

**TOPIC GUIDE FOR FGD, PREGNANT AND BREAST FEEDING IRRESPECTIVE OF HIV STATUS IN THE COMMUNITY (VI.2, 9-8-2024).**

FGD Note-taker Initials: \_\_\_\_\_  
Participant group \_\_\_\_\_  
Audio file # \_\_\_\_\_  
Age group \_\_\_\_\_  
Sex of participants \_\_\_\_\_  
Country/ Community: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Date of FGD \_\_\_\_\_

**Warm up**

1. How did community members perceive positive women who were pregnant during previous COVID-19? How did observing of the previous COVID-19 protocols of wearing a nose mask and washing or sanitizing women's hands regularly affect pregnant or breastfeeding women.

**Knowledge, attitude and practices**

2. What were people's thoughts and attitude towards the previous COVID-19?
  - a) Where did it come from? Probe for causes of viral transmission from animals to humans. What were the indigenous practices of managing the previous COVID-19.
  - b) What strategies and interventions can prevent Viral spread from animals to humans (primary prevention) or once its in humans how can it be prevented from one person to another.?
3. How comfortable did pregnant or breast-feeding women in your community feel coming to this facility during the previous COVID-19?
  - a) Did they feel unsafe here at the clinic or feared could contract Covid-19?
  - b) How and why did women use traditional birth attendants/ herbalists during the previous COVID-19). How did women decide when to use traditional birth attendants/ herbalist and when they used hospital care?
  - c) If women living with HIV used herbal medicine? Explain source, reasons, and effectiveness.
  - d) How did women access self-medication or of counter drugs? Explain response.
  - e) How were vaccination services delivered to pregnant women? How easy or difficult was it easy for them to access services?

**Social or cultural norms**

2. What were the social or cultural norms associated with the previous COVID-19?
  - a) What were the social or cultural norms associated with pregnant or breast-feeding women living with HIV in your community? Probe for gender norms, social networks, stigma, empowerment, religion, health beliefs, and cultural practices).

- b) How can social cultural issues for pregnant or breastfeeding women living with HIV be resolved during pandemics.
3. What information did you hear regarding pregnancy or breast-feeding during the 19 pandemic?
- a) What false information did you hear about pregnant or breast-feeding women living with HIV during the previous COVID- 19 in this community?
  - b) Reaction and for source of false information.
  - c) What strategies can be employed to resolve false information about pregnant or breastfeeding women living with HIV during the previous COVID- 19?

### **Adherence to routine clinic appointments**

4. It is recommended that all women living with HIV adhere to their routine visits and ART, what were the factors that enabled or hindered women from keeping their regular scheduled clinic appointments during the previous COVID-19 pandemic?
- a) How difficult or easy was it for you to comply with the routine appointments during the previous COVID-19?
  - b) How did the previous COVID-19 affect women clinic attendance? Limited space for you and others to practice social distancing during clinic days? poor handwashing facilities, for fear of stigmatization during the previous COVID-19?
  - c) What can be done to ensure proper adherence to clinical scheduled appointments among pregnant or breastfeeding women living with HIV during a disease outbreak?

### **Adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) or PMTCT.**

5. How did HIV+ pregnant or BF women in this community adhere to treatment during the previous COVID-19 pandemic?
- a) How did the previous COVID-19 affect women's compliance to the treatment regimens?
  - b) If women were able to collect medication consistently from the clinic, and take it daily on time as prescribed just like you were doing before the previous COVID-19 period?
9. What do you think can be done differently to improve ART adherence among pregnant and breastfeeding women during outbreaks?
- a) What changes would you like to be made within and outside the facility to help pregnant and breastfeeding women adhere to treatment
  - b) What kind of incentives will motivate women to adhere?

### **Adherence to Antenatal (ANC) visits.**

10. What were pregnant or BF women's experiences of antenatal care in this community during the previous COVID-19 pandemic?

- a) What were the barriers for ANC including: the nature and the nature and quality of services? social cultural norms, disclosure, stigma, intimate partner violence, financial constraints, uncertainty about pregnancy, etc.
- b) What do you think can be done differently to enhance access to antenatal care during a disease outbreak?

**Conclusion**

Is there anything else you would like to add to what we have discussed?

**THANK YOU.**