



Dear participant,

### **Annex B: Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Guide**

#### **Moderator's Introductory Script (Read verbatim):**

"Welcome everyone. My name is [Moderator Name], and this is my co-moderator/note-taker, [Name]. Thank you for joining us.

Today, we are having a group discussion to learn about your shared experiences with the HIV chaplaincy program at this facility. We are interested in your collective views on how this program affects care, treatment, and feelings about living with HIV.

This discussion will last about 90 minutes. Your participation is voluntary. You do not have to speak if you don't wish to, and you may leave at any time. What is shared in this room should stay confidential among us; we ask everyone to respect each other's privacy. Our conversation will be audio-recorded to help us remember your important points. No names will be used in any report.

Before we start, let's agree on some group rules: please speak one at a time, respect all opinions, and keep what others share confidential. Does anyone have any questions?

**[Pause for questions]**

Do I have everyone's permission to begin and to audio-record our discussion?"

**[Wait for group assent]**



**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: General Context of HIV Care**

1. Thinking about the HIV program, how would you describe the common experience of being in HIV care?

*Probe: What are the shared reasons people stay in care? What are the common challenges that make people consider leaving or missing appointments?*

### **Section B: Collective Experience with the Chaplaincy**

2. Let's talk about the HIV Chaplain and the Faith Clinic sessions. What has the group experience been like?

*\* Probe: What kinds of topics or messages come up regularly? What is the general feeling in the room during these sessions? What differences, if any, have people noticed since these sessions started?*

### **Section C: Group Norms on Treatment & Adherence**

3. From what people share, how do the chaplaincy sessions seem to influence how group members view and take their medication?



*\* Probe: Do people seem more motivated or consistent? Why do you think that is? How do people generally react to messages that combine faith and medicine?*

#### **Section D: Shared Experiences of Stigma & Change [FOCUS AREA]**

4. Many people living with HIV struggle with internal feelings like shame or fear. What are the common ways these feelings show up in people's lives here?

*\* Probe: Feelings of not being worthy? Fear of being seen at the clinic? Worry about how health workers might judge you?*

5. From what you observe and hear, has the chaplaincy changed how people in this group feel about themselves as someone living with HIV?

*\* Probe: Have you noticed changes in people's confidence, self-acceptance, or openness? Can you give examples?*



6. How do you think the chaplain's messages are influencing how the wider patient *community* or health workers view people living with HIV?

*\* Probe: Do you think attitudes are changing? What gives you that impression?*

### **Closing**

"Is there any other shared experience or important point about the chaplaincy that we haven't covered?"

"Thank you all for your honest and thoughtful conversation. Your insights are very valuable."