Guidance for refining problem tree analysis

1. Divide the workshop participants into three groups and ensure that at least one research team member is in each group.

2. Provide guidance on how to refine problem tree analysis (see steps below).

3. Ask each District Health Management Team to look at the problem trees that they developed in the first stakeholder workshop, and ask them to prioritise one or two of these problems. These problems will be the ones which will be used for the development of the bundles of strategies, so they should be the problems which the District Health Management Team want to address immediately.

4. Review the selected problem tree(s). Look at one problem tree, and then if you have time move to the second selected problem tree. It is important to make sure that you spend enough time reviewing and revising the problem tree so that it is clear and logical as this will facilitate developing the bundles of strategies.

    In order to help guide the discussion on refining the problem trees, the following prompts could be used:
    - Are there logical links between levels in problem tree?
    - Are these the root causes of the problems? Or are they the effects or symptoms?
    - Are the causes clearly written?
    - Are the causes too similar? You may need to differentiate
    - Try to explore in more depth to understand all the causes – use the "but why" question
    - Focus on real problems rather than generic problems

5. Once the problem tree is revised, then the District Health Management Team (with support from the research team) can present this to another District Health Management Team for their comments as a form of peer review. The District Health Management Team can then finalise the problem tree.