Assessment of PrEP Integration into Family Planning in Lesotho

Key Informant Interview Guide: Implementing Partners

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

Warm-up

As you may 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 org]?
    - *Probe for number of years of experience in the field of FP and/or HIV and with this particular organization*

2. What is the general focus of your involvement in FP and/or HIV (e.g., aspects of service delivery; aspects of the enabling environment; demand generation)?
    - *[If applicable] Do you work on any particular project? What are the project dates?*
    - *What geographic areas your organization (or project) targets?*
    - *What is the source of your organization's (or project) funding for FP activities? For HIV activities?*

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

Enabling Environment

4. In your view, what are the main strengths and weaknesses of existing national policies guidelines or frameworks, related to the integration of PrEP into FP services?
    - Are there any existing that can be adapted to address PrEp-FP integration?
    - How are these policies being disseminated? How is their use monitored?

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. What are the main programmatic gaps that limit or constrain progress with regards to PrEP integration into family planning 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. How would you describe overall governmental (MOH) support for the FP program in terms of:
   - Training systems (preservice and in-service)
   - Logistics systems
   - Supervision and management systems

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

<u>Coordination and Communication</u>

10. Has your organization reached out to supportive (government and other) officials/leaders at all levels to serve as champions for PrEP integration into family planning services? If so, how does your organization engage them?

11. Is there an established national-level advocacy committee or group (formal or informal) consisting of NGOs and/or other entities working to advance PrEP integration into family planning services?
    ____Yes ____No

    - *If yes, who is involved?*
    - *Is there a clear advocacy objective?*
    - *Can you provide examples of the advocacy efforts currently underway, including the target(s) of these efforts?*

12. What coordination mechanisms are used to harmonize PrEP/FP integration efforts of various partners?

13. Do the FP and HIV programs ever engage in any joint planning or collaborative activities?
    ____*Yes* ____*No*
    - *If yes, what kind of activities is there collaboration on?*
    - *If no, why do you think there is no collaboration?*

Data Use for Decision Making

14. Can you share some examples of data used/routinely sought for decision making (e.g., Demographic and Health Survey data, survey results, service statistics; formative research; pilot projects; monitoring and evaluation; best practices)? How does your organization adjust its programs based on successes, setbacks, challenges, and emerging needs?

15. What gaps exist in the data and information that are currently available, if any?

Service Readiness

16. Does your program support direct provision of FP, PrEP, or PrEP integration with family planning services?
    ____Yes ____No

    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)?*

17. Which FP methods are provided at the SDPs you support? What FP methods do you offer through referrals?

18. Do you consistently have everything you need to provide the FP services sought by your clients?
    - Are FP commodities, equipment and supplies consistently available?
    - What do you lack most often (i.e. certain methods, equipment and supplies required for provision of such methods as implants or IUD)?
    - Have stock-outs of certain methods (and/or equipment/supplies) occurred within the last three months? If so, why do you think this is happening?

19. In your view, what are Lesotho's biggest strengths related to PrEP integration (or potential integration) into family planning 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)*

20. In your view, what are Lesotho's biggest challenges related to PrEP integration (or potential integration) into family planning 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*
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- *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)*

21. What service delivery strategies should be considered to make FP services that include provision of PrEP more available and accessible (e.g., mobile services, community-based services, flexible hours, task-sharing, integration with other services)?

22. How do you/would you ensure that family planning providers in your programs have necessary skills to offer quality integrated FP/PrEP services?
    Probe if applicable:
    - *Do you offer in-service training, refresher training, on-the-job training?*
    - *Does your training for FP providers include FP/PrEP integration component?*
    - *What kind of supervision and monitoring you implement?*

23. How do you/would you ensure that FP services are not disrupted or marginalized by PrEP integration?

24. 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?

<u>Perceptions of Acceptability</u>

25. What concerns, if any, do you have about PrEP integration into family planning services?

26. What concerns do you feel women themselves may have?

27. 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*
- *Key populations*
- *Rural vs urban women*
- *All sexually active women*

28. In your opinion, what would make integration of PrEP into FP services most attractive to FP clients?

29. Thinking about the social, cultural, and gender norms that influence FP and PrEP use/uptake, what do you see as the main barriers to utilization and how are the barriers being addressed by your organization?
    - *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

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

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