Social Autopsy for MATERNAL DEATHS
An INDEPTH tool

OPEN HISTORY QUESTION

Could you tell me about the illness that led to the child’s death?

Instructions to interviewer - Allow the respondent to tell you about the illness in his or her own words. Keep prompting until the respondent says there was nothing else. While recording, underline any unfamiliar terms and write them in the local language.

Preventive behaviour (probe for ANC attendance, HIV testing, immunization, IPTp, folate, iron, deworming)
Recognition in the home (probe for first symptoms recognised, other symptoms, when did they realise it was severe, who recognized the first and severe symptoms)
Timing (probe for how long did it take from first symptoms to you realised it was severe)
Actions taken in home versus outside the home: (probe for how long after first symptom and severe symptom, what action was taken, what treatment was given, who made the decision, what was the reason for this action, if not going outside for care – why?)
Provider behaviour (Probe for advice given, treatment given, was there referral, referral experience, timing of referral, reasons for not going or delaying referral)

Is there anything that you or anyone else could have done differently to prevent this death? Why?