University of Ibadan in collaboration with Northwestern University

QUALITATIVE DISCUSSION GUIDE – In-Depth Interviews

**Project Title:** Social Dimensions of HIV and AIDS Prevention: A Semi-Longitudinal Study in Three Nigerian Communities

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

**ESTIMATED TIME FOR THE DISCUSSION: 1 – 1.5 hours**

**AIM:**
The aim of this in-depth interview is to obtain information through respondents’ personal histories and advance understanding of HIV related risk perceptions and behaviors in Badeku, Olunloyo and Ugep through an in-depth conversation on sexual behavior, beliefs, norms, attitudes, and practices that might have influence on HIV transmission either by promoting or preventing it. Respondents will be identified through the household enumeration phase of the project, or as identified by community conversations.

**Instructions to Interviewer**

- Introduce self. Let the respondent know how s/he was selected for the interview. Stress and verify comfort level with the interview, noting that for practical reasons such as the need to reduce fatigue, more than one meeting for the purpose of the interview may be necessary. Assure respondent of confidentiality, obtain informed consent for the interview.

**A. HIV RELATED RISK PERCEPTIONS**

1. Do you know about HIV/AIDS? What do you know about it? *[Interviewer: ELICIT MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE IF POSSIBLE.]*
   a. PROBE: What are common local or folk terminologies for HIV/AIDS in this community? PROBE: Do you think your knowledge of HIV/AIDS is different from or similar to other peoples knowledge in your community?
   b. PROBE: What are the primary sources of this knowledge for you and how do you think this differs from other peoples sources?

2. How do people become infected with the AIDS virus? What are the behaviors that put people at risk for HIV/AIDS?
   a. PROBE: Besides your own ideas about what puts people at risk, are you 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? do you think they are more individual differences in knowledge?
3. Are some groups more at risk for contracting HIV/AIDS than others and if so, what groups are at risk and what groups are at less risk?

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

5. How big of an issue is HIV/AIDS for you? What makes it an issue of greater or lesser importance? How big of an issue do you think HIV/AIDS is for people in your community?
   a. PROBE: Has the importance of HIV/AIDS changed in the community 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?

B. HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE USE

6. Where do you receive medical care? Why do you get your care there?
   a. PROBE: What are the reasons behind your preference (for example, are accessibility, availability, affordability, and acceptability issues)?
   b. PROBE: Does the site of medical care you go to depend on the type of health problem?
   c. PROBE: Do you ever use indigenous/traditional health options? When? For what problems?

7. What about HIV testing? How important is HIV testing? Why is it or isn’t it important?
   a. PROBE: Do different groups feel differently 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. injection drug users, etc.)
   c. PROBE: Is there stigma associated with being HIV infected? and if so, describe.
   d. PROBE: Why do you think people hold these ideas?
   e. PROBE: Have these ideas changed over time? How so?
   f. PROBE: How do you think people with HIV/AIDS are impacted by these attitudes?

8. Is testing available in your community?
   a. PROBE: Where do people get tested?
   b. PROBE: How do people find out about testing? Do you think enough people know about testing sites?
   c. PROBE: Is testing convenient in terms of location, proximity to transportation, etc?
   d. PROBE: Is testing accessible in terms of cost, enough locations, ease of obtaining appointments, etc?

9. 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 pleasant and respectful?

10. Have you ever had an HIV test? Why or why not?
a. PROBE: Where were you tested? Why did you get tested there?
b. PROBE: How would you describe the experience?
c. PROBE: Did you return for your test results? Why or why not?
d. PROBE: When was the last time you were tested?

11. 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 about that?

12. Have you ever been somewhere that you were asked if you wanted to have an HIV test (besides a VCT site)? Describe the experience and what you did.

13. Do you know of HIV prevention or treatment services in your community?
   a. PROBE: Do you know of Mother-to-Child prevention practices and services?
   b. PROBE: Do you know of places that provide antiretroviral therapy to people living with HIV/AIDS?

C. CULTURAL BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

14. Do you know people in this community who may be infected with HIV or sick with AIDS or who might have died of AIDS?
   a. PROBE: Do these people belong to any particular social groups? For example, people who are injection drug users, long distance truckers, commercial sex workers, or men who have sex with other men, etc.?
   b. PROBE: In your opinion, what are the factors responsible for their infection? Are they responsible?

15. What does your community think about people who are infected with HIV or are sick with or have died from AIDS?

16. Would you take care of a sick relative or member of your household if they had HIV/AIDS? Why or why not?
   a. PROBE: Would you answer differently depending on who the sick person was (e.g. child vs. adult)? or how they became infected (e.g. blood transfusion vs. multiple sex partners)?
   b. PROBE: Do you know how to take care of someone with HIV/AIDS? Please describe how.
   c. PROBE: Have you ever had to take care of someone with HIV/AIDS? If yes, how did you know them and what was the situation?

17. What sorts of treatments are available for HIV/AIDS in your community outside of the hospital system?

18. In your community, do people rely on their extended families for economic, medical, political or social support? Why or why not?

D. SEXUAL BEHAVIOR
18. How many sexual partners have you had in the past 12 months? How many have you had in the past month? Tell me a little about your relationships with these different partners.

19. Now I would like to ask about your condom use with these partners.
   a. PROBE: Did you use condoms with them? Why or why not.
   b. PROBE: Give me an example of a time when you did not used condoms and an example of a time when you did use them.
   c. PROBE: Is your condom use always the same with despite different partners? If you do not consistently use condoms with your partners, why not?
   d. PROBE: Do you discuss condom use with your partners and who usually initiates the conversation?
   e. PROBE: Has HIV/AIDS affected your condom use practices in the past year? Explain.

20. Do you ever discuss HIV/AIDS with any of these partners? Which ones? Why or why not? How does the discussion usually go?

E. GENDER ISSUES

21. Now, please describe for us the customary household decision making process in this community. For example:
   a. Does someone have deciding power over what food to cook or eat on a daily basis? If so, who?
   b. Does someone have deciding power over the schools the children will attend? If so, who?
   c. Does someone have deciding power about when a couple will have sex? If so, who?
   d. Does someone have deciding power over whether the couple (or just the wife or husband) will use a family planning method or not? If so, who?
   e. Does someone have deciding power over whether the couple will use a condom during sex or not? If so, who?
   f. Does someone have deciding power over the number of children the couple will have? If so, who?
   g. Between the man and the woman, whose ideas or opinions are more likely to prevail over use of financial and other household resources?

22. Tell me about land inheritance in your community. Do men and women have an equal chance to inherit or buy property in the community? Does the situation have implications for reproductive decision making? How?

23. Discuss the conditions under which a man could be considered justified in leaving his wife.
   b. PROBE: Of these (and other conditions for divorce), which do you consider to be the most serious? Why?

24. Discuss the conditions under which a woman could be considered justified in leaving her husband.
   a. PROBE for: Could she leave him for failure to support his wife and children? beating? unfaithfulness? HIV infection? uncooperative attitude towards
contraception?

b. PROBE: Of these (and other conditions for divorce), which do you consider to be the most serious? Why?

25. How does this community perceive the issue of domestic or intimate partner violence against women by their male partners? Against men by their female partners?
   a. PROBE: Are you aware of any cases? How big of a problem do you think it is in your community?
   b. PROBE: Do you think it’s a problem for some groups more than others? If so which groups and why?
   c. PROBE: How are cases resolved? Are there differences in the settlement processes and outcomes?
   d. PROBE: Are there issues of justice and equity between men and women in your community? What are they?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN VERY HELPFUL.