Appendix D: QUALITATIVE DISCUSSION GUIDE – Focus Group Discussion and Key Informant Interview

**Project Title:** Social Dimensions of HIV and AIDS Prevention: A Cross-Sectional Study of Acceptability and Utilization of Voluntary HIV Counseling and Testing in Nigeria

**Principal Investigator:** Richard Joseph, John Evans Professor of Political Science at Northwestern University

**Supported by:** The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

**Introduction:** Good day, my name is ______________________, and my colleague is _______________. We represent the Research Alliance to Combat HIV/AIDS (REACH), a programme of the University of Ibadan and Northwestern University, USA. We are conducting a study in this community to generate information on the awareness of, and barriers to, utilization of testing services. We also want to conduct some more open-ended discussions with you to develop a more in-depth understanding of what people know and think about various issues regarding HIV/AIDS. You have valuable insights on these issues and we want to encourage you to speak as openly and freely as possible—there are no right and wrong answers. The information we gather can be used to develop improved programs and interventions to help assist people and communities protect their health. The better the information that we gather, the better the programmes that can be developed.

**Confidentiality and Informed Consent:** I want you to know that all the information generated from this discussion is for research purposes only and will not be used for any other purpose. All the information you volunteer will be kept confidential and no reference will be made to your name. The interview will take about one hour, and your open and candid contribution to discussions will be highly appreciated. We also want to use a recorder so that we can get all the information you provide and nothing useful is lost. Do I have your permission to continue?

For focus group discussion participants:
1. Yes (If Yes, remain in group)
2. No (If No, thank them and let them leave)
Proceed to administer informed consent.

For key informants:
1. Yes (If Yes, continue with informed consent process)
2. No (If No, thank them and end interview)

For FGD participants only:
Here is how we will conduct the discussion: I want to encourage everyone to participate actively in the discussions. There are no wrong or right answers and everyone should please state what they think, know, and the way they perceive it. What we will do is to speak one after the other, so that each person’s opinion can be fully heard. Because the interview is being recorded, please wait for someone to finish talking before you speak. Thank you.

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR Focus Group Discussions

1. Do you know about HIV/AIDS? What do you know about it?
   a. PROBE for common local or folk terminologies for HIV/AIDS in this community.
   b. PROBE to see if they think their knowledge of HIV/AIDS is different from or similar to others in their community
   c. Discuss primary sources of this knowledge for different people in the focus group and also for others in the community.

2. How can people become infected with the virus? What are the behaviors that put people at risk for HIV/AIDS?
   a. PROBE: Besides their own ideas about what puts people at risk, are they aware of other ideas held in the community?
   b. PROBE: If there are other ideas about risk in the community, do certain groups of people have these ideas or are they more a matter of individual differences in knowledge?

3. Are some groups more at risk for contracting HIV/AIDS than others and, if so, which groups are at risk and which ones are at less risk?

4. What can be done to protect against HIV/AIDS?
   a. PROBE: Besides the views discussed among participants, are they aware of other ideas in the community about how to protect against HIV/AIDS?
   b. PROBE: If they are aware of other ideas, what groups hold those ideas?

5. How big an issue do you think HIV/AIDS is for people in your community and what makes it an issue of greater or lesser importance?
   a. PROBE: Find out if this has changed over the past few years and if so why?
   b. PROBE: Is it more of an issue for some groups than for others, and if so, which groups and why?
   c. PROBE: Is there denial or do they accept that AIDS is an issue?

6. Do you know people in this community who may be infected with HIV or are sick with AIDS or who might have died of AIDS?
   a. PROBE: Do they belong to any particular social groups? FOR EXAMPLE ARE THEY CSWS, MSM, OR IDUS, LONG DISTANCE TRUCKERS, etc.
   b. PROBE: In your opinion, what are the factors responsible for their infection? Are the individuals themselves responsible?

7. What does your community think about people who are infected with HIV or are sick with or have died from AIDS?
   a. PROBE: Do different groups feel differently about AIDS, and if so, describe these differences?
b. PROBE: Do opinions differ depending on who is infected and if so describe these differences (e.g. children vs. wives vs. IDUS, etc.)
c. PROBE: Is there stigma associated with being HIV infected, and if so, describe it.
d. PROBE: Why do people hold these ideas?
e. PROBE: Have these ideas changed over time? How so?
f. PROBE: How are people with HIV/AIDS impacted by these attitudes?

8. What about HIV testing? How important is HIV testing? Why is or isn’t it important?

9. Is testing available in your community?
   a. PROBE: Where do people get tested?
   b. PROBE: How do people find out about testing? Do enough people know about testing sites?
   c. PROBE: Is testing convenient—location, close to transportation
   d. PROBE: Is testing accessible—cost, enough different locations

10. What is the reputation of the testing locations?
    a. PROBE: Is testing fully confidential? Explain.
    b. PROBE: What are providers like?
    c. PROBE: Are they and pleasant and respectful?

11. What do people think about HIV testing? Is there anything negative associated with testing? Why do people get tested or avoid doing so?

