



Dear participant,

Annex A: In-Depth Interview (IDI) Guide for People Living with HIV (PLHIV)

Introductory Script (Read verbatim):

"Good day. My name is [Interviewer Name]. Thank you for making time to speak with me. We are conducting a study to understand the experiences of people in the HIV chaplaincy program. We want to learn how the support from trained religious leaders (HIV Chaplains) influences people's care, their feelings about themselves, and their treatment journey.

This interview will take about 45 to 60 minutes. Your participation is completely voluntary. You can choose not to answer any question, or you can stop the interview at any time without any consequence to your medical care. Everything you say will be kept confidential and anonymous; your name will not appear in any report. With your permission, I would like to audio-record our conversation to ensure I capture your views accurately.

Do you have any questions before we begin?

[Pause to answer questions]



Do I have your permission to proceed with the interview and to audio-record it?"

[Wait for clear verbal consent before proceeding]

PARTICIPANT'S DECLARATION OF INFORMED CONSENT:

I have been informed about the specified and additional purpose(s) for which my opinions will be collected, used and disclosed, as described above. I understand that my opinions may be used and disclosed for secondary purposes that are necessary to achieve the above-described specified purpose. I voluntarily make this declaration and freely consent to the participation in this KII/IDI.

Signature

Signed at (place)

on (date)

Brief Demographics (Interviewer to complete):

- Participant Code: _____
- Age:
- Gender:
- Faith Affiliation:



- Duration on ART: _____ Years/Months

[Start Recording]

Section A: Context & Introduction to the Intervention

1. Can you describe your overall experience of receiving HIV care at this facility?
 - *Probe: How long have you been in care here? What makes it easy or difficult to attend your clinic appointments regularly?*
2. Can you tell me the story of how you first encountered the HIV Chaplain or the Faith Clinic sessions?
 - *Probe: What was your first impression? What typically happens during these sessions? What has stood out to you as the most valuable part?*

Section B: Perceived Impact on Treatment Behaviors

3. Can you walk me through your personal journey with taking your HIV medication (ART)?
 - *Probe: What has helped you take it consistently? What challenges have you faced? Have there been times you stopped or seriously considered stopping? What led to that?*



4. In what specific ways, if any, have the chaplaincy sessions influenced how you manage your treatment?

- *Probe: Has it changed your thoughts or feelings about the medication? Your daily routine? Your commitment to coming to the clinic? Can you describe how that change happened?*

Section C: Internalized & Anticipated Stigma [FOCUS AREA]

5. Living with HIV can affect how a person feels about themselves. How has it affected your own feelings about yourself?

- *Probe: Have you ever felt shame, guilt, or blamed yourself because of your status? How strong were those feelings?*

6. Have you ever worried about being judged, discriminated against, or treated poorly because of your HIV status, whether here at the clinic, in your community, or elsewhere?

- * *Probe: Can you describe a specific instance or a persistent fear? How did that fear affect your actions (e.g., coming to clinic, talking to others)?*

7. How have your feelings about yourself and your worries about stigma changed since you began interacting with the HIV Chaplain?

- * *Probe: Can you compare how you felt before and after? What did the chaplain say or do that you believe led to this shift? What was the turning point for you?*



Section D: Faith, Coping, and Psychosocial Well-being

8. How has your faith or spirituality played a role in dealing with HIV and its challenges?

** Probe: What gives you hope, strength, or comfort? Has your understanding of faith in relation to your health changed since your diagnosis?*

9. Has the HIV Chaplain helped you reconcile your faith with your medical treatment?

** Probe: Have you discussed topics like divine healing versus taking ARVs? How did that conversation help resolve any confusion or conflict for you?*

Closing

"Is there anything else about your experience with the HIV Chaplaincy, or about living with HIV, that you think is important for me to understand that we haven't talked about?"

"Thank you very much for your openness, your story, and your time. It is greatly appreciated."