

## MTN-042 In-Depth Interview Guide

### **INSTRUCTIONS for the Interviewer: How to use the IDI Guide**

1. Section topics are shaded in gray.
2. *Instructions/suggestions to interviewer are in italics and [brackets].*
3. Not ALL questions need to be asked. It is up to your discretion if a question should be skipped if the participant has already provided a response to the question earlier in the interview. Please ensure that by the end of the interview, all the topics and key themes have been covered.
4. There are two levels of questions:
  - a. Primary interview questions: appear in **bold** text. They address the topics that you as the interviewer should ask and discuss with participants. You are not required to read them verbatim, but they are written to ensure some consistency across IDIs.
  - b. Probing topics are indicated with a bullet. If you find that the participant does not provide much information in response to the primary question, these probing topics may be used to encourage further discussion. Probes with the words “*KEY PROBE*” written before them are the most important to try to address. Depending on what has already been discussed, and the IDI context, you may or may not ask the rest of the probes.
5. Words found in (parentheses) are meant to provide wording options to interviewers to fit various situations. For example, they often provide a present or past tense verb.
6. The IDI guide is not meant to be used to take notes. Rather, you should use separate notetaking paper, where you will also include your initials, the participant’s PTID, as well as the date, start and end time of the interview.

**Before starting the IDI, ensure that the participant has provided written informed consent.**

<b>Introduction</b>
<p><i>[Interviewer should explain the following points – PLEASE DO NOT READ VERBATIM:]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose of IDI:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Understand the participant’s attitudes about and experiences with using the study products during pregnancy</li> <li>○ Understand behaviors and concerns during pregnancy that may influence acceptability of the study products</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Affirm that all answers are valid: there are no right or wrong answers.</li> <li>• Remind participant that interview is confidential, so identifying information won’t be shared outside of the study. Participants will remain anonymous in any external publications or presentations.</li> <li>• Tell participant to use pseudonyms for themselves and anyone else they mention so as to preserve confidentiality.</li> </ul> <p>Turn audio recorder on and then ask participant to confirm for audio recorder that they agree to participate in the IDI. <i>[Be sure to get a verbal confirmation before continuing.]</i></p>
<b>A. Experience with Pregnancy and Study Participation</b>
<p><b>1. To get us started, I would like us to look closely at your experiences during pregnancy. I would like to learn more about how your life and experience has changed between the time you found out you were pregnant, leading up to today. View this as a fun activity to reflect upon your pregnancy experience!</b></p> <p><i>[Note: this activity should only take 10 minutes but the interviewer can add notes to the timeline as the interview progresses.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First, I would like you to look at the drawing (timeline) in front of you and reflect on your pregnancy experience beginning when you found out you were pregnant. I have the same drawing (timeline), so as you reflect, please point out when the experiences took place, and I will take notes and we can briefly review it afterwards to ensure the drawing reflects your experience. As you reflect, I ask that you focus on changes that occurred within yourself [e.g., pregnancy symptoms, etc.] and Sexual/interpersonal relationships</li> </ul> <p><i>[Probe on:] challenges/things going well in pregnancy, changes to relationships, etc.).</i></p>
<p><b>2. Moving on to the next part of our interview, I’m going to ask you a series of questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> Who do you seek advice and care from during your pregnancy (e.g., medical doctor, traditional birth attendants, traditional healers, chief, religious leaders, family members, male partner, or other key influencers)?</li> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What medications or practices have you been encouraged to use during your pregnancy? By whom?</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. How has COVID-19 and efforts to manage the outbreak impacted your overall well-being and that of your baby?</b></p>
<p><b>4. What HIV prevention practices have you or your partner initiated while you are pregnant? (e.g., abstinence, use of condoms, etc.)?</b></p> <p><i>[If desired, the participant can indicate to the interviewer on the timeline when the HIV prevention methods were initiated.]</i></p>
<p><b>5. Let’s now talk about DELIVER: What motivated you to join this study?</b></p> <p><i>[If desired, the participant can indicate to the interviewer when on the timeline she joined on DELIVER and specific In which trimester/week of the pregnancy it was.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> Who was involved in your decision to join the study?</li> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What concerns did you have about joining the study, if any? How has the study been going for you so far?</li> </ul>

<p><b>6. What were your initial feelings about the study products, when you initially joined the study?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What type of concerns did you have about the <u>study products</u> when you joined the study?</li> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What type of concerns and experiences did you have at the beginning of the study?</li> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What type of concerns and experiences do you currently have?</li> </ul> <p><i>[The interviewer should make notes on the timeline on when the different concerns occurred and when these disappeared or changed.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What information provided by the study staff helped address your concerns?</li> <li>• What else did you do to address these challenges? (talk to trusted person, mother, friend etc. visit ANC etc.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>B. Product Acceptability, Attitudes and Use Experience</b></p>
<p><b>7. <i>[Ring Users Only]:</i> Tell me about your experience with the process of inserting the ring initially?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please describe how the first insertion went? (probe if it was self inserted or staff inserted)</li> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> How did the ring insertion experience change with the rings that followed the first, and as your pregnancy developed?</li> <li>• How did the study staff address your concerns with ring insertion/removal, if any?</li> <li>• What do you think is preferable: inserting the ring yourself or having a nurse or doctor insert it for you?</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. <i>[Ring Users Only]:</i> What are your thoughts about the ring now?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> How often do you think about the ring? When you think about the ring, what kind of thoughts do you have?</li> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> How does wearing the ring impact your daily activities? Has this changed as your pregnancy developed? (<i>Interviewer should make note of these changes on the timeline.</i>)</li> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What kinds of changes have you noticed in your body while using the ring?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ (<i>If Applicable</i>) How much of a problem are the changes for you?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>9. <i>[Ring Users Only]:</i> What challenges have you had with keeping the ring in place continuously? <i>[e.g., removing the ring, ring expulsions, ring slipping, etc.]</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What specific issues did you experience during the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester?</li> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What specific issues did you experience as your pregnancy developed (e.g., how is it now in the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester)?</li> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> In which way does pregnancy interfere with ring use or ring use interfere with the pregnancy?</li> </ul>
<p><b>10. <i>[Ring Users Only]:</i> What helped you keep the ring in place continuously?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What suggestions would you offer to other ring users to help them keep the ring in continuously?</li> </ul>
<p><b>11. <i>[Ring Users Only]:</i> Can you tell me about your experience with ring removal before or during delivery?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> How did the ring removal experience go?</li> <li>• What did the nurses or doctors say or do about the ring removal? How did you feel about their reaction?</li> </ul>

