**FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Moderator**: So, when our children got ill while at home, which signs did you see and decided that let us take the children to hospital? Did you see them coughing, with difficulty in breathing? Yes?

**Respondent 3:** This thing of difficulty in breathing, you don’t see it at first.

**Moderator**: You don’t initially see it

**Respondent 3**: Yes, you don’t initially see that the child is breathing badly.

**Moderator**: hmmmm

**Respondent 3**: You first think that maybe (child coughs) any child if they are coughing, they can’t stay breathing the same way like they have been breathing. So, you still think its cough. You might think its cough. By the time you realize that it’s not the cough making her cough, time would have past. It’s hard to easily notice that it’s the cough making her breathe like this. You understand?

**Moderator**: hmmmm

**Respondent 3:** And also, how you know is when you take long treating this cough without it healing. And you also have to be so keen

**Moderator**: When you treat it and its not healing you start wondering what is going on?

**Respondent 3:** You realize that the other breathing has worsened. In you knowing, it would gone way beyond.

**Moderator**: Worse than the usual breathing

**Respondent 3:** anha…but it’s very hard as me, what I would have expected from every parent, it’s very hard to first know that this child is having difficulty in breathing. It’s very hard because when the cough comes, the child can’t stay the same like how he has been. He gets some other kind of breathing but when it heals, it (the breathing) also stops.

**Moderator**: And it eeeeh

**Respondent 3:** and it also goes. And here it shows you that even when they are treating him, the cough can reduce yet the breathing continues.

**Moderator**: It persists

**Respondent 3:** Yes, without reducing

**Moderator**: hmmmmm

**Respondent 3:** you also be wondering why

**Moderator**: Now number 3, what made you come up with the decision that where this child has reached, let me take him to hospital?

**Respondent 3:** What made me decide is that fact that he could reach an extent of having like something is seated in his chest, I think inside there the things could have been thick. You could really see that he couldn’t manage to breath. The air could no longer come out.

**Moderator**: How did you know that something might be seated in her chest?

**Respondent:** He could breathe and take some time without breathing again. You could see that the heart is beating and everything but his breathing was so tight almost like grunting which had initially not there. Now there I think that where every parent realizes that eeeh…I need a hospital.

**Moderator**: That they need a hospital…eee true. Who else has a different thought?

**Respondent 3:** Also the other thing I want to ask,

**Moderator**: hmmm

**Respondent 3:** This breathing confuses me, that the nose, and here (mother points to the chest) can they be in sync? Just asking. Can here (mother points to the nose) be in sync with here (mother points to the chest) that if he blocks here, can it force the other side of the lungs to be the ones injured?

**Moderator**: These muscles(how to they call them in luganda?) these muscles are the ones used for breathing. They move in sync with the nose. When air enters, they move out when it goes out, they move in.

**Respondent 3:** Now as me, who has stayed long with this child, that this thing since the day of birth. Why am I asking this, that yesterday, when I sat there in the night, I thought a lot and said, but why is the child not getting better then I remembered that about a month ago, he was breathing badly from here (mother points to the bridge of the nose)I woke up as a mother and put water in a bucket or a basin and I put something like a towel and I placed it here

**Moderator**: Was this water hot or cold?

**Respondent 3**: it was warm, not the other kind of hot but warm. I placed it here and I started pressing here like this (mother demonstrates how she pressed around the nose)

**Moderator**: hmmmmm

**Respondent 3:** Some things were coming out. Then he started breathing well, he slept till morning.

**Moderator**: What were those things looking like?

**Respondent 3:** These things are not so different from thing that come from the chest in case he has coughed and spitted out. They look similar because I have been observing them. Not today, not yesterday, I have been observing them. Even at night when I woke and did the same thing. He was able to breathe well, and I expect even at (child playing) this juncture you found me telling this one that you know what, let me go back and put a cloth on this one like the one I put yesterday. I see all the pressure coming from here (mother points to the nose bridge) then it pushes down. Now, that still perturbs me, where does it come from that’s why I was asking you that can this here be in sync with here?

**Moderator**: Its true

**Respondent 3:** Because me, all the issues, I see are from here. If I put warm water, it can take him like 3 hours and if you do it at 8pm, he can spend the entire night without him facing the same problem. If you do it at 3pm, he can spend the rest of the day fine if some of those things came out. But I first asked myself, what is it?

**Moderator**: Hmmmmm

**Respondent 3:** I failed to understand it but that thing over thinking about it, you sit and think and think and say..eeh, that’s when I remembered that I have been using this before but when he resumed coughing, flu, and they joined together, my brain was clouded, I couldn’t remember.

**Dr. Phiona**: Those things block the nose and prevent the oxygen from reaching that’s why he struggles to breathe and you see that he breathes as the chest falls in and it’s trying with energy, so those are signs of pneumonia

**Moderator**: Signs of pneumonia

**Dr. Phiona**: We will continue to treat him

**Moderator**: What about mother number 1?

**Respondent 1:** Well, I have heard this one explaining, me my child, I have been with that illness for I think like (mother raises 3 fingers).

**Respondent 3:** The child is young (mother interrupts)

**Respondent 1:** And in coming here I didn’t know the diagnosis, they first took me for echo, they didn’t know if it was the heart or what, so when they checked, they found that. But I had not noticed any particular signs because the days are still few, so me am going to just learn something out of this from my colleagues. What I’ll be observing and seeing

**Moderator**: Mother number 2

**Respondent 2:** Me in bringing the child, I had taken long without noticing that he had ahh…

**Moderator**: That he has that kind of pneumonia

**Respondent 2:** Yes, that he has that kind of pneumonia because in bringing the child, he was swollen all over. In the face, the legs and the stomach. I ran and brought him here and they tested him then only to tell me that he has this thing, the pneumonia. By then I was already scared.

**Moderator**: What about mother number 4 there?

**Respondent 4:** Me, this one, the real first time I brought him, he had fallen on the bed

**Moderator**: He had done what?

**Respondent 4:** He had just fallen like this to the ground but when breathing, you could hear him breathing like, how can I say it? He could breathe like someone who is snoring. So, some people could tell me that he swallowed and so on

**Moderator**: What did he swallow?

**Respondent 4:** Ok there are some things the suck out of the nostrils when he has just been delivered

**Respondent 1:** When he had just been delivered (in unison)

**Respondent 4:** When he had just fallen like it is on the ground

**Respondent 3:** Also, me that’s how they told me

**Respondent 4:** And they said he swallowed a lot, ok, as you know people and their views, it can be overwhelming

**Moderator**: Hmmmm

**Respondent 4:** So, he was there like that, they also directed me to use some herbs which I used and it reduced. I finished the entire first month without him doing it. The second month he resumed. I first heard him grunting even when you carrying him, me I thought maybe he was in pain, you could feel that inside here, even the air coming from his nostrils you could feel that it’s hot. So hot, I first asked myself, what is happening? I first took him to Mubende alfaro. I gave birth to her in a village, left when they had fixed her, so in Mirembe we spent there one month and they discharged us when he was ok, we spent a month, the second one he again relapsed. he had again started grunting and when he breathes again it’s like someone who is snoring can be. Then I came and first stayed here at my granny’s place in Kisaasi but he was still doing them. Then I saw that the grunting was too much and I asked myself, “but what could this be? I brought her here, in bringing him, they first put her on oxygen, he couldn’t even breathe, had developed a temperature, he was gasping for air. They put him on oxygen immediately but that was still there.

