



## MTN-003D Operational Guidance: FGD Sparks

DATE: 13 December 2013  
TO: MTN-003D Technical Team  
FROM: Miriam Hartmann on behalf of the MTN-003D Operations Team  
CC: MTN-003D Protocol Team

Dear MTN-003D Technical Team,

The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance related to the definition of ‘FGD sparks.’ An ‘FGD spark’ is anyone who meets the following criteria and subsequently joins an FGD of her peers:

- She was HIV-negative during VOICE,
- She is a low-adherer per the PK results,
- She is open about her non-adherence during the IDI, and
- She is willing to join an FGD with her peers.

The term ‘FGD spark’ is used to describe anyone who met these criteria and who showed up at the FGD regardless of how talkative they end up being during their actual FGD participation.

The SSP, as well the IDI visit checklist provide guidance related to the above criteria. The checklist should be used to document whether an individual met the criteria and the debriefing report should note how many individuals from a given FGD were considered ‘sparks’ based on the above definition.

The goal is that each FGD include one ‘spark,’ and sites should use their best judgment as to how many ‘sparks’ to invite to ensure that at least one is present on the day of the FGD.

Please note this is official study documentation and it should be filed as part of the study Essential Documents.