

## **How did this child get to be in this program?**

*The intention of this question is to:*

*Elicit a history.  
Explore local SAM aetiologies.  
Explore treatment seeking behaviour/pathways to care (i.e., for contrast with the program's case-finding and referral methods).*

*The carer may start by, for example, describing events around case-finding and referral. Keep this as a 'reference point' during the interview and probe:*

*'What happened after that?'  
'What happened before that?'*

## **Do you know of any children in your village that are like your child that are not attending this program?**

*When asking and following up on this question, refer to/ask about:*

*The index child's specific history (from above).  
Common SAM aetiologies (e.g., not recovered well after an illness).  
Specific signs (e.g., thin arms, swollen feet, kwashiorkor signs).  
Treatment seeking behaviour/pathways to care.*

*Encourage narratives/histories.*

## **If YES: Why do you think the child is not attending this program?**

*Reflect back responses to elicit further information.*

*Probe: 'How do you know this?', 'Any other reasons?', 'Any other children?'*

*Encourage narratives/histories.*

*Record the name and home location of the informant for follow-up.*

## **If NO: If there were children like your child that are not attending this program, why do you think they would not attend the program?**

*Note the question is hypothetical. This may need explaining.*

*Reflect back responses to elicit further information.*

*Probe: 'Any other reasons?'*

## **If I wanted to find children like your child and the children we have spoken about, how would I best describe them to other people?**

*The intention of this question is to discover local terms and aetiologies for SAM. Probe for definitions of local terms. Some terms will be descriptive. Other terms will reflect local/folk aetiologies (e.g., kwashiorkor is a Ga language term for 'the sickness the baby gets when the new baby comes'). You will find this useful for case-finding in surveys and to contrast with program messages.*

*Give examples of specific signs and ask for local terms.*

*Probe: 'Any other names for this?', 'Will most people understand what I am asking if I ask about [TERM]?'*

*Ask about how this differs from the program messages (e.g., 'Are these [TERMS] the same thing as "malnutrition"?').*

## **If I wanted to find children like your child and the children we have spoken about, who would best be able to help me to find them?**

*Probe: 'Anyone else?'. Make sure you ask directly about midwives/traditional birth attendants, traditional healers, the people mentioned in histories when exploring treatment seeking behaviour/pathways to care (above), and the people used by the program for case-finding and referral.*

*Probe: 'Why?' and 'Why not?'*

*Confirm: 'You are saying that I should ask [PERSON] to take me to see children with [TERMS]. Is that right?'*

*This information will be used for case-finding in surveys.*