**Moderator**: The grunting bit?

**Respondent 4:** Yes, but me I was wondering, they got off blood and tested it find the kind of disease but failed to make a diagnosis but the issue was with the breathing

**Moderator**: Now?

**Respondent 4:** But he can be here, because even in oxygen we were there for (mother raises 2 fingers) and as we are recovering, we go back yet again. So. it was like 3 months. Then they discharged us and we went back home. And now at home, the sickness that came again, he still first had difficulty in breathing and grunting. My neighbor asked me, but why is your child breathing badly. I told her that me I don’t know what such breathing means after the next day, it was a Friday, she got swollen and that kind of breathing was still there

**Moderator**: He got swollen where?

**Respondent 4:** The face. In my heart I asked myself “could it be because she has over slept?” maybe he has over slept. The day went by and soon it was evening, then night. Now at around 2am, I woke up only to find him seriously grunting. I opened him up so as he can get some aeration but it failed. Then I tepid sponged him with a warm cloth, he got a bit better. It got to Sunday morning and he was showing that he has really gotten well. It became night and the situation came back. Now on Monday morning I woke up and found that his feet were all swollen. He was swollen from here to here (mother points from the small feet to the ankle) and crying plus the other bad breathing. When I brought him here, I didn’t even spend the night here, they just took me to mwana mugimu. There is some medicine that they had written for me to buy. That is what they have been injecting him. Now I no longer hear it but it reaches a time and it comes again. he grunts and he as if he is snoring too

**Moderator**: You said that he first fell. Before falling, were you not hearing that grunting?

**Respondent 4:** No, when I delivered like this, as the child was coming out. That is what I meant, when he was coming out.

**Moderator**: eeeeh ok. Coming out is falling?

**Respondent 4:** Yes, when he cried like this, and they covered him, me they had put me on the other side. That’s when I started hearing it and they told me that he had swallowed

**Moderator**: Now you have said that there is some medicine you had used, was it herbal?

**Respondent 4:** Yes

**Moderator**: What kind of herbs?

**Respondent 4:** (both laugh) it was called “kiyondo” so I put some drops into his nose then things that looked like mucus came out. They were coming out of the nose but a time reached and they stopped.

**Moderator**: Who gave you that kind of advice?

**Respondent 4:** (mother laughs) let’s just leave that

**Moderator**: Please let’s talk about it. There is no problem, we are not going to judge you.

**Respondent 4:** The person who gave me that advice was grandmother

**Moderator**: It was grand mother

**Dr. Phiona**: she did a good job

**Respondent 4:** Yes, It, was granny who told me. They also gave me other kinds of advice as well but I refused to use them because someone came and told me to mixing concentrated salt then I put drops in his nose but I said am not going to do that. Let me go with what granny has told me. Because granny told me that they will be coming out every time he sneezes and that is what happened. Every time he could sneeze, they would come out. He sneezes, they come out but it reached a time and they come back.

**Moderator**: Was there a time that granny told you to use a particular herb and it helped her and you decided that you didn’t have to go to the hospital?

**Respondent 4:** No, I didn’t leave the hospital because I delivered her with that issue. I stayed consulting the health worker. I reached a time I told the health worker, “but nurse, this child is like this and this. Because God helped me and I found that nurse who delivered me. I found her and explained to her but she told me that the child will get better” me when I saw that it was getting worse, I boarded up to Alfaro in Mubende and they put him on oxygen and we were there for a whole month. As we were getting better after two days

**Moderator**: You get back?

**Respondent 4:** We get back again. Even when we came here, we would be as if getting better and we relapse, we get better and again relapse

**Moderator**: That you for sharing your experience. What about mother number 5?

**Respondent 5:** Me I brought mine here thinking it was cough. It was treated, as if healing (child coughs). Doctor discharged us, at home we spent there a week and it came back. So, I thought it was cough, I took him to the clinic and the health worker saw him and said, “as your child is breathing badly” and I said “that is how he usually is” and he said no, this child is breathing badly. This is not the normal breathing. He gave him a syrup, he injected him but they all failed. The cough was just getting worse. The chest was noisy and the cough was strong. He wrote for us a letter and told us to go to Mulago that the child is breathing badly. You could see the white part of the eyes only on top like this.

**Moderator**: The what?

**Respondent 5:** The white of the eyes here (mother points to the sclera). You couldn’t see the black part. It was just the white.

**Moderator**: eeehhmmm

**Respondent 5:** He said that we take the child to Mulago. I brought him here, they worked on him and he became okay. The doctor asked me if the child had gotten better and I said yes, then he said that we should go back home. At home we spent a week and we came back. Again, the cough and the breathing were there. The eyes started swelling.

**Moderator**: He started to what:

**Respondent 5:** He started swelling these upper things (mother points at the eyelids and around them) we went to the health worker at the clinic and said, “as the child’s eye lids are swelling? He said that you take him, the skillful doctors in Mulago will work on him because we have given him injections, it has failed, we have given syrups but they have failed. I have nothing to do for you now, just take the child. When we brought him here, they checked him, we took him to the scan and they checked him and they told us that he had pneumonia. Then I said “doctor, the treatment, where are we going to start from?” and he said that stay there am coming.

**Moderator**: scan was for which part?

**Respondent 5:** Here

**Moderator**: No, on the body, which part did they check?

**Respondent 5:** The lungs. They checked the lungs and told us that it was pneumonia. Doctor told us “stay there I bring the medicine” we didn’t see him again.

**Moderator**: Who didn’t you see again?

**Respondent 5:** The doctor. Now there has been some they have been giving him at Mwana mugimu, they would give through a canula but it was also not doing anything on him. Then I told the health workers that the child is being given treatment but I don’t see any change, his breathing is only getting worse. They put him on oxygen. He spent the whole week on oxygen. They removed him and inserted a tube through his nose then they removed it, as he was there, he started breathing badly and they put him back on oxygen. Inside the chest was noisy as if some things had blocked around here (mother points to the chest) it was noisy. Then I told the doctor that the child was not yet ok. Then some nurse came and injected him some medicine and while he was getting better. He gave us a discharge letter, we spent one week home (Child coughs)

**Moderator**: The illness came again?

**Respondent 5:** It came again. And he started breathing badly. The doctor said that, have this letter and go back. That’s how we came back here.

**Moderator**: But for you initially, you didn’t see the difficulty in breathing?

**Respondent 5:** I didn’t notice anything while in labor because, for me I was done a ceaserian. She was delivered too small and even gasping for air. He was immediately put on oxygen. That’s where he has been. He can’t be there when they haven’t put him on oxygen. He’s always on oxygen. Doctor removes him and he says that he will be okay. I delivered from Gombe. They said that he will be fine and we went back home and it came again and we went back to Gombe. Then they wrote us a letter that we go to Mulago. We came yet I didn’t see any change. Then they said that we go to the scan and they check his lungs. He was breathing badly and they told us, it was pneumonia. They told us the medicine but they didn’t give it to him but there was one they were injecting him in the veins but there was no difference.

