

## MTN-041 Key Informant 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. Purpose statements should be considered notes to the interviewer (you) and are not meant to be read aloud. They explain the reason for asking that question or set of questions in order to provide more context so you can then rephrase in your own words or clarify to the participant as necessary.
5. 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 it are probes that 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.
6. 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.
7. The IDI guide is not meant to be used to take notes. Rather, you should use the separate notes form, where you will also insert your initials, the participant’s PTID, as well as the date, start and end time of the interview.
8. P = pregnancy and BF = breastfeeding, which are used throughout the guide

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

<p><b>A. Introduction</b></p>
<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 KI’s beliefs about pregnancy and breastfeeding, including practices they encourage or discourage</li> <li>○ Get their opinions about feasibility of women taking medications administered vaginally or orally during pregnancy and breastfeeding</li> <li>○ Understand what may influence these key informants’ support of pregnant and breastfeeding women’s use of two HIV prevention methods, a vaginal ring and oral tablets</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Affirm that all answers are valid: no right and wrong</li> <li>• Remind participant that interview is confidential, so personal information won’t be shared outside of the study</li> <li>• Tell participant to use pseudonyms for themselves and anyone else they mention so as to preserve confidentiality.</li> <li>• 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 okay before continuing]</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>B. Role in the community and with P and BF women</b></p>
<p><i>Purpose: To understand the role these KIs play in the community including who they work with and what services they provide.</i></p> <p><b>1. To get us started, please tell me about the work you do.</b></p> <p><u>Possible probing topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How long have you been doing this work?</li> <li>• Describe the community in which you work.</li> <li>• What is your role in the community?</li> <li>• How did you end up in your current role?</li> <li>• <b>KEY PROBE:</b> How much of this work relates to the needs of P or BF women?</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. What kinds of clients or people do you/does your organization serve?</b></p> <p><u>Possible probing topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>KEY PROBE:</b> For what reasons do P or BF women come to see you?</li> <li>• What services do you/your organization offer to P or BF women?</li> </ul>
<p><i>Purpose: To understand what these key informants hear from pregnant and breastfeeding women concerning their health and HIV risk and what are the KI’s recommendations.</i></p> <p><b>3. Based on your experience, what are some worries or concerns that P or BF women in this community have?</b></p> <p><u>Possible probing topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where do these concerns come from?</li> <li>• Given your role, what are you doing to address these concerns?</li> <li>• Are there any programs in place aimed at addressing these concerns? Where do they come from? (i.e. government or private)</li> <li>• Where do women in your community get information on pregnancy or breastfeeding?</li> </ul> <p><i>[Note to interviewer: If no concerns mentioned about HIV or family planning ask the following]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What about concerns they have about HIV?</li> <li>• How about concerns about family planning?</li> </ul>

<p><b>4. What pregnancy cultural practices do you know about in your community?</b></p> <p><u>Possible probing topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>KEY PROBE:</b> What about for breastfeeding women?</li> <li>• <b>KEY PROBE:</b> What pregnancy and breastfeeding taboos exist in your community?</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. What do you typically recommend to women for a healthy pregnancy?</b></p> <p><u>Possible probing topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>KEY PROBE:</b> What about for breastfeeding women?</li> <li>• <b>[Doctors/clinicians/traditional healers/birth attendant's]:</b> What types of medications or health products or herbs do you prescribe and for what purpose?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What is prescribed for the purpose of the mom's health?</li> <li>○ What is prescribed for the purpose of the baby's health?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What changes do you recommend that they make to their diets? Why?</li> <li>• What changes do you recommend that they make to their activities? Why?</li> <li>• What makes P or BF women NOT follow your advice?</li> <li>• When do you recommend P or BF women see some other type of provider/healer?</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. What kind of traditional medicine or herbal mixtures do pregnant or breastfeeding women seek and why?</b></p> <p><u>Possible probing topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is your advice regarding traditional medicine or herbal mixtures with the P or BF patients/clients/women you work with?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>[Doctors/clinicians/Traditional healers/birth attendant's]:</b> For what purpose would you ever prescribe herbs or traditional medicines? (For mom's health, for baby's health?)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What do you think about the role of traditional medicine, herbal mixtures or traditional birth attendants (TBAs) for P or BF women? (i.e. approve, disapprove, depends on the situation, etc.?)</li> </ul>
<p><b>C. Sexual Activity and Vaginal Practices while Pregnant/Breastfeeding</b></p>
<p><i>Purpose: To understand changes in sexual activity and vaginal practices while pregnant or breastfeeding.</i></p> <p><b>7. What are the practices in your community regarding having sex while pregnant? Please explain.</b></p> <p><u>Possible probing topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>KEY PROBE:</b> What about while breastfeeding?</li> <li>• <b>KEY PROBE:</b> What about when the woman is close to delivery?</li> <li>• <b>KEY PROBE:</b> What do you recommend regarding sex while P or BF?</li> <li>• How soon should a husband and wife resume sexual activity after delivery?</li> <li>• <b>KEY PROBE:</b> How acceptable is it for men to have other sex partners while their partners are P or BF? What about after delivery?</li> </ul>

