Environmental Health Officials Interview Guide

National Background
1. Name:
2. Gender:
3. Position:
4. How long have you held this position?
5. What training did you have to prepare you for this position?
6. What are your responsibilities and duties?
7. How long have you worked in the environmental health or infection prevention fields?
8. What is your understanding of what environmental health encompasses?
   a. (If not mentioned) Could you tell me about your understanding of environmental health as it relates to human rights?
   b. We define environmental health as environmental components that impact the safety and the quality of health care which include water, sanitation, hygiene, waste, and energy.

Policy
9. As far as you know, are there any new policies, strategies, or implementation frameworks that you can tell me about that are currently being drafted or considered related to environmental health? (Mention at this point the key components we consider to be a part of environmental health)
10. Could you describe the successes and failures of implementations of the environmental health components of existing policies and frameworks, specifically within health care facilities?
   a. In the cases of successes, what has enabled implementation to go smoothly?
   b. In the cases of failures, what specific challenges arose?
11. Is data on energy availability, reliability, or consistency collected in any part of the country? Why or why not?
   a. Prompt: Where is the data stored?
   b. Prompt: Is anything done with the data?

Prioritization/Budget
12. In your opinion, to what extent are environmental health and infection prevention priorities for the government? Why do you think they are (or are not) priorities?
   a. Prompt: Do you think energy availability, reliability, or consistency impact health care coverage in your country? In what ways?
13. Do you believe environmental health is a priority within health care facilities? Why or why not? If not, do you think it should be? How?
14. What systems and structures are in place at the national, district, and local levels related to environmental health in health care facilities, specifically related to coordination?
   a. Prompt: What are some strengths of the systems and structures in place? (What makes them effective/strong?)
   b. Prompt: What are some weaknesses of the systems and structures in place? (What creates those challenges?)
   c. Prompt: What do you think can be done to improve these systems and structures?
   d. [If not already addressed] Prompt: Could you talk about the division of environmental health responsibilities and duties?
   e. Are you a part of any technical working groups?
i. [If yes] Prompt: Could you talk a little bit about the roles of the group and your involvement?

Stakeholders

15. Who are the main stakeholders involved in environmental health and infection prevention, specifically as they relate to health care facilities? (governmental, nongovernmental, international, etc.) What are each of their roles?

16. Could you please describe any systems or structures in place for coordination between the different stakeholders?
   a. Prompt: What are some strengths of the systems and structures in place? (What makes them effective/strong?)
   b. Prompt: What are some weaknesses of the systems and structures in place? (What creates those challenges?)

General Comments/Recommendations

17. What is your general impression of the state of environmental health in health care facilities? Why do you think things are the way they are in terms of prioritization and implementation?

18. Do you have any recommendations or comments? (This could be related to policy development, budget allocations, prioritization, community engagement, advocacy, governmental leadership, service delivery, sustainability, etc.—what is and is not important to specifically ask about?)

19. What do you think the biggest opportunity for improving environmental health in health care facilities?

20. Do you have any questions?
District Background

1. Name:
2. Gender:
3. Position:
4. How long have you held this position?
5. What training did you have to prepare you for this position?
6. What are your responsibilities and duties?
7. How long have you worked in the environmental health or infection prevention fields?
8. What is your understanding of what environmental health encompasses?
   a. Could you tell me about your understanding of environmental health as it relates to human rights?