**Moderator**: Thank you so much, what about number 6?

**Respondent 6:** Also, me, in knowing, okay I didn’t understand it initially. Me when I delivered him, I spent 3 weeks, I said let me take him to see granny in the village. When we reached the village, there was a brother of mine, when he carried the child, he asked me “but for you can’t you hear this child?” then I asked him, what’s wrong with the child that I have to hear? That that child swallowed. So asked him what swallowing meant. He said that they didn’t clean him properly during delivery. So I asked him how he knew and he told said “for you can’t you hear him when he is breathing?” Me I didn’t even believe in him, I wondered how a boy could know such. We spent there one week and we came back. He was okay, not sick. So. after one week passed and we came back, another week passed and granny we had gone to see died.

**Moderator**: eeeh…it’s a pity

**Respondent 6:** So, when they told me the news, it was at night, I couldn’t stand it so decided to go. I got a few things and boarded a bus and its far. Reaching the bus, those that travel at that time were no longer moving, so I had to sleep in the bus. Reaching the other side, the ceremony went well and we bid her fare well but when I left, he developed difficulty in breathing. Now, me I thought, I didn’t even think of what my brother had told me. Me I thought it was the coldness because while there I wasn’t covering him properly. It was me to oversee the different activities, to see who has come, who has eaten or not so it was like I had neglected the child a bit. So. when we reached this way after we had returned, she fell sick, the eyes got swollen, okay me I didn’t notice it at first, he was breathing badly. Every time you hold him, when you try to carry him he cries. So, I took him to Kiswa health centre 3. When we reached there. The nurse was nice I really liked her because she told me something though it’s not nice to hear but it helped me. He was breathing badly but she asked me is we had sickle cells in our family and I said no, “what about on your husband’s side?” I had ever heard of it, they are there, I said. Now in breathing badly, also the sickle cells joined in the mix. Now they referred us here.

**Moderator**: Had they checked the sickle cells or she just told you

**Respondent 6:** She just told me. She sent me to the laboratory and they told me it was positive. So, they told me to come and confirm from here. So, we came and confirmed.

**Moderator**: That he has them?

**Respondent 6:** Yes. By that time, he had 5 months. But I have come to realize that the number of times we have been here, when the child is badly off, not breathing well, swollen. Me I have come to see on his medical letters, all that we have that the medicine is the same that have been injecting. Sickle cells are there but they don’t affect him much but this thing of bad breathing is what brings us to hospital the most. So now I don’t know whether it is resulting from the fact that he swallowed, or if its resulting from the time I neglected him when he was still young. One of the two.

**Moderator**: We shall be telling you later. Maybe the other thing, what did you go through to get treatment. How where you treated. What did you go through to get treatment here? When you came.

**Respondent 3:** problems?

**Moderator**: Problems. some may not be problems but we want to hear them all.

**Respondent 6:** Me I thank the health workers here because every time you come. They really care especially when they see that the child is breathing badly. They really care so much. Me there is a time I came. I didn’t even think the child was doing so badly up to that extent. I was staying in the house alone. Okay am a bit negligent I won’t lie about it. The child was doing so badly in the house. Okay maybe I have never experienced it, we don’t have it where I come from. He could breathe and breathe as I was continuously covering him hoping he would get better but the more I covered him the worse his breathing got. The moment it came to 5am, I boarded and came to the sickle cell clinic. I sat there. In fact, the health workers hadn’t even arrived but I don’t even know what I’ll ever give that nurse. When he arrived like this, she had the child’s breathing and she immediately knew what was wrong and she told me to first bring the child. Getting his veins was hard but she really tried her best. Me that’s why I pass through hospitals when all of them are government others private but I decide to come here

**Moderator**: eeh that’s encouraging. What about number 1? What did you go through to be able to get treatment?

**Respondent 1:** I didn’t get any issues. when I reached, they really cared for me to see that the child gets better. For us we came from Masaka. We came in an ambulance and the child was put on oxygen on arrival but when we came, they really cared about us, they put him there were he spent the night while on oxygen, they took good care of him until they transferred us and they are still taking good care of us. Only that I didn’t know much of what was going on because they have done a lot of things to see why the child is the way he is. So, I hadn’t known the truth since he’s still young. gave birth when he wasn’t 9months yet so I didn’t know what was causing it so I have just known. I want to also ask maybe, how does that thing heal

**Moderator**: The doctor is going to write it down. She will be telling you how its cured. Aah, don’t fear to tell me the negatives, I would also love to hear them. Yes

**Respondent 2**: I also have good effects and bad effects.

**Moderator**: Yes, I want to hear them all.

**Respondent 2**: Me When I came here, they took good care of me, I first came to acute, it was 8 in the night. They took my information, what the child has been suffering from, they cared for me. After that they took me and they took of blood. After that process, they admitted me. I spent one day and in the morning at 9am, they told us that those whose cards are going to be read should follow the nurse and in the morning at 9, we were to go to ward 14. On reaching there, I found nurses they gave me a bed and told me to lay the bed. So, I first sat. so, one nurse told the other, that that child seems to be badly off but the other one said, no he’s not. This nurse really saw that the child was not okay only that I don’t know his name. he was a male and young nurse. He told me that get up and we go back, the child is so ill, he needs oxygen. So, we left ward 14 and came back here. He put oxygen on the child and put off blood. He put off more blood and took it to the laboratory, he told me to go and pick results at 11am. So, I thanked him for caring for my child. So am still here waiting, we are supposed to go to Mwana mugimu but he’s still on oxygen. The problem is there isn’t enough oxygen in Mwana mugimu. All the beds are still full so we are waiting from here

**Moderator**: So, what didn’t sit right with you was the fact that the other nurse didn’t notice it early?

**Respondent 2**: Yes, she didn’t.

**Moderator**: What about number 3, how were you treated?

**Respondent 3**: We weren’t treated badly when we arrived, the health workers cared for us. They put oxygen on us and we spent here 2 days and they took us up.

**Moderator**: What about lady number 4?

**Respondent 3**: All the health workers are not good and all are not bad.

**Respondent 4**: Me, I won’t lie to you, they abused me. I first found her there

**Moderator**: She first did what?

**Respondent 4**: She first abused me. She asked me how many days the child has been sick for. I told her from Friday then she abused me, and she stayed abusing me. I first had to get 5000 and gave it to her, that’s when she started working on the child.

**Moderator**: what time did you come?

**Respondent 4**: It was around 11am. She said she was still taking tea, yet the tea she was saying was done in the cup

**Moderator**: It was 11 what?

**Respondent 4**: she said for her she was still taking tea. She stayed seated. Then I got 5000 shillings and I gave it to her. I was with my sister, that’s when she stood up and worked on us.

**Moderator**: Was she there alone?

**Respondent 4**: she was alone, that’s when she worked on me.

**Moderator**: But why do you think she abused you

**Respondent 4**: I don’t know because it’s not the first time. Me Every time I come here the health workers first abuse me, (everyone laughs) it’s not the first time, there is also another one who is dark. She’s fat, she has a room where she sits. Me I won’t lie to you because it has become too much. One comes in her misery due to her child’s condition. They first abuse her. The nurse can come and you explain to her and tell her that the child has spent these number of days sick and she tells you that you’re lying, he has been sick for a month and you ask her whether the child can be that sick for all that time when you are just seated at home. She first abused me. That thing hurts me a lot.

