

## MATRIX-003

### Participant In-depth Interview (IDI) Topic Guide

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#### **INSTRUCTIONS for the Interviewer: How to use the IDI Guide**

1. *Instructions/suggestions to interviewer are in italics and [brackets].*
2. Not ALL questions need to be asked. It is up to the interviewer's discretion if a question or probe should be skipped if the participant has already provided a response to the question earlier in the interview. Please ensure that by the end of the interview, all the topics and key themes have been covered.

**Before starting the IDI, ensure the participant has provided written informed consent.**

[Start recorder and provide an introduction]: I have started recording now. The participant ID is \_\_\_\_, the date and time is \_\_\_\_\_. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. Thank you again for your willingness to be in this study. The main goal of this discussion is to better understand your experience participating in this study. I want to remind you that there are no right or wrong answers, and what we discuss here will be kept confidential; if you feel uncomfortable answering or talking about anything, you can tell me and we will move on to the next question. We will not share your personal information or responses with anyone outside of the study.

If during our discussion there are issues or concerns that you would like to talk about, feel free to bring them up; I will take note of them and answer them directly after the interview. If I cannot answer them, I can refer you to someone who may be able to help. Before we start, can you confirm for the recorder that you have already provided written informed consent to take part in this discussion and are willing to continue? [Wait for oral confirmation to begin].

#### **A. Background and introduction**

##### **Can you tell me a little bit about yourself?**

Possible probing topics:

- Can you tell me about your background, work, family and social life?
- Tell me about your perspectives on pregnancy prevention.
- Tell me about your perspectives on HIV prevention.

##### **Can you tell me a little bit about the community you currently are a part of?**

Possible probing topics:

- Who do you consider to be part of your community?(e.g. family, friends, religious group, affinity groups, local neighbors) Who is generally responsible for making sexual health decisions in your community?
- Can you tell me how your community feels about HIV prevention products? And what you think about these beliefs? If you can, please give me an example.
- Can you tell me how your community feels about pregnancy prevention? What do you think about these beliefs? If you can, please give me an example.
- Can you tell me how your community feels about vaginal products (including for non-HIV prevention purposes e.g. tampons, menstrual cups, sex toys, etc).? Can you tell me about what you think about these community attitudes on vaginal products?

##### **What have you used in the past to prevent HIV or pregnancy?**

Possible probing topics:

- What are the reasons you used [x] for pregnancy prevention? And what were the reasons you used [x] for HIV prevention?
- Tell me about your experience using [x]. Did you have difficulty in using the product? Did you have positive experiences?
- Can you tell me about any vaginal products you've used that serve other purposes besides HIV or pregnancy prevention? (For example, products that enhance sex, dry or moisturize the vagina, medical products that are inserted in the vagina, or vaginal products for menses)

## B. Experience with the ring - insertion, use and removal

### What was your experience with using the rings during this study?

Possible probing topics:

- Was there anything that surprised you about your experience with inserting or removing the rings? *(If the participant struggles to answer, prompt further about whether they were surprised by the color, flexibility, positions of insertion, impact of vaginal hygiene, etc.)*
- How did you find the insertion process? How about the removal process? *(If the participant struggles to answer, prompt further about whether it was difficult, easy, whether anything helped with insertion/removal)*
- How did you know that the ring was inserted correctly?
- Was there a difference in your experience with inserting the first ring versus the second ring? How so?
- Was there a difference in your experience with removing the first ring versus the second ring? How so?
- What did you think about the vaginal ring usage instructions? Did the instructions make the insertion and removal process easier for you? How so?
- Is there anything that we could do better to help women in future with inserting or removing the ring?

### What was your experience with using the rings on a day-to-day basis?

Possible probing topics:

- Were you aware of the ring while doing daily life activities (such as walking, working, sleeping, exercising, cooking, using the restroom/toilet, etc?) What was that experience like?
- During what types of activities were you aware of the ring? What types of activities do you feel you were unaware of the ring?
- What adjustments, if any, did you make to your life when using the rings? Did any of this change over time for you?
- How did using the ring affect your use of menstrual products?
- *[If participant used the ring during menstruation]* What did you think about using the ring during menstruation? Did you experience any challenges or positive experiences with using the ring during menstruation?
- When was it hardest to use the ring? Why?
- Did it get easier or harder to use the ring over time? How so?
- Did anything about the ring surprise you when you were using it? *[probe: in ways you liked and in ways that you did not like].*
- Was there a difference in the experience with using the first ring vs the second ring? How so?
- Do you have any advice for other women who would use this ring in the future

**Has there been a time during the study when the ring was out of your vagina? Tell me more about this experience.**

Possible probing topics:

- Did either of the rings ever come out by accident? If so, which ring (1<sup>st</sup> ring or 2<sup>nd</sup> ring)? What do you think happened? Did you reinsert the ring or not after it came out? Why? How long did you go without the ring?
- Did you ever remove either of the rings intentionally? If so, what made you want to remove the ring? Did you reinsert the ring or not afterwards? Why? How long did you go without the ring? How was re-inserting the ring at home?
- Did you discuss the ring removal with site staff when it happened? If so, what advice did the site staff give you? Did you discuss removing the ring with anyone else?