12. Do you think that people are willing to go to HIV testing centers to get tested? Why or why not?
    a. PROBE: Distance and cost
    b. PROBE: Attitude of health care providers
    c. PROBE: Social-cultural factors (beliefs, taboos, norms etc)
    d. PROBE: Attitude of people towards individuals who are infected
    e. PROBE: Gender power relations or ideas about proper gender roles
    f. PROBE: Knowledge about where testing centers are
    g. PROBE: Fear of knowing HIV status
    h. PROBE: HIV is a low priority/ do not think they are at risk.

13. Do you think that people return for their test results? Who do they tell about their test results? Who do they not tell?

14. What do you think are the greatest barriers to HIV testing in your community?
    a. PROBE: Attitudes and beliefs
    b. PROBE: Structural factors (e.g. availability of services, lack of resources, no power to go to testing locations without others knowing about it, etc.)

15. Do you think there are ever times when people should be required to get an HIV test? Why or why not? If yes, when should this be required? What do you think others in your community think?

16. Are you aware of any instances when HIV testing is offered to people as part of routine and regular care? What are such occasions?
17. What is your community doing about HIV/AIDS? Is it enough? Could they do more?
   a. PROBE: Provide specific examples (e.g. services, overt acts of discrimination, policies, etc.)
   b. PROBE: Which groups are doing things, either positive or negative (e.g. medical providers, police, religious leaders)
   c. PROBE: Find out specifically what political leaders are doing
   d. PROBE: Is the community response adequate? Why or why not?
   e. PROBE: Are there other things that should be done and if so what are they?

18. What do you think are the greatest barriers to dealing with HIV/AIDS in your community and in your country and what, if anything do you think could be done about them?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME, YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN VERY HELPFUL
KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE for Key Informants involved with HIV testing (Depending on the Key Informant, may add some relevant questions from the above, along with the following questions)

1. How big an issue do you think HIV/AIDS is for people in your community and what makes it an issue of greater or lesser importance?
   a. PROBE: Find out if this has changed over the past few years and if so why?
   b. PROBE: Is it more of an issue for some groups than for others, and if so, which groups and why?
   c. PROBE: Is there denial or do they accept that AIDS is an issue?

2. What does your community think about people who are infected with HIV are sick with or have died from AIDS?
   a. PROBE: Do different groups feel differently about AIDS and if so, describe these differences?
   b. PROBE: Do opinions differ depending on who is infected and if so describe these differences (e.g. children vs. wives vs. IDUS, etc.)
   c. PROBE: Is there stigma associated with being HIV infected, and if so, describe it.
   d. PROBE: Why do people hold these ideas?
   e. PROBE: Have these ideas changed over time? How so?
   f. PROBE: How are people with HIV/AIDS impacted by these attitudes?

3. How important is HIV testing relative to other health priorities in your state/community?

4. Is testing available in your community?
   a. PROBE: Where do people get tested?
   b. PROBE: How do people find out about testing? Do enough people know about testing sites?
   c. PROBE: Is testing convenient—location, close to transportation
   d. PROBE: Is testing accessible—cost, enough different locations

5. What is the reputation of the testing locations?
   a. PROBE: Is testing fully confidential? Explain.
   b. PROBE: What are providers like?
   c. PROBE: Are they and pleasant and respectful?

6. What do people think about HIV testing, is there anything negative associated with testing? Why do people get tested or avoid doing so?

7. Do you think that people are willing to go to HIV testing centers to get tested? Why or why not?
   a. PROBE: Distance and cost
   b. PROBE: Attitude of health care providers
   c. PROBE: Social-cultural factors (beliefs, taboos, norms etc)
   d. PROBE: Attitude of people towards individuals who are infected
   e. PROBE: Gender power relations or ideas about proper gender roles
   f. PROBE: Knowledge about where testing centers are
   g. PROBE: Fear of knowing HIV status
h. PROBE: HIV is a low priority/ do not think they are at risk.

8. Do you think that people return for their test results? Who do they tell about their test results? Who do they not tell?

9. What do you think are the greatest barriers to HIV testing in your community?
   a. PROBE: Attitudes and beliefs
   b. PROBE: Structural factors (e.g. availability of services, lack of resources, no power to go to testing locations without others knowing about it, etc.)

10. Are there any instances in which testing should be required or made mandatory? Or should there be such instances? Why or why not? If yes, what is being done to implement mandatory testing?

11. Tell me about routine testing in your community.
   a. PROBE: Where is it provided?
   b. PROBE: What is the response?

12. What measures are being taken to increase the rates of testing in the community?
   a. PROBE: Policies—for example, mandatory or more routine testing
   b. PROBE: Publicity about testing
   c. PROBE: Service delivery—creating more testing centers, expanding hours, adding staff, etc.

   a. PROBE: Provide specific examples (e.g. services, overt acts of discrimination, policies, etc.)
   b. PROBE: Which groups are doing things, either positive or negative (e.g. medical providers, police, religious leaders)
   c. PROBE: Find out specifically what political leaders are doing
   d. PROBE: Is the community response adequate? Why or why not?
   e. PROBE: Are there other things that should be done and if so what are they?

14. What do you think are the greatest barriers to dealing with HIV/AIDS in your community and in your country and what, if anything, do you think could be done about them?

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