**Moderator**: It’s so painful

**Respondent 4**: The nurse first chased me, even the second time she first chased me out but I refused and stayed there. Because that day, I first I woke up and took him to KCCA , that hospital below our home because I didn’t have even a 100 shilling and I took him. But pressing on him, his flesh could form a depression and it would take long to return, and I found there many people but I was telling the nurse while she was pretending to be busy moving up and down and I told her to first see my child, he was doing badly. “No, you were not the first and so on” and time went by because I left the other side at 12pm and got here 12pm when it was about to get to 1pm. Because I also knew that those where lunch hours and I said as I have come to Mulago I won’t sit I will just wait for morning hours. Reaching here she first fumed and abused me and she told me “get out, what time is this?” I stayed there seated I didn’t say a word. Then he said that now for us we have already ended our duty you go and they first screen for covid. She is sending me for covid but he is really sick. I also did something stupid but it helped me. I went to the corner, stood there for about 3mins, came back and told her that they had closed up. That’s when she worked on me, that’s when she put a canula an I moved on. That’s when there came a nurse who knew me from Mwana mugimu and she said ”Aah, mama Ntege” yes nurse “I won’t make you delay here, let me take you up to Mwana mugimu, they will work on you properly” and she took me up well, she didn’t make things hard for me. And also, fortunately, in Mwana mugimu, the nurse who had worked overnight knew me and took me through. But in most cases when you first come here, the health workers first abuse you. You explain to her but she’s showing you that she is in a different world.

**Moderator**: What about up there, do they still abuse?

**Respondent 4**: Up there, no one has ever abused me but here, I get a lot of issues. Even another time that I came, I first went up. They are the ones that insisted that I first come down here. But I know that every time I come here, the nurse first abuses me. For her, I marked her even the face, those two I marked them, even when they have just sent me for medicine and I met them, I just go back.

**Moderator**: As that is not good.

**Respondent 4**: I just go back and buy it from the pharmacy other than meeting them.

**Moderator**: Sorry, please forgive us

**Respondent 4**: Even when someone annoys me nurse, the truth is that I tell her off that you have done this and this and it has annoyed me then I keep quiet. They may think I have a big mouth but as long as I have put my point across.

**Moderator**: True, that’s how it should be. What about lady number 5?

**Respondent 5**: When I came here, they treated me well because I brought my daughter on oxygen. She was breathing badly, and they told me to put her back on oxygen. Mucus was stuck in her nostrils. There was a fat lady. She’s a Mukiga really fat (they all laugh) she was in acute where the children are.

**Respondent 4**: That one…eeeh

**Respondent 5**: She didn’t abuse me , she treated me well. She got something and she started sucking out the mucus from the nose. They all got done and she started breathing well. Then after she placed a canula and started treating her and she told me that I will come back tomorrow. When I came back the next day, she again worked on her well. Then after working on her, she sent us to Mwana mugimu

**Moderator**: To Mwana mugimu?

**Respondent 5**: They also worked on us well and they told us they were going to bring the medicine but the right medicine they were supposed to give her, I didn’t see it. They injected her one which wasn’t working on her. As she was getting better, but the noisy breathing was still there, they instead discharged us and they said that she had gotten well.

**Moderator**: How did you know that the medicine that they injected her was not the one they were supposed to inject her.

**Respondent 5**: They worked on her but she kept coughing and breathing badly.

**Moderator**: So, she stayed the same?

**Respondent 5**: I was telling the health workers but they kept telling me that she will be fine. They later discharged us home, we spent a week and she relapsed.

**Moderator**: So, most of the times, us the caretakers or mothers when our children have difficulty in breathing and coughing, some of us delay to come to hospital, some come in the first 24hours after seeing that the child is sick. Have you ever heard that when the child is coughing or having difficulty in breathing, you supposed to bring him to hospital in the first 24hours?

**Respondent 1**: In one day

**Moderator**: In one day

**Respondent 5**: Mine, when she got sick like this (mother R4 interrupts)

**Respondent 4**: You may not have transport money. Even the boda boda man is still demanding me because I told him to bring me and I pay him when we reach. When I reached, I just entered the ward and I left him out there. After sometime I found that he had put the things down there and left. Because I didn’t have. I was going to be there and stop a boda man and he also look at you like a what. Even us as parents, we be wanting but the pockets. Because you can be thinking that if I reach there I have to first of all give the health worker something so that she can soften.

**Respondent 1**: Health workers of this place, what I have noticed with them, me as me although you all saying because me I have seen other health workers who do something for you and you appreciate and you tell her that let me give you a soda and she refuses, I have seen like 3 nurses. Am going to give the nurse money because me I tried it as you would say that someone has helped me. There is one who accompanied me to the echo, we went together and she worked on me, they took the pictures and we even went to the x-ray well. But I said, let me give you this so that you can take a soda and she said no, that this is what we are supposed to do. There was also another one she was very caring. I told him, please have a soda and it wasn’t like I was giving it to her with anyone seeing us. I told her, please have a soda, she said no, use that money to help you

**Moderator**: But have you ever heard that it is good for someone to hurry and take the child in that first day after seeing that that the breathing is not good

**Respondent 3**: We have never heard of it

**Respondent 2**: We didn’t know

**Moderator**: You’ve never heard of it

**Respondent 1**: But me as me, when the child fell ill, I didn’t see that maybe he was breathing badly but I woke up like this, and she cried and vomited. Now in vomiting, I didn’t like it. His father woke up and asked, what is next? He removed a cloth and wore it. And said that the next thing, I think we should go to the hospital

**Moderator**: That you go to hospital

**Respondent 1**: At that juncture, we drove and went to the hospital. Yes, it was far plus as you know the covid situation but even the letters we had (R3 interrupts…they want to take tea)

**Moderator**: The doctor, will get them milk.

**Respondent 3**: Doctor, which milk?

**Dr. Phiona**: The one at Mwana mugimu.

**Respondent 3**: But they are hungry.

**Dr. Phiona**: Please hold on a bit

**Moderator**: Please wait a little bit we first finish

**Respondent 1**: let them go and get a bottle. They should go and get a bottle.

**Dr.Phiona**: Please wait a bit am going to go with you I get you milk (door opens and closes)

**Respondent 4**: They will give us the milk but papa is crying.

**Moderator**: Relax, let us be brief and we hurry.

**Respondent 2**: By the way, there is something else I have understood. These nurses sometimes abusing us wouldn’t have been a problem. If you abuse me but work on me, it’s not a problem.

**Respondent 4**: Me, there is one I almost strangled, am having my problems, she comes, what did she find me doing even, I think I was entering to eat food and she told me to get out, I told her that nurse, here they steal children. Remember they had just stollen a child from a woman. That’s when wonder where they even took that health worker because there was some health worker who saw us and came and saved us.

**Respondent 1**: There is some woman who is so tough.

**Respondent 6**: That women, even when you tell her that they have told me to do this, she says, “don’t order me, sit over there”

**Respondent 3**: Go back there, you come spreading covid here

**Respondent 1**: There is some woman who is so tough.

**Respondent 6**: Now in all those, I took it easy. But she’s the only one I saw who

**Moderator**: Has some character

**Respondent 1**: There is some woman who is so tough.

**Respondent 6**: Yes

**Moderator**: So, you think what benefits does one get from going to hospital early. When you hurry in those 24hours or the day (door is opened and closed)

**Respondent 1**: There is some woman who is so tough.

**Respondent 1**: Its possible if you have hurried, you get treatment before the illness worsens. Every time you get treatment before the illness worsens, it means that the child will heal fast. Eeh. That’s how I see it.

