

TOPIC GUIDE FOR KEY INFORMANTS (HEALTH CARE WORKERS, POLICY MAKERS, HIV ACTIVISTS AND OTHER STAKE HOLDERS (V1.2, 9-8-2024).

Study Title: HIV care and antenatal seeking behavior patterns of pregnant and breast-feeding women during the previous COVID-19 pandemic in Uganda.

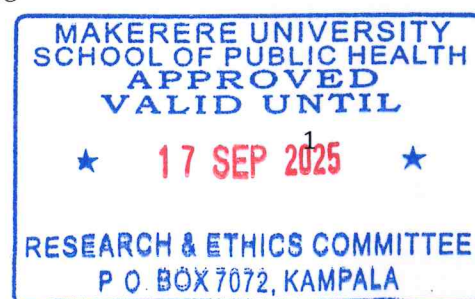
Participant ID # _____ Interviewer _____
Audio file #: _____
Date _____
Participant type: ART manager Midwife other _____
Location of interview _____
Affiliation _____
Sex _____ Profession _____
Years since qualification _____
Years in this clinic _____

Warm up

1. Please tell me about your job? What you do? And how long you have worked in that job? How was your work involved in management of HIV among Pregnant or breastfeeding women during COVID-19?

Knowledge, attitude and practices

2. What is your understanding of COVID-19? 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. What strategies and interventions can prevent viral spread from animals to humans (primary prevention) or once it's in humans how can it be prevented from one person to another.?
3. What was your overall experience of service delivery for pregnant or breastfeeding (BF) women living with HIV during the previous COVID-19 pandemic?
 - a) What was the source of guidance at your facility regarding service delivery to pregnant and breastfeeding women during the previous COVID-19 pandemic? Probe: How did the advent of the previous COVID-19 pandemic affect your roles towards pregnant and breastfeeding women at the clinic?
 - b) What was easy or challenging about service delivery for pregnant or bf woman living with HIV?
 - a) How were ANC service delivered to pregnant women during the previous COVID-19? How easy or difficult.
 - b) Concerns reported by pregnant or breast-feeding women living with HIV during the previous COVID-19 and response given
 - c) How were ART services delivered to pregnant or breast-feeding women during the previous COVID-19? How easy or difficult? How easy or difficult.
 - d) Do you think pregnant or breast-feeding woman living with HIV accessed self-medication or of counter drugs? Explain response.



- e) How were vaccination services delivered pregnant or breast-feeding women during the previous COVID-19? How easy or difficult? How easy or difficult
- 4. What was your motivation to care for pregnant or breast-feeding woman living with HIV during the previous COVID-19 pandemic?
 - a) How were your plans for service delivery affected by the advent of Covid-19?
 - b) What were the risk for taking care of pregnant or breast-feeding woman living with HIV during COVID-19 pandemic?
 - c) How did you mitigate the previous COVID-19-related risks during service delivery of pregnant or breast-feeding women?
 - d) What can be done to overcome or reduce the effect of Covid-19 on service provision to pregnant or breastfeeding women with HIV/AIDS?

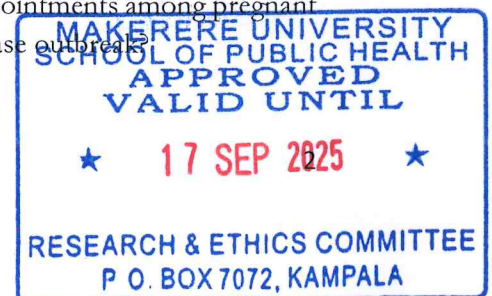
Social or cultural norms

- 5. 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
- 6. What information did you offer pregnant or breastfeeding women living with HIV during the previous COVID-19 pandemic? What false information did you hear about pregnant or breast-feeding women living with HIV during the previous COVID-19 in this facility? Probe for source of false information. What strategies did you employ to resolve false information about pregnant or breast-feeding women living with HIV during the previous COVID-19?
 - a. How comfortable were pregnant and breast-feeding women living with HIV in observing the previous COVID-19 protocols (wearing a nose mask, handwashing, social distancing)?
 - b. How did the facility monitor the pregnant or breastfeeding women to ensure compliance to the previous COVID-19 SOPs and adherence to medication?

Adherence to routine clinic appointments

- 7. It is recommended that all women living with HIV adhere to their routine visits and ART, how effective did the breast-feeding women living with HIV follow their appointment visits?
- 8. What factors enhanced or deterred access and retention in care among breast-feeding women living with HIV at the facility during the previous COVID-19?
 - a) What were the factors that hindered pregnant or breast-feeding women from keeping their regular scheduled clinic appointments during the previous COVID-19 pandemic?
 - b) Did they avoid the clinic for fear of contracting the previous Covid-19? Probe: Why?
 - c) How can we ensure adherence to clinical scheduled appointments among pregnant or breastfeeding women living with HIV during a disease outbreak?

Adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) or PMTCT.



9. How effective did the pregnant and breast-feeding women living with HIV take their treatment regimens?
- How easy or difficult was it for women to adhere to ART during pregnancy and breastfeeding during the previous COVID-19 pandemic?
 - What were the facilitators and barriers with ART adherence among pregnant or breast-feeding women during the previous COVID-19?
 - Did they stay away from the clinic for fear of stigmatization? Probe: if had fear of being seen by someone they know from their community.
 - What changes would you like to be made within and outside the facility to help pregnant and breastfeeding women adhere to treatment

Adherence to Antenatal (ANC) visits.

10. What were the main challenges you faced with providing antenatal care in your facility during the previous COVID-19 pandemic?
- If women presented late or early for ANC during the previous COVID- Pandemic?
 - About women's reasons for presenting for ANC late during COVID-19
 - For barriers ANC including social cultural norms, disclosure, stigma, intimate partner violence, financial constraints, uncertainty about pregnancy, etc.
 - What do you think can be done differently to enable women access early antenatal care during a disease outbreak?

Conclusion

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

THANK YOU