**C. Sexual experience using the ring**

**Did you tell your partner/s about your participation in the study?**

**-IF NO: Tell me some of the reason(s) why you did not tell them.**

**-IF YES: Tell me about that conversation. What did you say? How did they respond?**

Possible probing topics:

- Did you tell your partner(s) about the ring(s) or how did they find out? *Explore for different partners if more than one partner.* How did you start the discussion?
- What were your motivations for telling them?
- How did they react?
- How did their reaction affect your use of the ring?
- Did their feelings about the ring change over time? What caused the change?

*If they didn't tell their partner/s:*

- What made you decide not to tell them?
- Do you think there could be a right time to tell your partner? If so, when would that be? If not, why not?
- Would you prefer a ring that you could use without your partner knowing? Why/why not?
- Would you have wanted to tell your partner about the rings? Is there anything that might have helped you with talking to your partner about the rings?

**Did you have sex during the study period? If so, what was your experience with sex when you had the ring inserted?**

Possible probing topics:

- How did the ring(s) affect sexual pleasure? (for you and/or your partner)
- Did you or your partner notice a difference between sexual pleasure with the first ring vs the second? What was the difference, if any?
- Did you or your partner ever feel the ring during sex? Please explain a situation when this happened. What did they say about it? How did you feel about it? Was this the first or second ring?
- Do you think your partner influenced your ability or desire to use the ring? If so, how?
- Did you sometimes remove the ring for sex? If yes, why? If no, why not?
- If removed for sex, where did you put it? When did you re-insert the ring?
- Did you do anything to avoid feeling the ring during sex?
- If there were changes in your sex life due to the ring, do you think they were good or bad?

<b>D. Acceptability</b>
<p><b>We asked you to use two types of rings during the study. Did you prefer ring 1 or ring 2? Explain why.</b></p> <p><i>Possible probing topics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please compare your experiences in using each ring. What were the things you disliked (and why) about each ring?</li> <li>• What were the things you liked (and why) about each ring?</li> <li>• Did your opinion of the ring change when using the first ring vs the second ring?</li> <li>• Did your attitudes about the ring(s) change over time during the study? How so?</li> <li>• What were the attitudes of other people you told about your ring(s)? How did this affect your thoughts or feelings about the ring(s)?</li> </ul>
<b>E. Future ring use</b>
<p><b>I would like to ask you to think about future use of a vaginal ring like the ones you used in this study. What would make you interested in using a ring like the ones in this study in the future? [If the ring is found to prevent HIV and pregnancy in the future and becomes an available option].</b></p> <p><i>Possible probing topics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How would you feel about using a ring that only prevents one thing, such as pregnancy or HIV or STIs, versus using a 2-in-1 ring?</li> <li>• How would you prefer to use the ring (e.g. wear at certain times or all the time)?</li> <li>• What would you want to use the ring for? (e.g. HIV prevention, pregnancy prevention, both, other options?)</li> </ul>
<p><b>What about other women? What characteristics of the ring do you think will be important to them?</b></p> <p><i>Possible probing topics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What would encourage their interest and make the ring appealing to them?</li> <li>• Do you think the ring would be popular – with whom? Why?</li> <li>• How do you think other women would view inserting, using and removing the ring?</li> <li>• What concerns would they most likely have about the ring?</li> <li>• What advice would you give them to overcome these concerns?</li> </ul>
<p><b>If you were to design this vaginal ring for yourself, how would you make it better to appeal to women like you?</b></p> <p><i>Possible probing topics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What would those changes do – why would you make them?</li> <li>• Would you change the size (thickness/diameter), colour, flexibility, scent/fragrance, etc?</li> </ul>
<b>F. Wrap Up and Closing Remarks</b>
<p><b>We have talked about a lot of things today. Thank you for taking the time to talk to me and share your opinions. We truly appreciate your willingness to participate and discuss your experience with us. Before we end, I want to give you the chance to tell us anything else you think we should know about the ring – good things, bad things, challenges and successes with using it – anything that will help us better understand your experience with using the ring and how to improve the ring.</b></p>

**Do you have any comments or anything else to share with us about your overall experience with the study before we end our discussion?**

**Thank you so much for your time and participation in our discussion and in the study.**