**Moderator**: eeeh, ok what about number 3. What benefits do you think are there in hurrying to seek medical help in those first 24hours?

**Respondent 1**: There is some woman who is so tough.

**Respondent 3**: What’s different, what you would have tried to tell us is maybe to the big hospitals, but generally, we go to hospitals and on time. But we delay to bring them to big hospitals especially the government hospitals. That’s like the last resort. How, that the things in the past made people fed up of Mulago

**Moderator**: What things in the past

**Respondent 3**: Let’s assume for example the current situation these days is for bribing.

**Moderator**: The what?

**Respondent 3**: The situation these days is for bribery to be able to care for the sick. Because me, in all honesty, I took my sister to new Mulago, we went, the child was 3 years. He suddenly caught fever on our way to Ntinda then we decided to hurry and come to Mulago. We found the nurses, the mothers were in a queue, the children were so ill, convulsing. There came a doctor who said, that please, pick out those children that are badly off you first work on them. When he left, one of the nurses asked, the woman asked” madam” the child was 4 years “my child is here convulsing” and they asked her, “ were you the first, and do you think he will be the first to have died?

**Moderator**: eeeeh

**Respondent 4**: One has ever told me that too

**Respondent 3**: We were there, you know first looking to the side only to find the woman throwing the child down dead. We all ran away and I swore never to come back to Mulago. In fact, the health worker who told me that I am sending you to Mulago, my sister, we woke up in the morning and she took me to the lady and told me that lets go and see this child is breathing badly. And we went there with my sister. When we reached there, the lady told me to take the child to acute. I asked her “which acute” and she said “Mulago” and I asked her “where” and she said Mulago, acute is the one that will manage his condition because me I managed to treat the pneumonia but if I inject him, he will need oxygen which I don’t have. Then I said haaa. She said “I know you, don’t even think of going anywhere else” he called the boda guy that she usually uses to transport her patients and told him that you take this one up to acute. Make sure you leave her after she has entered. She told me that that’s the only place the child is going to get life, don’t refuse. I told her that I didn’t have money and she said that that was a government hospital. You to acute, let the boda guy take you. The nurse paid the boda man money that brought us up to here but I had swore not to come back here. In fact, I said, to bring me to Mulago I would run away the moment I regained my consciousness

**Moderator**: hmmmm

**Respondent 3**: that I swore. Every morning I would swear that me coming back to Mulago, even when I regain consciousness if they brought me in after I had fainted, I would run, I would escape. Because what I saw before and all these that have followed, you can’t tell me anything about Mulago. I would rather take the child to private and they demand me all the money, and I leave him there, look for the money then go pick him.

**Moderator**: So, it means you hurry but you first go to the small hospitals?

**Respondent 3**: Yes, why, the disadvantage is that skillful health workers we find in Mulago, you find that he may have made a clinic or hospital but you can still see them from that side and you won’t see him because he leaves there nurses though sometimes, they are effective, you understand. So, for me I say, a wise person, me government things, in my life I tell you the truth, I got fed up of them, I got fed up

**Moderator**: You got fed up of them

**Respondent 3**: Even when we got the child from hospital, we didn’t have money but we took him to the hospital and dumped him there

**Moderator**: laughs

**Respondent 3**: They treated the child but we were looking at each other like this wondering where the money was going to come from but they had worked on the child, A child, of 4years dying while in a queue just because you are working on those who came first? What is that. All those came first, but the doctor had just told them to sort out those who are worse off, those are the ones you should work on first. That thing stayed on my mind because I was even still a young woman before I even delivered. I said Mulago, me? God forbid. I could avoid all government hospitals. Also, this time when we came, I came but my heart wasn’t settled. I knew this time I was finished. In getting a mackintosh, they said “we got fed up of you, the mackintosh is 3000 shillings” I told her I only had 2000 shillings. “bring 3000 (while shouting)” and I told her that the child is doing so badly. I really felt bad and continued to remember the other scenario and I felt so fed up.

**Moderator**: You were fed up, sorry (mother starts to cry) what about number 2? Which benefits do you see in hurrying to bring the child to hospital?

**Respondent 2**: When the child had just fallen ill, when we bring them early, nurses can hurry, the child gets treatment early before the illness gets worse.

**Moderator**: What about my lady number 4?

**Respondent 4**: (she laughs). Let me first laugh because hurrying is good because if you hurry, you don’t delay at the hospital. But I don’t even know how to phrase this one. I don’t even know. Hmmm. We usually want to hurry but you first ask yourself, you ask yourself that but why don’t I first rush her here because most of us fear, the moment they say that haaaa, they are going to admit her, you start worrying about money, now for eating, now for what. But then you say, why don’t I first rush her to the pharmacy and buy a few medicines. But the moment you spend there, you realize it has solved much. Then you say, now taking her to Mulago, am going to go and meet there such a nurse, who might even first abuse me, or feel sweet on me, you basically come thinking about all that. Then you say, let me take heart, and the sad bit is all as you came contemplating it, it happens (they all laugh)

**Moderator**: It all happens

**Respondent 4**: Yes, me I don’t tell lies about someone. I can even talk when you are there and I tell you what you did to me, because me I don’t know how to back bite. I tell you what has hurt me and also what has made me happy.

**Moderator**: What has made you happy. Now I find the nurse moving somewhere and I call her” nurse , nurse?” and she shouts “what?” now if you find me who didn’t go to school and you tell me in English, I can’t hear it, I don’t know it and you are speaking to me in English. One health worker asked “what?” (mother tries to remember) I told her that I hadn’t understood that because I don’t know English well. She did this (mother does a sign that shows empty headedness) oh God, what I did I just got my cup and a flask and real acted like I was incapacitated. “what’s your name” nurse, am coming from Kisasi. “am asking for you names” eeeh. Am this, nurse I don’t know English

**Moderator**: Because of what she did to you?

**Respondent 4**: Yes, because of what she did to me. Because you are going to come, okay I accept some are bad but now you are going to talk to me in English which I don’t understand, then you abuse me then embark on other things. Now you are thinking what if the child dies from here. It’s like in Mwana mugimu. The nurse came, this real one who slept there last night yesterday, she came and knocked where we were in the oxygen room. Without waking us up, she just came and injected the children medicine. See how she injects a dead body. Me I had woken up and seen her. So, the woman woke me up “mama aliya” yes, “my child” and I told her to go away, the child who the nurse has just given medicine right now? What time has he died?

**Moderator**: hmmm

**Respondent 4**: Remember she didn’t talk to any of us. She didn’t even say hello or find out how our children slept. She just came and injected the children medicine. I told her that the nurse has just given him medicine. She asked me which nurse and I told her, ”that one” and the woman started blaming the nurse that she killed her child. Nurse you have killed my child.