Policy/Prioritization

9. Could you please describe any national policies or global commitments that you know of that you think are most important for environmental health in health care facilities? (Mention at this point the key components we consider to be a part of environmental health)
10. Could you tell me about your mandates and official duties as they relate to implementing national environmental health policies? (If not already addressed previously)
11. What systems and structures are in place to coordinate responsibilities and duties between the other levels of government?
   a. Prompt: What do you think could be done to improve these systems and structures?
12. Are you a part of any councils or committees related to environmental health?
   a. Prompt: E.g. Technical working groups, Area Development Committees, District Council, etc.
   b. [If yes] Prompt: Could you describe the roles of this group and how their work contributes to the facilitation of environmental health?
13. Could you describe what you believe are successes and failures of implementing environmental health components of existing policies and frameworks, specifically within health care facilities?
   a. In the cases of successes, what has enabled implementation to go smoothly?
   b. In the cases of failures, what specific challenges arose?
      i. Prompt: Could you talk a bit more about the financial/budgetary challenges?
14. Do you believe environmental health is a priority within health care facilities? Why or why not? If not, do you think it should be?
15. Do you feel as though energy is understood to be a necessary part of the functioning of a healthcare facility?
   a. Prompt: In what ways could energy services be improved to healthcare facilities in the country?

Stakeholders

16. From your point of view, who are the main stakeholders involved in environmental health and infection prevention, specifically as they relate to health care facilities? (governmental, nongovernmental, international, etc.) What are each of their roles?
17. Could you please describe any systems or structures in place for coordination between the different stakeholders?
   a. What are some strengths of the systems and structures in place? (What makes them effective/strong?)
b. What are some weaknesses of the systems and structures in place? (What creates those challenges?)

**General Comments/Recommendations**

18. What is your general impression of the state of environmental health in health care facilities?
   Why do you think things are the way they are in terms of prioritization and implementation?
19. Do you have any recommendations or comments? (This could be related to policy development, budget allocations, prioritization, community engagement, advocacy, governmental leadership, service delivery, sustainability, etc.)
20. What do you think the biggest opportunity for improving environmental health in health care facilities?
21. Do you have any questions?
Facility/Community

Background
1. Name:
2. Gender:
3. Position:
4. How long have you held this position?
5. What training did you have to prepare you for this position?
6. What are your responsibilities and duties?
7. How long have you worked in the environmental health or infection prevention fields?
8. What is your understanding of what environmental health encompasses?
   a. (If not mentioned) Could you tell me about your understanding of environmental health as it relates to human rights?

Policy/Prioritization
9. Could you please describe any national policies or global commitments that you know of that you think are most important for environmental health in health care facilities? (Mention at this point the key components we consider to be a part of environmental health)
10. Could you tell me about your mandates and official duties as they relate to implementing national environmental health policies?
11. What systems and structures are in place to coordinate responsibilities and duties with the district government and how much autonomy do you have to make decisions about environmental health issues within healthcare facilities?
   a. What do you think could be done to improve these systems and structures?
12. Are you a part of any councils or committees related to environmental health?
   a. Prompt: E.g. Area Development Committees, Health Advisory Committee, etc.
   b. [If yes] Prompt: Could you describe the roles of this group and how their work contributes to the facilitation of environmental health?
13. Could you describe what you believe are successes and challenges of implementing environmental health within health care facilities?
   a. In the cases of successes, what has enabled implementation to go smoothly?
   b. In the cases of failures, what specific challenges arose?
14. Do you believe environmental health is a priority within health care facilities? Why or why not? If not, do you think it should be?
15. Do you feel as though energy is understood to be a necessary part of the functioning of a healthcare facility?
   a. Prompt: In what ways could energy services be improved to healthcare facilities in the country?

Stakeholders
16. From your point of view, who are the main stakeholders involved in environmental health and infection prevention, specifically as they relate to health care facilities? (governmental, nongovernmental, international, etc.) What are each of their roles?
17. Could you please describe any systems or structures in place for coordination between the different stakeholders?
   a. What are some strengths of the systems and structures in place? (What makes them effective/strong?)
   b. What are some weaknesses of the systems and structures in place? (What creates those challenges?)
General Comments/Recommendations

18. What is your general impression of the state of environmental health in health care facilities? Why do you think things are the way they are in terms of prioritization and implementation?

19. Do you have any recommendations or comments? (This could be related to policy development, budget allocations, prioritization, community engagement, advocacy, governmental leadership, service delivery, sustainability, etc.)

20. What do you think the biggest opportunity for improving environmental health in health care facilities?

21. Do you have any questions?