Assessment of PrEP Integration into Family Planning in Lesotho

Key Informant Interview Guide: Policy Makers

Title/designation of Person Interviewed: _____
Ministry/Organization/Body: _____
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 organization/agency/ministry]?
    - *Probe for education, professional qualifications, number of years of experience in the field of FP, HIV, or both and with this particular ministry*

Enabling Environment

2. We understand the following policy documents address PrEP integration into FP services:
    - National Health Strategic Plan 2017–2022 mentions SRH/HIV integration.
    - PrEP guidelines include PrEP delivery at FP, adolescent, and ANC clinics.

    Can you think of any additional policy documents that address such integration?

3. Are there any important policy gaps related to the integration of PrEP into FP services?
    If yes, what efforts are under way to address these gaps?

4. How are these policies being disseminated? How is their use monitored?

5. Are there any policy/legal barriers to integrating PrEP into FP services that need to be addressed? ____Yes ____No
    If yes, please explain

6. In your opinion, what are the biggest constraints that integrating PrEP into family planning services faces?

   If not addressed, probe for:
   - *Infrastructure*
   - *Government support (e.g., budget, regulations)*
   - *Adequate staffing at national, regional, and district levels*
   - *Staff training, motivation, oversight/supervision*
   - *Education and outreach (at all levels)*
   - *Lack of clinical guidance and tools (e.g., protocols, guidelines, job aids)*
   - *Client access (e.g., costs/fees, hours; waiting times; provider availability/attitudes)*
   - *Commodity supply (e.g., logistics, budget, transport, warehousing, information system)*
   - *Sociocultural issues (e.g., myths/misconceptions, stigma/discrimination; gender inequalities)*
   - *Political or religious factors*
   - *Engaging population segments that are more difficult to reach (e.g., youth, key populations)*

7. In your opinion, what are Lesotho's greatest strengths that may contribute to successful integration of PrEP into FP services?

   Probe for strengths in any of the following categories:
   - **a. Supply:** *This includes those elements necessary to provide quality services, such as commodities/supplies; physical infrastructure; provider training and supervision; health information systems; etc.*
   - **b. Demand:** *This includes those elements that influence a client's knowledge of and support for use of FP and PrEP, such as exposure to appropriate IEC/BCC messages, socio-cultural norms (including gender norms); myths and misconceptions; etc*
   - *c.* **Enabling Environment:** *This refers to those elements within the broader political environment that impact on FP and PrEP services, such as funding, regulations, policies, etc.*

8. How would you describe the level of political commitment to and leadership regarding integration of PrEP in FP services?

9. Do heads of government and other officials speak publicly and favorably about it?
   ____Yes ____No

   - *If no, why? (if not addressed, probe for political opposition, lack of awareness, competing demands)*
   - *If yes, how frequently (at least once or twice a year)?*
   - *Who are the major champions supporting this policy?*
   - *What form has this taken (e.g., public speeches, radio/TV broadcasts)?*

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 HIV or FP budget include funding for any PrEP integration activities? 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 FP/PrEP integration?*
- *Is funding adequate to meet the country's goals in the area of PrEP integration into FP services?*

Coordination and Communication

12. If PrEP integration into FP services is a national goal, how is it communicated to relevant actors and stakeholders?

13. How do you coordinate with donors and other partners to support efforts around integrating PrEP into FP services?

    Probe:

    - *What kind of coordination exists?*
    - *Who oversees coordination efforts?*
    - *How are coordination efforts ensured and monitored?*

14. Are there any technical working groups or communities of practices in Lesotho that are used to share information, evidence, and best practices related to PrEP integration into FP services?

    ____Yes ____No

    - *If no, are there any that you would like to see established? Or, are there other technical working groups that could integrate this issue into their ongoing work?*

15. 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

16. What types of data, information and data sources are you using to guide planning and decision-making with regards to PrEP integration into FP services?

Probe, if needed:

- *DHS surveys*
- *LePHIA*
- *Research (e.g PMA, AGYW)*
- *service or use statistics*
- *formative research*
- *pilot projects*
- *impact evaluations*
- *implementation research*
- *best practices*

17. As you see it, what are the gaps in the data and information that are currently available?

Perceptions of Acceptability

18. What concerns, if any, do you have about integrating PrEP into FP services? What concerns do you anticipate service providers, communities, or women themselves may have?

19. In your opinion, what segments of the population would be most desiring of receiving PrEP within FP services?

    Probe for:

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

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

Service Readiness

21. In your opinion, what are the main challenges facing FP programs at the service delivery level when they integrate PrEP?
    (if not addressed, probe for staffing, training, logistics, supply chain, demand creation)

22. Is there a national training program/pool of national trainers to offer in-service training for FP providers on PrEP and/or FP/PrEP integration? ____Yes ____No

23. Is there a capacity to offer on-the-job training on PrEP to providers in FP settings?
    ____Yes ____No

24. What are some of the highest priority training needs in order to integrate PrEP into FP services, i.e. who needs to be trained on what subjects or skills? How are these needs identified?

25. Are there training materials and curricula (pre-service and in-service) which address PrEP integration into FP services?
    ____Yes ____No

    If yes, what do they cover in regard to integration?
    If not addressed, probe for topic areas, such as screening, counseling, testing services (including HIV testing, creatinine clearance, Hepatitis B), adherence, follow-up.

26. When were FP curricula and training materials last updated?

27. Do FP curricula and training materials reflect the latest clinical evidence-based practices and polices?
    ____Yes ____No

    If no, is there a plan to update those and when?
    What is the process for update?

28. 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?

Wrap-up

29. What final suggestions do you have to establish and/or improve the delivery of PrEP within FP settings?

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