Assessment of Family Planning and PrEP Integration in Lesotho

Key Informant Interview Guide: Donors

Title/designation of Person Interviewed: _____
Organization: _____
Date Interviewed: _____
Interview Conducted by: _____
Interview Location (if conducted in-person):_____

Warm-up

As you know, the Evidence for Contraceptive Options and HIV Outcomes (ECHO) Trial found a high HIV incidence among women who were seeking effective contraception, a result that led to a global move toward integrating HIV prevention, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), in FP services. The purpose of this assessment is to understand the feasibility and acceptability of providing PrEP within family planning settings in Lesotho. As part of this assessment, we'll be talking with policy makers, donors, implementing partners, health care providers, and clients. Thank you for agreeing to discuss this issue with us.

1. Can you tell me about your role at [name of agency]?
    - *Probe for education, professional qualifications, number of years of experience in the field of HIV and/or family planning (FP) and with this particular agency*

2. Is the focus of your work FP, HIV or both?
    - *[If applicable] What project/projects are you currently funding in Lesotho? What are the project dates?*
    - *What geographic areas do you target?*

3. Does your agency support direct provision of FP, PrEP, and/or integrated FP/PrEP services?
    ____Yes ____No
    - If no, probe for reason(s) agency does not support integrated services

If yes, what type of service delivery points (SDPs) and services do you support?
- *Probe for type of SDPs [multiple SDPs within a single facility, single facility, community]*
- *What services are available at the SDPs you support (FP, male reproductive health (RH), prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, maternal and child health, youth RH, HIV and AIDS services, and/or other services)?*
- *Which FP methods are provided at the SDPs you support?*

4. Do you focus on specific population groups (e.g., youth, postpartum women, low-income groups, PLHIV, key populations)? ____Yes ____No
    - If yes, probe for specific groups

Enabling Environment

5. In your view, what are the most critical policy gaps related to the integration of PrEP into FP services?

6. Are you aware of any efforts to address these gaps?

7. In your view, what are Lesotho's biggest strengths related to integrating PrEP into FP services?

    Prompts, if needed:
    - *Health system infrastructure and equipment*
    - *Contraceptive security*
    - *Number and distribution of providers*
    - *Provider training and skills*
    - *Availability of protocols, guidelines, and job aids*
    - *Health service quality*
    - *Supervision and management systems*
    - *Mix of methods offered*
    - *Integration with other health services*
    - *Referral systems*
    - *Geographic/physical access (e.g., community-based distribution; clinic hours)*
    - *Financial access (e.g., fees for methods, supplies, equipment, or consultation; national insurance; voucher scheme; sliding scale)*
    - *Involvement of the for-profit and not-for-profit private sectors*
    - *Meeting the needs of hard-to-reach populations (e.g., married and unmarried youth, men, people living with HIV, refugees, key populations)*
    - *Engagement of communities in health service delivery issues (e.g., quality improvement, management)*

8. In your view, what are Lesotho's biggest challenges related to integrating PrEP into FP services?

    Prompts, if needed:
    - *Health system infrastructure and equipment*
    - *Contraceptive security*
    - *Number and distribution of providers*
    - *Provider training and skills*
    - *Availability of protocols, guidelines, and job aids*
    - *Health service quality*
    - *Supervision and management systems*

- *Mix of methods offered*
- *Integration with other health services*
- *Referral systems*
- *Geographic/physical access (e.g., community-based distribution; clinic hours)*
- *Financial access (e.g., fees for methods, supplies, equipment, or consultation; national insurance; voucher scheme; sliding scale)*
- *Involvement of the for-profit and not-for-profit private sectors*
- *Meeting the needs of hard-to-reach populations (e.g., married and unmarried youth, men, people living with HIV, refugees, key populations)*
- *Engagement of communities in health service delivery issues (e.g., quality improvement, management)*

9. How would you describe national leadership and commitment to integrating PrEP into FP services? In what specific areas is greater leadership needed?

10. In your view, what are the main strengths and weaknesses of existing national policies, strategies, and guidelines related to integrating PrEP into FP services?
    - *Do any policies or guidelines need updating to reflect current evidence or best practices?*
    - *How would you describe overall support for PrEP in terms of:*
        - *Budgeting processes*
        - *Funding allocations*
        - *Training systems (preservice and in-service)*
        - *Logistics systems*
        - *Supervision and management systems*
    - *What are the main programming gaps that limit or constrain progress or achievement of national policy goals and objectives?*
    - *What are the main programmatic facilitators (and opportunities) to support integrating PrEP into FP services?*

11. What is/are the main source(s) of funding for integrating PrEP into FP services? (e.g., government/internal, donor/external)? How diversified are the sources?
    Probe:
    - *Does the funding you provide include any activities related to integrating PrEP into FP services? If yes, what does it cover?*
    - *[If relevant] How has decentralized health planning and budgeting affected FP programming, including integration? Are districts budgeting adequately for integration activities? Are they receiving the funds that they request/budget in a timely manner? What additional support is needed to strengthen district planning and budgeting processes in relation to integrating PrEP into FP services?*
    - *Are current funding levels adequate to meet the country's goals in the area of FP/PrEP integration?*

Data Use for Decision Making

12. What types of data, information, and data sources do you use to guide planning and funding for FP, PrEP, and PrEP integration into FP?

13. Do you or your implementing partners use existing health management information system data to inform programming? ____Yes ____No
    If yes, how?

14. What data gaps exist, if any?

Coordination and Communication

15. How do you coordinate with the government, other donors and implementing partners to support integration of PrEP into FP services?
    Probe:
    - *What kind of coordination exists?*
    - *Who oversees coordination efforts?*
    - *How are coordination efforts ensured and monitored?*

16. Are there any technical working groups or communities of practices in Lesotho that are used to share information, evidence, and best practices related to integrating PrEP into FP services?
    ____Yes ____No
    - *If no, are there any that you would like to see established? Or, are there other TWGs that could integrate this issue into their ongoing work?*

Service Readiness

17. What service delivery strategies are being implemented, or should be considered, to make integrated FP/PrEP services more available and accessible (e.g., mobile services, community-based services, flexible hours, task-sharing, integration with other services)?

18. The emergence of COVID-19 has led to some disruptions in health services in Lesotho. What, in your opinion, can be done to minimize FP and PrEP service disruptions due to COVID-19?

Perceptions of Acceptability

19. What concerns, if any, do you have about integrating PrEP into FP services?

20. What concerns do you anticipate service providers, communities, or women themselves may have?

21. In your opinion, what segments of the population would be most desiring of PrEP integration into family planning services?

    Probe for:
    - *Adolescents and youth*
    - *Partnered women*
    - *Rural vs urban women*
    - *Key populations*
    - *All sexually active women*

22. Thinking about the social, cultural, and gender norms that influence FP and PrEP use, what do you see as the main barriers and how are they being addressed by your agency?
    - *What level of policy support is there for community engagement in this area? To what extent are community-level champions being involved in these efforts?*
    - *What do you think are the main areas in which programming in this area could be strengthened?*

Wrap-up

23. What final suggestions do you have to improve the delivery of integrated PrEP into FP services before we close this interview?

24. Do you have any final thoughts or recommendations to make?