**Moderator**: Because she didn’t wake her up?

**Respondent 4**: Because she didn’t wake her up. She cried and said that us from the ward were telling lies against her. So, the bosses came and asked us to say what we saw. Me told them that the nurse came when I was seeing and she injected all our children medicine as I was seeing her. She injected that child last. Now me I didn’t know if he was dead. When this one (mother to the deceased) woke up and called me, I told her that the child had died now what wrong did I do? So, another time she repeated it again. She again injected the medicine into a dead child and told us not to say a thing that if we do, she will also sell us in Nakasero, that we shouldn’t make her get sacked from her job although what.

**Moderator**: Yet she injected again

**Respondent**: She did it again. Remember for her when she comes, even if you take your child, she just injects and she doesn’t laugh. The way I would find you there and joke that “hi nurse” remember some of us just usually joke around. Hi nurse, this and that. Even us love to befriend you the health workers, I can even take your number and I call you, nurse, my child is exhibiting such and such signs so that you advise me. But for her she doesn’t smile. She unapproachable. You can be conversing your own things and she ear drops. She picks out one word and she comes and abuses you

**Moderator**: eeeeh

**Respondent 4**: So, that day she told us not to talk and that day oxygen for that child was done and she told me, when health workers ask you, don’t say a word. If you sell me out, I will also sell you at Nakasero

**Moderator**: at Nakasero, what’s that?( other mothers wondering)

**Respondent 4**: Me I thought maybe that’s where she benefits from. I didn’t say a word, I just kept quiet. They came and arranged the dead body, added some oxygen. But health workers, we are begging you, even us, how can I put it? Because I don’t know any English but am going to come and you start communicating in English and I can’t hear it, so am I wrong to just keep asking what? Because she did it to me and I also pretended to be incapacitated. I got my flask and I made tea while she was asking for my names. And I told her that I was coming from Kisasi not until she switched to Luganda. But what makes me sad, I haven’t grown with mum, even my child may die? I want to get that happiness of having a child but for her she is instead asking me this and that. I told her nurse, please ask me those later but what does my child need. “you are there just painting nails, how long has the child been sick for” it’s not been a month, just days

**Moderator**: eeeh, that’s really sad.

**Respondent 4:** But we as caretakers get some challenges with the health workers. Me I would love if I on leaving the hospital, I get close to a health worker and I take her number so that when I get any problems before I go to the pharmacy I first call

**Moderator**: the health worker

**Respondent 4**: The health worker. Me on bringing this child here, only because the nurses were taken to Kawempe but they were my very good friends. In fact, I got two nurses from there. I told her, but nurse, this one has shown me such a sign, she first had her eyes swollen. And from swelling the face, now also the feet and she told, do you know what you are going to do? You take her early morning to the hospital but first press on her. If the flesh takes long to return, she’s swollen. She said that now I can’t direct you on the phone but take the child to Mulago but in Mwana mugimu where you were before and that’s how they welcomed me.

**Moderator**: What about lady number 5?

**Respondent 5**: When I bring my child to hospital, my hope is that she gets better and we go back home when she has healed. That’s my thought

**Moderator**: You think bringing her early has a way it can make a change?

**Respondent 5**: I be hopeful that she will get better.

**Moderator**: What about lady number 6?

**Respondent 6**: Me, all I can say is maybe giving advice to my fellow women. This issue of difficulty in breathing, let’s get it well, it needs here but the fevers and these other things, for them that show signs slowly, I plead with you my fellow women, don’t avoid government hospitals. In the villages you can find a hospital but with one health worker and no drugs but that health worker am sure he’s usually qualified. Me even if I go to the hospital and they don’t give me medicine but as long as he has written in my book, I go to the clinic knowing that the medicine am going to buy from the clinic it’s the real one which is going to work and heal. But every time we first go to the clinic, the clinic these days they have become a business, they are looking to sell. It’s the beautiful face that sits at the reception. That beautiful face studied yes but didn’t study medicine so you reach there, she just looks and says,” I have ever heard that if you get septrin and add this medicine that makes you sleepy, piriton (mothers laugh) and she gives it to you but in actual sense it’s not compatible with the illness at that time. Me when I go to the government hospital, that thing you have written is what is important.

**Moderator**: let’s try to hurry, so, when the child has fallen sick at home, when you decide. What makes you decide early that let me take him to hospital and what prevents you from not deciding early. When you see that your child is sick.

**Respondent 4:** For some, like me, you can’t tell me that don’t decide early. If the child falls sick and I go to the pharmacy the first time and I tell the nurse that the child is suffering from this and that, and they take off blood and say that maybe he has typhoid or malaria. When they treat her first time and she doesn’t get better, I take her to a hospital but not the government ones, you understand.

**Moderator**: But immediately you see that he is sick, do you immediately take him to hospital?

**Respondent 3:** Yes, me I can’t become a wiseacre that I buy him tablets. Maybe if it’s a headache, there I’ll buy some panadols but not fevers.

**Moderator**: So, when you decide that let me take the child to hospital or pharmacy or anywhere else, there in between leaving home and going to hospital. What usually prevents you from reaching on time

**Respondent 3:** What does what?

**Moderator**: What mostly prevents you from reaching on time?

**Respondent 3:** To the government or private hospital.

**Moderator**: Anywhere you might have chosen to go.

**Respondent 3:** What you should have told me or asked me is what makes you delay to come to the government hospital that has doctors that are qualified.

**Moderator**: Exactly that

**Respondent 3:** That’s what I first told you that for me to get that thought of approaching the doctor who is qualified, I won’t get him yet in the other hospitals, I will be able to see that doctor. You understand? And that it will be quick for me. Most people, a big number of people it’s what they do and that doctor can even be the family doctor treating all of you, when you all go to him as a family. You understand?

**Moderator**: hmmm

**Respondent 3:** So, for him when he gets really defeated, then he sends you that the government hospital after he fails

**Respondent 1:** When you are badly off

**Respondent 3:** ahaaa

**Respondent 1:** Then you reach this side and the quarrel and abuse you that you have delayed home

**Respondent 3:** Ahaaaa. Now for me from home, I can’t wake up and say that am coming to Mulago that am going to get a doctor. You can come like us you have taken long without coming to Mulago and the things we know about it. You go and say, let me rather die from a private. You understand? Eeee.

**Moderator**: What about when you reach the government hospital

**Respondent 3:** The good thing that I have found here this time is, things can’t be equal. The good thing now is that the situation is not as it was in the past. The nice people are there and they are more but even the bad ones can’t miss but at least because when we reached here except the one this lady has talked about and the Mukiga lady were the difficult ones but the rest. Every time I could say that the mosquitoes are biting this child, take me to Mwana mugimu, there are mosquito nets. One of them said that no, he is still on oxygen, he can’t move up. Until they got some and they told us to go up. Even the other side is not bad. As I said, you can’t fail to get bad ones but the situation, I can also still go back the other side and I tell them that please people, you go to Mulago. They will work on you (some laugh)

**Moderator**: What about number 1, what do you think about it?

**Respondent 3:** Me?

**Moderator**: Yes, When the child is ill and you are home, to decide that let me take the child to hospital

**Respondent 1:** Me the way I fear, I decide very fast, I don’t know how to delay. I feel so bad when my child is sick. The moment I realize like this, I go immediately.

