**03A.3 Safe burials in Mambia village**

**Community engagement case-scenario – Facilitator guide**

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| TYPE OF ACTIVITY | Case-scenario |
| LEARNING OBJECTIVES | At the end of this activity, participants will be able to:   * Discuss the importance of safe burials * Identify beliefs and cultural practices associated with burials * Discuss challenges and opportunities for encourage safe burial among Ebola victims * Outline steps required to successful engage community healers, elders and leaders in safe burials. |
| SUGGESTED TIME | 60’ |
| STEPS | * Divide the participants into groups (5’) * Read the instructions for the exercise (5’) * Group work (20’) * Ask the group members to share their responses and present them during plenary (20’) * Highlight key messages (10’) |

**A. The situation**

The Mambia Village agreed on a new procedure to implement safe burials in their community. The chief and safe burial committee was charged with the responsibility of ensuring that families that have lost their members from Ebola comply with the set standards introduced by the health workers. However, it was noticed that some family members in many villages hide their dead bodies and buried them at night after performing burial rituals. Specifically, one of the elders and renowned traditional healer in Zondela village warned that if burial rites are not fully performed for any disease they will not enter in heaven. “*This is a serious offence in our culture”,* he said.Most of community members in Zondela listen to the advice given by the elder and resisted to carryout safer burials advice for fear of contravening ancestral laws**.**

**2. Questions**

1. Discuss the importance of safe burials
2. Identify beliefs and cultural practices associated with burials
3. Discuss challenges and opportunities for encourage safe burial among ebola victims
4. Outline steps required to successful engage community healers, elders and leaders in safe burials.