your community consulted about matters related to managing the mpox outbreak? Probe: • Who has been consulted in your community? On what? • Did the consultation process include all sections of the community including those who are most vulnerable and/or marginalised?

5.8	Community engagement	Community influence on response decision-making	Do you feel that your community's suggestions were used to design and deliver the mpox response in your country/ community? Probe: • How was community's input used? Can you provide an example?
5.9	Community engagement	Community influence on response decision-making	Do you feel that you are able to influence decisions about how your local authority/ administration is managing the mpox outbreak? Probe: • What type of decisions are you able to influence? • How do you influence decisions in relation to the mpox outbreak in your local authority/administration? • If not, what makes it difficult to influence these decisions?
5.10	Community engagement	Community influence on response decision-making	Do you feel that you are able to influence decisions about how the national government is managing the mpox outbreak? Probe: • What type of decisions are you able to influence? • How do you influence decisions in relation to the mpox response in your local authority/administration? • What makes it difficult to influence these decisions?
5.11	Community engagement	Community involvement and action	In the last month [insert other time period if needed], have you been involved in community actions to address the spread of mpox? Probe: • If yes, what type of actions have been taken? Are these still ongoing? • Have you been to facilitate access to assistance for specific households in your community? If yes, which households and why? To what type of assistance?

5.11	Community engagement	Community involvement and action	• How have you been involved in these actions? • If not, would you like to be involved in these actions? Why?
5.12	Community engagement	Involvement of women in the response	Are women from your community involved in the mpox response? Probe: • If yes, how? What do they do? Are there many women who are involved? • Are these women well known in your community? Do other women accept them? Does the wider community accept them? Do these women represent other's women's views and experiences? • Are there groups/networks for women to feed into the response or receive information about the response? • Do you think these women/women's groups are sufficiently involved or not? <i>[Prompt: Do they make decisions on behalf of the community? Do they have a say in community-level decision-making?]</i> • If not, how should women be involved?
5.13	Community engagement	Risks to women and girls	Do you think women and girls could face any additional challenges or risks while trying to access help and services for mpox? Probe: • If yes, which risks? (e.g., safety and security risks: women and girls can be harassed while trying to reach health facilities)
5.14	Community engagement	Community feedback	Do you know how to provide feedback or make complaints about the mpox response in your country/community? Probe: • How do you provide feedback and complaints? • How useful are these mechanisms to provide feedback and complaints? • How do you prefer provide feedback and complaints? • Is there anything that could be improved?

MODULE 6: RESPONSE

Q#	Dimension	Knowledge gap	Qualitative question
6.1	Response	Interventions for the mpox response	Are any mpox control activities being implemented in your community? Follow-up question What mpox prevention activities are currently being implemented in your community? Probe: • Who is implementing these activities? What does the community do and what do the mpox response workers do?
6.2	Response	Perception of mpox response teams	Have any mpox response workers or teams visited your community in the past month (or since the mpox outbreak was declared in your community/province/district)? Probe: • Who were they/where were they from? • How often did/do they come? • Did they come to see your home? • What did they do? • What do you think about these activities? • When was the last time they visited your community?
6.3	Response	Satisfaction with mpox response teams	How satisfied are you with the mpox response teams? Probe: • Why are you satisfied? • Why are you not satisfied (e.g., their attitude, their ability to respond to your questions and concerns, and their presence in your community)?
6.4	Response	Community engagement (consultation and feedback)	Do mpox response teams ask about your opinion and suggestions? Probe:

6.4	Response	Community engagement (consultation and feedback)	Do they ask about your opinion about the way mpox interventions are implemented? • Do they ask about the solutions you have found to prevent/reduce mpox infection risks? • If not, why do you think they do not ask about your opinion? • Do you know if other community members were asked about their opinion? If so, who? Do these members represent your opinion? If not, why? Follow-up question (for people who were asked about their opinion) Did you see any changes after you made some suggestions? Probe: • If yes, what changed? • If not, why do you think they did not change anything about the response and/or response teams?
6.5	Response	Reporting abuse and exploitation	Would you report or complain about any inappropriate behaviours (harassment, discrimination, sexual exploitation and abuse) from health workers, community volunteers or any person who is working in the mpox response? Probe: • If yes, where would you report this? How would you report this? • If no, why not? What challenges do you think you would face in reporting such behaviours?
6.6	Response	Satisfaction with the current mpox response	How satisfied are you with the mpox response activities in your community? Probe: • Why do you think this way? • What works well and what does not? Why? Follow-up question

6.6	Response	Satisfaction with the current mpox response	Are there any specific actions which could be taken by the government to reduce the risk of mpox infection in your country (province, district, etc.)? Probe: • What type of actions? • Why do you think that way?
6.7	Response	Satisfaction with the current mpox response	Do you think anything should change about the way mpox response measures are implemented? Probe: • If yes, what should change? Optional question Is there anything the response teams should do differently? Probe: • If yes, what should they do differently?