**Moderator**: You go immediately

**Respondent 1:** Whether its government or private, only that I rarely use government. I usually go to the private. Only that this time, even where I went was also a referral hospital, it was easier for me except it charges but it was easier for me, it’s a big hospital, Kitovu but I really don’t use such hospitals I usually use private. I have now realized that big hospitals are many because labor affected me but when I got better like this, I realized that if I wasn’t in a big hospital, I wouldn’t be alive.

**Moderator**: You wouldn’t be alive

**Respondent 1:** Yes, I wouldn’t be alive because I finished delivering like this and also the person who helped was from a private hospital because I reached there and she referred me to kitovu. She said that I can’t manage you, the child you are going to deliver is a premature. There are a lot of things that the baby needs to be put in that I don’t have. So, when I reached there, they delivered me and I left. I delivered well and finished. Then the situation suddenly changed, it changed and I fainted and all that. If I wasn’t in a big hospital, because there where different doctors and they had discussions and even called some who, where not there and consulted on whatever had failed yet had I been in a private hospital, it’s a one man decision. At this time, in fact even yesterday I told them that I have realized that big hospitals are better than the privates.

**Moderator**: We are about to finish (moderator tells the mothers as they try to leave)

**Moderator**: Did you get any difficulties from home that delayed you to get to hospital?

**Respondent 1:** No, I didn’t have any obstacles

**Moderator**: What about getting treatment. Did you get it immediately or not?

**Respondent 1:** I got it immediately

**Moderator**: What about lady number 4? (mothers try to leave, one opens the door) what about number 5. Was it easy for you to leave home and come to hospital?

**Respondent 5:** It was easy for me because we came in an ambulance as the child was breathing badly. They told me to take her to Mwana mugimu. We first came here, they worked on us and sent us to mwana mugimu

**Moderator**: So, they worked on her immediately.

**Respondent 5**: hmmm

**Moderator**: What about lady number 2. Coming to hospital was it hard or easy for you?

**Respondent 5:** I didn’t get any issues

**Moderator**: you have no issues. What about when you got to hospital, did you get the treatment immediately or it delayed.

**Respondent 5:** I think it’s just my luck but I get usually good care immediately

**Moderator**: What about lady number 4?

**Respondent 4:** Me I have nothing to say. Me I just see them.

**Dr. Phiona**: okay, let me give you a token of appreciation (as mothers try to leave) then you can leave.

**Respondent 4:** Now I have friends in Mwana mugimu, even if I come and you bark at me here as long as I know that when I get to Mwana mugimu they will handle me well. All I need they will do well. That’s why sometimes when I come here, the nurse comes and calms me but when I know in the morning she will come and get me away from here. Am going to a different ward.

**Moderator**: But do you have any ways you would like us to make your coming from home to the hospital faster?

**Respondent 3:** If it’s there

**Respondent 4:** If it’s there, (child falls)they can help us

**Moderator**: Sorry, ahaaa, like what do you want us to do that can fasten your coming from home to the hospital

**Respondent 4:** I have left that to them

**Moderator**: No, tell us (as they all laugh)

**Respondent 3:** like transport

**Respondent 5:** As me who stays far

**Respondent 3:** Now, some organizations can have cars, in that if you have gotten a problem and you have no transport means, there are those who can afford and those that can’t afford but incase this person calls a health worker and the health worker is concerned with such issues or working with such an organization. He can connect you and you reach to hospital quickly. You understand, but there is also one who will tell you that these ambulances are for the government, that first pay fuel for 80000 shillings and we pour in.

**Respondent 4:** yet you don’t have a coin

**Respondent 4:** The police cars, someone dies and they tell you to fuel the car so that they can fetch the dead body. Where is the money, what if I didn’t have it and yet you are telling me to fuel the car, so such things.

**Respondent 4:** They are all difficult. There are those who have and those who don’t have.

**Respondent 3:** But even if you send someone money that board and come, to me the transport means are the best. Even if it’s a boda and you say, there is the safe boda, let it come and pick you.

**Moderator**: eeeh, then lastly, do you know any traditional ways that can help the child, with exception of what you told me that help the child with pneumonia. Any traditional ways you know or have tried.

**Respondent 3:** Maybe like me, traditional ways are different, there is now like herbal medicine. like my sister had told me that I can get a basin, with water and a very warm towel then you cover the child. You cover yourself and the child not him alone. You cover him, it can help release this thing here (mother points to the nostrils)

**Moderator**: The mucus? Yes, and it flows and every day I use it but after some days have gone by, you reduce on the frequency. You can do it like every after two days and you be warming him and she told me that it works. That if he swallowed as they tell us? The other things get out. I hadn’t done it because we are still in the hospital. Because the example as she was telling me because even me what I remember is when I put a cloth here, I see things come out.

**Moderator**: Things come out

**Respondent 3:** And also, what she told me was that I cover so that they can move from the chest to up so that the whole head can get. The other thing she told me, this one is still so young I couldn’t do it, she told me to put rob (menthol) but this one is still young. So, she told me to cover him in plain water only but I don’t have any way I can do it from here.

**Moderator**: who knows any other ways

**Respondent 1:** If she is in “ekyogero”

**Respondent 3:** It’s all the same because my sister was also telling me to get “ ekyogero” I cover him with all the tree barks

**Moderator**: All the tree barks

**Respondent 1:** The “kyogero” can help him if he’s still young

**Moderator**: What about you, don’t you have any other traditional ways?

**Respondents 5 and 6**: We don’t have nurse

**Moderator**: You don’t have. But what do you think about pneumonia as a disease? From the experience you have been through, what do you think about this disease

**Respondent 1:** Me I asked mine but you didn’t reply me, how does pneumonia cure?

**Moderator**: We are going to reply you but it cures.

**Respondent 4:** Pneumonia does what?

**Moderator**: It heals

**Respondent 6:** Others say that it kills fast

**Respondent 4:** lets first repeat the way you have asked us. That we have seen the disease

**Moderator**: Yes, what do you think about it and what do you hear people talking about it, the pneumonia illness

**Respondent 3:** Me what I know most is that this thing, if you hurry, the child can heal but if you haven’t, he heals but not really, he just becomes weak all the time. Gets a lot of flu. If he gets cough or that sticky kind of flu, it shows. And another thing, this disease, so many children have it these days. Which wasn’t the case in the past. That’s why I ask you as health workers, why is it so?

**Respondent 2:** Where does it come from

**Respondent 3:** Also, this illness is too rampant more than it was in the past. Everyone you here is saying that the child is breathing badly, child is on oxygen. You understand. Now am also asking you nurses why?

**Moderator**: The doctor is going to reply you

**Dr. Phiona**: Am going to reply you

**Moderator**: She is going to reply to all your questions. But there, because the other had told me that she thought it didn’t heal.

**Respondent 1:** What I thought like how I delivered this one when he was still young. why is it that when they are in the nursery, they don’t cover them because if mine got pneumonia, I might think he acquired it from there for this reason that the time I have spent with that child in that nursery, they were not allowing me to cover him and there was a lot of warmth coming from the many lights.

**Moderator**: As the doctor is appreciating you

**Respondent 1:** There are usually so many lights. So those lights could bring a lot of warmth. You have to keep him uncovered because he spent (mother raises 2 fingers) weeks.

