**Viability of maternity waiting homes as a potential mechanism to reduce maternal-newborn mortality in Kumasi, Ghana: a qualitative needs assessment**

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**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- Conduct a qualitative needs assessment of stakeholder interest in establishing a MWH in an urban setting.
- Explore the viability of MWHs in an urban setting as a health system strengthening intervention to reduce maternal-newborn mortality in Kumasi, Ghana.

**RESEARCH DESIGN**

Qualitative needs assessment with individual interviews and focus group discussions will be conducted using a semi-structured interview guide.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

- **Setting:** urban, Kumasi, Ghana at or near Suntreso Government Hospital  
- **Participants:** Community stakeholders and key decision makers, mothers of childbearing age, and family members over the age of 18 years old. Ten individual interviews will be conducted with community stakeholders and key decision makers. Eight focus groups consisting of 8-12 participants will be conducted with mothers of childbearing age and family members at or near Suntreso Government Hospital.  
- **Measures:** latent content analysis will be used to analyze the data.

**UNIQUENESS**

- First qualitative needs assessment study to explore community beliefs, values, and interest in and viability of MWHs as a health system strengthening intervention to reduce maternal-newborn mortality in an urban low-resource setting.
- The proposed project will reduce the gap in knowledge about interest in establishing and attitudes toward urban MWHs as health policy shifts towards encouraging mothers to delivery in larger-volume facilities.

**BACKGROUND**

- Maternity waiting homes (MWHs), usually located in rural settings, are residential dwellings located near health facilities where mothers stay to await delivery with skilled providers, that may offer a way to better provide perinatal obstetric care and improve maternal-newborn outcomes.
- Recent health policy changes recommend a shift away from rural delivery facilities towards larger urban facilities for better maternal-newborn health.
- There is an exceptionally wide gap in knowledge about the interest in and viability of MWHs in an urban environment.

**IRB APPROVAL & FUNDING**

- Ethical approval was obtained from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, the University of Michigan, and cleared with the Ghana Health Service.
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Title: Viability of maternity waiting homes as a potential mechanism to reduce maternal-newborn mortality in Kumasi, Ghana: a qualitative needs assessment.

Abstract

Goals and Objectives: Conduct a qualitative needs assessment of stakeholder interest in establishing a MWH in an urban setting. Explore the viability of MWHs in an urban setting as a health system strengthening intervention to reduce maternal-newborn mortality in Kumasi, Ghana.

Background: Maternity waiting homes (MWHs), usually located in rural settings, are residential dwellings located near health facilities where mothers stay to await delivery with skilled providers, that may offer a way to better provide perinatal obstetric care and improve maternal-newborn outcomes. Recent health policy changes recommend a shift away from rural delivery facilities towards larger urban facilities for better maternal-newborn health. There is an exceptionally wide gap in knowledge about the interest in and viability of MWHs in an urban environment.

Research design/Methodology: Qualitative needs assessment with individual interviews and focus group discussions will be conducted using a semi-structured interview guide.

Setting: urban, Kumasi, Ghana at or near Suntreso Government Hospital

Participants: Community stakeholders and key decision makers, mothers of childbearing age, and family members over the age of 18 years old. Ten individual interviews will be conducted with community stakeholders and key decision makers. Eight focus groups consisting of 8-12 participants will be conducted with mothers of childbearing age and family members at or near Suntreso Government Hospital.

Measures: latent content analysis will be used to analyze the data.

Uniqueness: This will be the first qualitative needs assessment study to explore community beliefs, values, and interest in and viability of MWHs as a health system strengthening intervention to reduce maternal-newborn mortality in an urban low-resource setting. The proposed project will reduce the gap in knowledge about interest in establishing and attitudes toward urban MWHs as health policy shifts towards encouraging mothers to delivery in larger-volume facilities.

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