<p><b>D. Perception of pregnant and breastfeeding women’s HIV risk</b></p>
<p><i>Purpose: To learn about the KI’s perception of P and BF women’s HIV risk and HIV prevention practices.</i></p> <p><b>8. How much do you think pregnant women are at risk of getting HIV?</b></p> <p><i>Possible probing topics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What about their risk while breastfeeding?</li> <li>• How important is it for a woman to protect herself from HIV before, during and after pregnancy? Why?</li> <li>• Are certain groups of P and BF women more likely to acquire HIV?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Which groups of P and BF women? What puts them at a greater risk?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>9. When you talk to pregnant women about HIV prevention, what do you tell them?</b></p> <p><i>Possible probing topics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What about when you talk to breastfeeding women?</li> <li>• How do you bring up a conversation about HIV prevention?</li> <li>• At what point do you bring it up? (i.e. after they tested positive for pregnancy, when they test positive for an STI) Why then?</li> <li>• What do you think are the most important things for P or BF women to know about preventing HIV?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Do you think when P or BF women know these things that they make different decisions? Why or why not?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What do you think are the most important things for P or BF women to know about what it would be like if they were HIV positive?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Do you think when P or BF women know these things that they make different decisions about preventing HIV? Why or why not?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>10. What strategies do pregnant women use most frequently to protect themselves against HIV?</b></p> <p><i>Possible probing topics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What about strategies breastfeeding women use?</li> <li>• How often do P and BF women report using condoms?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In what types of partnerships are they most likely to use condoms (i.e. with primary partner, casual partner, clients)?</li> <li>○ How about male vs female condoms?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Among the P and BF women you see, are any using HIV testing as a prevention technique?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If so, what does this look like? (e.g. are they testing with a male partner before they start having sex? Are they testing as an individual and then having a conversation with male partners?)</li> <li>○ How often do they repeat testing?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>11. Pregnant women in this community may have beliefs about HIV transmission that differ from those of health providers. In your work, have you observed or heard about any such differing beliefs?</b></p> <p><i>Possible probing topics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What about breastfeeding women?</li> <li>• If yes, please describe them.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ When these differences come up, how do you address them?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What about differing beliefs regarding how they can protect themselves from getting HIV? How do you address those?</li> </ul>

<p><b>E. Ring and PrEP Discussion</b></p>
<p><i>Purpose: To understand what KIs know and think about women using the oral PrEP tablet or a vaginal ring for HIV prevention while pregnant and hear about suggestions to get pregnant or breastfeeding women to use these products.</i></p> <p><b>As explained before, we are interested in getting your opinion about two different products that women can use for HIV prevention, daily oral PrEP tablets and the monthly vaginal ring. [Give information and/or show samples of products]</b></p> <p><b>12. Let’s start by talking about daily oral PrEP tablets. What do you think about pregnant women taking oral PrEP?</b></p> <p><u>Possible probing topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What about while breastfeeding?</li> <li>• What worries do you have and why? (i.e. about her health, baby’s health, etc.)</li> <li>• What could change your opinion?</li> <li>• Would you support your [patients/clients/constituents] using oral PrEP during P or BF? Why or why not?</li> </ul>
<p><b>13. Now let’s talk about the monthly vaginal ring. What do you think about pregnant women using a vaginal ring to prevent HIV?</b></p> <p><u>Possible probing topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What about while breastfeeding?</li> <li>• What worries do you have and why? (i.e. about her health, baby’s health, etc.)</li> <li>• What could change your opinion?</li> <li>• Would you support your [patients/clients/constituents] using the vaginal ring during P or BF? Why or why not?</li> </ul>
<p><b>14. Do you think pregnant women in the community may want to use products like these? Why or why not?</b></p> <p><u>Possible probing topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What about breastfeeding women?</li> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> Do you think P and BF women would have a preference for the oral PrEP versus the vaginal ring?</li> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> Who do you think would influence women’s ability to use these products?</li> <li>• What would be needed for P &amp; BF women to actually be able to use these products?</li> <li>• Would P &amp; BF women be interested if these products were shown to be as effective as condoms? (<i>Condom effectiveness: 80% or greater; Ref: WHO 2017</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>F. Recommendations</b></p>
<p><b>15. How would your personal beliefs come in conflict with recommending oral PrEP or the vaginal ring to a pregnant woman?</b></p> <p><u>Possible probing topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KEY PROBE:</i> What about to a breastfeeding woman?</li> <li>• What would help you overcome these conflicts?</li> <li>• How do you think traditional medicine, herbal mixtures or TBAs would interfere with women using oral PrEP or the vaginal ring?</li> <li>• How do you think clinical medicine may interfere with women using oral PrEP or the vaginal ring?</li> </ul>

<p><b>16. What do you think is the best way to describe these HIV prevention products to a pregnant or breastfeeding woman?</b></p> <p><u>Possible probing topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What questions or concerns do you think P and BF women will have about oral PrEP?</li><li>• What questions or concerns do you think P and BF women will have about the ring?</li></ul>
<p><b>17. What suggestions do you have on how we can recruit pregnant and breastfeeding women for a future study in which they will try these products?</b></p> <p><u>Possible probing topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>KEY PROBE:</b> What do you think about the information we shared about the two products earlier? [<i>Show product information again if necessary</i>]<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ What can we change or add so people who have never heard of oral PrEP or the vaginal ring for HIV prevention understand the products?</li></ul></li><li>• What kind of messages would appeal to these women and help them make a decision on whether to join?</li></ul>
<p>G. Wrap Up</p>
<p><b>18. Thank you for taking the time to share your opinions with us today. We truly appreciate your willingness to participate and discuss your thoughts and ideas with us. We've now reached the end of our discussion. Do you have any additional comments about pregnancy and breastfeeding experiences in your community/clinic/practice setting?</b></p>
<p><b>19. Do you have any additional comments about oral PrEP or the vaginal ring?</b></p>