MODULE 7: STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

Mpox has the potential to be stigmatising because of negative associations with sexual transmission and sexual preference. The response must be aware of the risk of stigmatising marginalised groups (e.g., sex workers and LGBTQ communities) and perpetuating narratives that focus on the sexual transmission of mpox by and within certain marginalised groups, to the exclusion of other routes of transmission. It is worth noting that even well-intentioned response workers can play a role in the stigmatisation by labelling specific communities as being at risk. People who feel stigmatised are less likely to seek treatment for themselves or their families.

Q#	Dimension	Knowledge gap	Qualitative question
7.1	Stigma	Local narratives influencing stigmatisation and discrimination	In your community, do people easily speak about mpox or do they feel afraid and/or shame to talk about it? Probe: • Why is this? • Does this vary among different groups of people, such as women, men, youth, older people, marginalised groups, LGBTQ, certain occupations e.g., sex workers?

7.2	Stigma	Stigmatisation and discrimination at community level	Have you heard of any negative attitudes/ stigma towards people with mpox in your community? Probe: • If yes, why? • Can you provide an example? Follow-up question Have you heard of any negative attitudes/ stigma towards family members of people with mpox in your community?
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MODULE 7: STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

7.2	Stigma	Stigmatisation and discrimination at community level	Probe: • If yes, why? • Can you provide an example? Follow-up question Have you heard of any negative attitudes/ stigma relating to mpox and certain groups of people? Probe: • Which groups of people have been affected by negative attitudes from the wider community? • Why are these population groups affected by negative attitudes related to mpox? • Can you provide an example? • What are consequences for these population groups?
7.3	Stigma	Local narratives – stigmatisation and/or discrimination	If there are negative attitudes, which symptoms/causes/aspects of mpox are linked to negative attitudes or feeling of shame? Follow-up question Do these negative attitudes (linked to mpox) mean that people do not want to talk about mpox?

7.4	Stigma	Stigmatisation and discrimination at community level	If a person gets mpox, do they and/or their family experience discrimination? Probe: • How? • Who by? • For how long, such as only while they have symptoms, or does it continue after they have recovered? Follow-up question If you or a family member gets mpox in the future, would you want it to be kept a secret? Why?
7.5	Stigma	Solutions to address stigmatisation and/or discrimination	What can be done to avoid stigma of mpox patients and their families? Probe: • What can be done when communicating about the disease? • What can response actors do? • What can the community do? Who in the community should be responsible for ensuring mpox patients are not discriminated against?
7.6	Stigma	Support for victims of stigma/violence	If someone in the community is experiencing stigma or violence, how might they cope? • What services can they access? • If there are not any services, what do you think would help support victims?
7.6	Stigma	Support for victims of stigma/violence	If women face violence in the community, how might the community respond? • What services are there for women fleeing violence? • Are all women able to access those services? If not, why?

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Contact: If you have a direct request concerning the brief, tools, additional technical expertise or remote analysis, or should you like to be considered for the network of advisers, please contact the Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform by emailing Annie Lowden (a.lowden@ids.ac.uk) or Juliet Bedford (julietbedford@anthrologica.com).

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[@SSHAP_Action](#)
info@socialscience.org
www.socialscienceinaction.org
[SSHAP newsletter](#)

CONTACTS:

Rachel James

Interagency Risk Communication
and Community Engagement (RCCE) Coordinator,
East and Southern Africa Region:

✉ rajames@unicef.org

Maureen McKenna

Fundraising and Advocacy Consultant, Collective Service,
Geneva, Switzerland:

✉ maureen.mckenna@ifrc.org

The RCCE Collective Service enables collaboration between a wide range of organisations engaged in policy, practice, and research to strengthen coordination and increase the scale and quality of RCCE approaches, while also supporting a coordinated community-centered approach that is embedded across public health and humanitarian response efforts. This partnership between the WHO, UNICEF and IFRC, which leverages active support from the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN), and key stakeholders from the public health and humanitarian sectors.