<p><b>12. [Pill Users Only]: Tell me about your experience with swallowing the pills initially.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please describe how the first attempt went?</li> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> How did the pill use experience change with the pills that followed the first attempt, and as your pregnancy developed?</li> <li>• How did the study staff address your concerns with pill use?</li> </ul>
<p><b>13. [Pill Users Only]: What are your thoughts about the pills now?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> How often do you think about the pills? When you think about the pills, what kind of thoughts do you have?</li> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> How does taking a pill every day impact your daily activities? Has this changed as your pregnancy developed? [<i>Interviewer should make note of these changes on the timeline</i>]</li> <li>• What kinds of changes have you noticed in your body while taking the pill, if any? [<i>e.g., weight gain, appetite, nausea, other body changes</i>] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How much of a problem were the changes for you?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>14. [Pill users only]: What challenges have you had with taking the pill every day?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What specific issues did you experience during the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester?</li> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What specific issues did you experience as your pregnancy developed (e.g., how is it now in the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester)?</li> <li>• In what ways does pregnancy interfere with pill use or pill use interfere with pregnancy?</li> <li>• Have you experienced any challenges with remembering to take the pill, swallowing the pill, storing the pills, or anything else?</li> </ul>
<p><b>15. [Pill Users Only]: What helped you take the pill every day?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What strategies would you recommend to other pill users so they can remember to take the pill every day?</li> </ul>
<p>C. Satisfaction with study product</p>
<p><b>16. Given all that we've discussed, how satisfied have you been with the study product you were assigned to [ring/pill] for preventing HIV during pregnancy?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What do you like most about the study product?</li> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What do you like least about the study product?</li> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> If you had been asked to choose, which of the two study products would you have preferred to use? Please tell me why.</li> </ul>
<p>D. Concerns about Health and Care Seeking during Pregnancy</p>
<p><b>17. What thoughts do you have about the [ring/pill]'s <u>effect on your health</u> right now during this stage of pregnancy?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What thoughts do you have about how the study product may impact your <u>future</u> health or wellbeing?</li> <li>• How have you communicated these thoughts or concerns with the study staff?</li> </ul>
<p><b>18. What thoughts do you have about the [ring/pill]'s <u>effect on your baby's health</u> right now?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What thoughts do you have about how the [pill/ring] may impact your baby's <u>future</u> health or wellbeing?</li> <li>• How have you communicated these thoughts or concerns with the study staff?</li> </ul>

E. Sexual Activity during Pregnancy
<p><b>19. Tell me your beliefs about and experiences with having sex during different stages of pregnancy.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> How has sex changed throughout the pregnancy?</li> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> Has the use of the [pill/ring] changed anything about sex for you or your partner?</li> <li>• How did the [pill/ring] affect your sexual desire and pleasure?</li> <li>• What about your partner’s sexual desire and pleasure?</li> </ul>
F. Disclosure and Community Views
<p><b>20. Pregnant women differ in whether they feel comfortable talking to their partner(s) about their HIV prevention methods use. What does your partner(s) know about the study product, if anything?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How and when did your partner(s) find out?</li> <li>• What was his/their reaction?</li> <li>• Did his/their feelings about the study product change over time? If so, how?</li> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> How did his/their reaction affect your study product use?</li> </ul>
<p><b>21. Tell me about other people who learned about you using the [pill/ring] in this study.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE [If applicable]:</i> How did they learn?</li> <li>• What was their initial reaction? Did it change over time?</li> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> In what ways did they impact your thoughts about or use of the study product?</li> </ul>
<p><b>22. How do people in the community view the use of HIV prevention products during pregnancy?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> How do religion or traditional beliefs influence practices for pregnant women? How have these beliefs affected your pregnancy or study product use?</li> <li>• Tell me about any rumors you have heard about the pills or ring. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Who spreads the rumors?</li> <li>○ Have there been any rumors about pregnant women using these study products?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> Have you felt discriminated against or stigmatized during your time in this study?</li> </ul>
Wrap Up
<p><b>23. Thank you! You have answered all of my questions. Looking at your timeline what haven’t we covered about your experience using this study product during pregnancy? Do you have additional comments about anything else we discussed today?</b></p> <p><b>Thank you for taking the time to share your opinions with me today. I truly appreciate your willingness to participate and discuss your thoughts with me.</b></p>