**Moderator**: That thing has warmth that it brings on its own which is more than what can be generated if you covered him

**Respondent 6:** They make it equal to the one in utero

**Moderator**: That’s why you didn’t need to cover him

**Respondent 1:** I thought it was because I didn’t cover him

**Moderator**: But where you stay, what do people say pneumonia is

**Respondent 2:** They say it kills

**Moderator**: That it kills?

**Respondent 5:** That even if you take her for treatment, you are wasting your time. She will still die

(Mothers rumble on)

**Respondent 1:** Me what I know, there is no disease that doesn’t kill

**Respondent 4:** For me nurse, why I say that it doesn’t kill, I have a friend. She delivered a child in Kisenyi and we came here in Mulago, that time I hadn’t yet had a child, I had not even had the thought. But for me, what I know about it, because they brought him here and sent him to ward 16. But that child, every stage he reaches, he gets the illness. Every stage, now he’s about 12 years but he’s still alive

**Respondent 5:** Has it reduced?

**Respondent 4:** Okay every stage he reaches, it comes again and again like that. That’s why I say that it doesn’t kill but you feel the pain a little.

**Respondent 6:** It kills if the parent doesn’t give enough care

Mothers make small talks amongst themselves

**Respondent 6:** I think if I didn’t have mine, he would have already died. Even when am thinking the child may not need a hospital, my husband says, rush, immediately but if I was taking care of him alone, I wouldn’t have still been with him.

**Moderator**: Okay, thank you

**Respondent 4:** Is it true that its acquired through air or not.

**Respondent 5:** Is it through covering them or they are born with it?

**Moderator**: It’s caused by various things but mostly through air

**Respondent 4:** But let me ask, maybe it’s just stupid but now as I am. Can I acquire it?

**Moderator**: No, you’re old.

**Dr. Phiona:** What prevents parents in the community from bringing their children early to hospital. You have mentioned some like the health workers of this place. What other things hinder them?

**Respondent 4:** Doctor, let’s talk about that issue because it has affected me and it’s affecting me right now, in most cases. For example, I separated with my husband because he wasn’t supporting me, I left when I was pregnant. He denied the pregnancy, even if he accepted it but wasn’t giving me a coin. He doesn’t help me in any way. Am the mother and the father. Now at that moment, I don’t have a single coin. I have nothing to do, you look for who to ask but can’t find any. In most cases you can have your siblings but when you get a problem, they avoid you. So, you sit and think and can’t figure a thing out. You know you will be admitted, yet you have to eat. Sometimes there is no medicine and the nurse has to tell you to go and buy it. You come thinking about all those. You find the child has fallen sick and gotten stunted from home but all because of the pocket. When you call your husband’s brother, they say aaah, can’t your husband sort your problems. I have been challenged in that aspect but am terrified, am standing strong. So, what am saying nurse such a thing springs from men. Sometimes the child may fall sick when you are with a man but he’s also there like that, you will tell him and he will show you, remember the child is sick the man is not bothered. It doesn’t bother him.

**Respondent 3:** It bothers them

**Respondent 5:** It bothers them only that

**Respondent 4:** No, it doesn’t bother them

**Respondent 3:** Some

**Respondent 5:** Yes some

**Respondent 3:** But there are those when he himself you have delivered a child but he also lacks the capability. When he lacks the capability but when he’s also a man

**Respondent 1:** But men have so much abandoned their responsibility

**Respondent 3:** That’s true

**Respondent 5:** Because in this era, out of 100 men, you find 20 or 10 men who are responsible for their children. Most of the responsibility was left to us because it is you who is mostly bothered.

**Respondent 1:** You realize that some women, they stay so far from where the hospitals are. They come from so far yet they are in terrible health. Some women do not earn. They don’t have a daily income. Some have men who refuse them to work and he refuses her to put anything even if its maybe for rearing. In the village some women be rearing but she won’t have a way of doing that.

**Respondent 3:** Also, another thing is that you not only looking at this one child who has fallen sick. You have like 3 children. They are all looking at you. Have you ever woken up in the morning only to find all the 3 children in the house are sick? 3. If it has never happened to you, thank God. All of them fall sick at once. Now you ask yourself, who do I work on fast and who do I leave but you are wondering while having only 5000 shillings. Now this is what I have told you that at least one needs some money. But me, if I told the nurse that “nurse, I want some money, if the child is sick. Me what I see is to call the health worker who can get in touch with the organization as I said which has transport means. It would have been easier for the mothers. So much because women are responsible for everything. How many men do you see doing that? They are few.

**Moderator**: There is something I forgot to ask you. You told me steaming your sister told you about. Say if you do it and the child improves. Do you think it will still be necessary to take him to hospital or not, will just opt to stay home?

**Respondent 3:** Its necessary to go to hospital but it’s possible. But you can also help the health worker. When the health worker gives you the medicine, because if it can get this thing to come out (mother points to the nose) we are not going to cure the cough or the illness that is in the lungs. But if we can get this that he’s able to breathe, are the other things going to stay there? You understand/ there is an illness that brought about that so it needs to be treated so you will still have to go to the hospital. Here you are just helping the health worker a bit. That’s what I think

**Moderator**: But do you hear of some people who stay there thinking ill just do this to the child?

**Respondent 3:** Yes, they are there. There are those who always never take their children to hospital. In case the child gets sick, she will just cut some trees and give him and he gets better.

**Respondent 4**: Even bathe him.

**Respondent 3:**: And the whole time he will be there jumping around. Now for me this is the only first child that has given me trouble till reaching admission. Up to all this. Me in most cases for example children. I would get a big stick that my auntie gave me. The other stick, the moment you realize that the child has a temperature, that fever, you don’t bother going to the pharmacy. Nooo, even her she tells you that if you give it to him and he wakes up with a fever still you take him to the hospital, that’s what she tells you. Unless it’s not fever. You could give it to him and he drinks and sleeps and wakes up when he is fine. You give him (mother raises 3 fingers) times every day and you don’t give it again. And it will take him more (mother raises 2 fingers) years when he has not gotten fevers again. But we are all not going to base on that, no. because I would have been with papa there when am doing like this, this and that.

**Moderator**: hmmm. Lady number 5, you have never used such things before?

**Respondent 5:** I can’t lie to you nurse, I have never used them.

**Moderator**: Even this lady here? Every time the child gets sick, you rush to hospital?

**Respondent 6:** My first born didn’t give me much trouble. It’s this one that has

**Moderator**: As if you knew that I was coming your side,

**Respondent 1**: hmmm, now me what can I tell you?

Mothers all laugh

Thank you so much. We are really appreciative

**Respondent 1:** This illness, I have never had a child suffer from it

**Moderator**: But you have been hearing about it

**Respondent 1:** I hear it I hear about pneumonia but I had never had a child suffer from it. It has actually made me happy to come and join these others so that I can learn what to do next because I have also learned something. There are some things I will see and say, these people said this (someone opens and closes the door) but I didn’t know them.

**Moderator**: But there, where you coming from, you hear people saying that the children are treated with what?

**Respondent 1:** I wasn’t giving it

**Moderator**: You maybe be there and the neighbors say something that us pneumonia children, we do this and that

**Respondent 1:** I had never noticed. I wasn’t giving it a lot of attention

**Moderator**: Thank you so much. We appreciate all the time you have given us. Please do the same next time

**Respondent 1:** When will we come back? Please also pray for us so that we may not have to come back

**Moderator**: lets pray