

## Additional file 2: In-depth interview guide *(original version in French)*

Date : / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ /

Start time: / \_\_\_ h : \_\_\_ min/ End time : / \_\_\_ h : \_\_\_ min/

Region: / \_\_\_\_\_ /

| Demographic questions |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1.                    | Gender (Male/Female)                          |
| 2.                    | Age of participant (in years)                 |
| 3.                    | Occupation of participant                     |
| 4.                    | Seniority at work (years or months)           |
| 5.                    | How long have you been working in the region? |
| 6.                    | Where did you work before?                    |

### *(Questions for regional coordinators of MDSS)*

| Themes  | Questions  |
|---|--|
| <b>MDSS management</b>                                    | How long have you been MDSS Regional coordinator?  |
|   | What are your activities as MDSS Regional coordinator?   |
|   | Who helps you with these activities?   |
|   | Did you receive any training on MDSS? how many times?  |
|   | Please tell me how satisfied you were and the weakest and strongest aspects of the training in your opinion?                     |
|   | What data of MDSS are available in your region? (From 2009 to 2017)  |
| <b>Notification and Investigation of deaths among WRA</b> | Please describe step-by-step procedures of notifying and investigating deaths among WRA in the region?                           |
|   | What are the constraints on notifying and investigating deaths among WRA in the region?  |
| <b>In-depth investigation of pregnancy-related deaths</b> | Please describe step-by-step procedures of investigating pregnancy-related deaths in the region?                                 |
|   | What are the constraints on investigating pregnancy-related deaths in the region?  |
| <b>Maternal deaths reviews (MDRs)</b>                     | How does the RC-MDRs work in your region?  |
|   | What are the procedures and deadlines for transmitting maternal deaths files from districts to the region?                       |
|   | How does a MDRs session is conducting in practice?   |
|   | What are your constraints on reviewing pregnancy-related deaths?   |
|   | How would you describe the quality of maternal deaths files transmitted by districts?  |
| <b>Data analysis</b>                                      | Please describe step-by-step procedures of MDSS data analysis at the health regional level?                                      |
|   | What were the findings of the maternal deaths data analysis in 2016?   |
|   | What are your constraints on analyzing data at regional level?   |
| <b>Annual regional report</b>                             | How do you prepare your annual regional report on the confidential enquiry into maternal deaths?                                 |
|   | How do you disseminate the results of the regional report?   |
| <b>Implementation of recommendations</b>                  | What will become of the recommendations resulting from the MDSS?   |
| <b>Additional information on MDSS</b>                     | How do you assess the MDSS coverage/efficiency in your region?   |
|   | How many people are involved in the MDSS? (Districts and region)   |
|   | How often do you have fieldwork supervisions for MDSS? (Per year, per district?)   |
|   | How do you determine the necessary financial needs to sustain the MDSS in your region?   |
|   | What sources of funding are available for covering the costs of this system?   |
|   | What is the total budget allocated per year to MDSS?   |
| <b>Exit questions</b>                                     | Please tell me about your overall experience with MDSS?  |
|   | What are the most common obstacles you personally face for following up on this system?  |
|   | What are your suggestions on how we can improve MDSS at the region level?  |
|   | What are your expectations from the MOH and/or the Health Regional Directorate to be able to do your best work as a coordinator? |

*(Questions for other stakeholders)*

| <b>Themes</b>  | <b>Questions</b>  |
|--|---|
| <b>MDSS implementation</b>   | Can you please tell me when and how the MDSS was introduced in your region?   |
|  | What do you know about the MDSS?  |
|  | When and how did you get involved in the MDSS?  |
|  | What are your responsibilities as part of the MDSS?   |
|  | Have you ever received any training about MDSS? If yes, from where/whom?  |
|  | Was it useful for you?  |
|  | How is organized in practice the maternal deaths surveillance in your region?   |
|  | How do you assess the MDSS implementation in your region?   |
|  | Please tell me about your overall experience with the MDSS implementation process? (Whether here or in another region)              |
|  | In your opinion, what are issues that need to be addressed in the future for the sustainability of the MDSS in your region?         |
| What are your suggestions for improving maternal mortality surveillance at the regional level? |   |
| <b>Use of results of MDSS</b>  | What is the place of the MDSS within the regional strategy to reduce maternal mortality?  |
|  | What mechanisms did you set up to disseminate the recommendations resulting from the MDSS (regional report / RC-MDRs)?              |
|  | How do you use the MDSS analysis results and recommendations in your region?  |
|  | What are the circumstances/situations/reasons why MDSS data are used?   |
|  | Can you explain why MDSS findings are used (or not) in regional decision-making?  |
|  | What do you suggest transforming the MDSS into an effective regional tool for action?   |
|  | What are the needs of the region to improve the MDSS use and how to address them?   |
| <b>Exit questions</b>  | Please tell me about your overall experience with MDSS?   |
|  | What are the most common obstacles you personally face to achieve your role in this system?   |
|  | What are your suggestions on how we can improve MDSS at the region level?   |
|  | What are your expectations from the MOH and/or the Health Regional Directorate to be able to do your best work as a RC-MDRs member? |