

APPENDIX 1: In-Depth Interview Guide

Barriers and Facilitators to HTS Uptake Among Adolescents and Young Adults

In-Depth Interview Guide – Adolescents and Young Adults

Location: Sitola (MDH)/ Urban: Kawinga (Ntaja HC)/ Rural:

Date: Day: Month: Year:

Respondent details:

Gender:		Ever tested:		Age Bracket:	
M: <input type="checkbox"/>	F: <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>	15-19: <input type="checkbox"/>	20-24: <input type="checkbox"/>

Duration of Interview (in minutes): _____

STEP 1: Introduction of the Interview Process

The interviewer:

- Introduces her/himself; and
- Explains the purpose of the Interview

1. Beliefs & Perceptions about HIV Testing & Counselling

- a. As an individual;
 - i. Have you ever felt that you are at risk of getting infected by HIV?
 - ii. Have you voluntarily considered getting yourself tested for HIV?
- b. In your opinion, what are the benefits of getting tested for HIV for an individual? (**PROBE:** linkage to care and treatment, motivation to take preventive measures for oneself and partners, among others)
- c. What do you consider as the significance of HIV testing in relationships/marriages?
- d. In your opinion, why would a couple want to get tested together for HIV? How do you view couples that decide to jointly get tested for HIV?

- e. What are some of the negative consequences of not getting tested for HIV? (**PROBE:** for the individual? For the partner? For the children? For the family as a whole?)
- f. What type of person do you think is eligible for anti-retroviral treatment? (**IDEAL:** every HIV-positive person regardless of physical appearance or wellbeing, health status, appearance of symptoms, etc.)

2. Knowledge of HIV Transmission

- a. Tell me what you know about the ways through which HIV is transmitted from one person to another? (**PROBE for:** unprotected sex, from an infected mother to a child during pregnancy and/or lactation, sharing of unsterilized needles and any other piercing instruments, any other exchanges of bodily fluids)
- b. You have mentioned all these modes of HIV transmission; which ones are the most common according to what you know?
- c. How often should an HIV negative person be tested in order for them to be continually sure of their negative status?

3. Decision Making Regarding HIV Testing

- a. If you wanted to get tested for HIV, how would you go about making that decision? (**PROBE:** Couple discussion? Role of friends and family members? Role of health service providers?)
- b. You have mentioned that you would discuss the decision with partner/friends/family. Can you demonstrate how you would initiate that discussion?
- c. What would make it easier for you and your partner to discuss HIV/AIDS issues and making a decision to get tested for HIV? (**PROBE:** What does a woman need to make this happen? What does a man need to make this happen?)
- d. What would make it easier for you and your parents to discuss HIV/AIDS issues and making a decision to get tested for HIV? (**PROBE:** What does a child need to make this happen? What does a parent need to make this happen?)
- e. What makes it difficult for couples in this community to discuss HIV/AIDS and the issue of getting tested for HIV?

- f. What makes it difficult for parents and their children in this community to discuss HIV/AIDS and the issue of getting tested for HIV?

4. Use of HIV Testing Services

- a. Have you ever been tested for HIV before? (*refer to section on **Respondent's Details** above*)
- b. If yes, when?
- c. If you have never been tested before, what are your reasons?
- d. What HIV testing approaches do you know of? (**PROBE:** voluntary counseling and testing (VCT), provider-initiated testing (PITC), index-case testing, etc.)
- e. There is a self-testing approach being implemented by some organizations whereby a client does the testing themselves (*explain this approach in detail to the respondent*); between that and the usual HTC process (*for a respondent with no testing history, explain this approach in detail as well*) which method would you prefer to use and why?

5. Personal experience with HTS

Ask first if the respondent and/or his/her partner has ever been tested for HIV before (for the respondent, refer to the section on **Respondent's Details** above).

Then ask,

- a. What circumstances led to your or your partner's decision to get tested for HIV? How was the decision to get tested made?
- b. What do you think of the service providers (counselors) in the HTS clinic that you/your partner used?
- c. What do you think of the overall quality of service in the HTS clinic that you/your partner used? (**PROBE:** in what ways should the service be improved? Were you comfortable interacting with the counselor? Was the pre-test and post-test counseling helpful to you? *Make sure you explain first what pre-test and post-test counseling means in HTS*).
- d. What advice would you give anyone who is interested in getting tested at the place where you received your HIV testing service?

6. Hindrances to HIV Testing

- a. Just like in a lot of other areas, some young people in this community who would want to know their HIV status are not getting tested. What in your opinion are the reasons they are not getting tested?
- b. Are there places/sites in this community where one can get tested for HIV apart from the health center/hospital? If yes, what and how many are they?
- c. Do the HIV testing sites (including the hospital or health center) in this community meet your expectations (**PROBE for:** enough reagents, staffing, etc.)
- d. Are there instances in this community where young people get openly discouraged by others from going for an HIV test? If yes, by whom and for what reasons?
- e. Do you know of any young man or woman who went for an HIV test but came back from the clinic regretting their decision? If yes, what do you think were the reasons for such a reaction?
- f. What do you think are the barriers to young people that are preventing them to get tested for HIV, if any?

7. Sources of information and advice on HIV & AIDS, including HIV testing

- a. Where or to whom would you go for **information** on HIV/AIDS and HIV testing in general? Please rank these sources from the least to the most credible.
- b. Where or to whom would you go for **advice** on HIV/AIDS and HIV testing? Please rank these sources from the least to the most credible.
- c. What would be the best ways to bring information about HIV testing to your locality/community?
- d. Are there any special local beliefs on HIV/AIDS that should be addressed in a program to promote HIV testing among young people? (**PROBE:** Special cultural beliefs? Health beliefs? Health-seeking behaviors?)

8. Wrap up

- a. Is there anything else that you would like to ask or tell me about any of the issues that we have discussed so far?

Thank the respondent for their time and contribution.