

**LINKAGES – IDI guide for couples (interviewed individually)**

**(AIM 1)**

**A) FERTILITY DESIRE**

- 1) How many biological children do you currently have with \_\_(YOUR PARTNER)\_\_? Do you have biological children with other partners? How many? *Probe: ask about the sex of the current children; also ask if all current biological children live with the respondent (and where if they do not live with the respondent)?*
- 2) How many children, including those you mother/father and those you do not, does \_\_(YOUR PARTNER)\_\_ have? *Probe: do all his/her children (with other partners) live with you?*
- 3) What is the total number of children you would like to have in your lifetime? *Probe: How many boys? How many girls? Is the number of boys or girls important to you or to your family/clan? What if you only have boys or only have girl children? Would you want to have more children if you financial situation improved?*
- 4) Would you like to have a child now or in the future, whether or not you think it will happen?

**IF WANT CHILD:**

- i) Tell me about your reason(s) for wanting a/another child? *Probe: how important is it that you have a/another child?*
- ii) When would you like to have your (next) child? *Probe: now? In the future – when? If a particular age gap, why is that age gap important?*
- iii) What are your concerns about having another child? *Probe: mother's health, other stresses, expenses, health of child, etc.*

**IF DO NOT WANT CHILD:**

- iv) Tell me about that. Why not? *Probe: how important is it that you do not have a/another child? Do you think you might want to have a child with someone other than \_\_(YOUR PARTNER)\_\_?*
  - v) What are your concerns about having another child? *Probe: mother's health, other stresses, expenses, health of child, etc.*
  - vi) Do you or your partner plan to use contraceptives? What would you consider using? Why? Why not?
  - vii) If you/\_\_(YOUR PARTNER)\_\_ became pregnant now, what would you do? *Probe: try to find out if the respondent would continue with the pregnancy, how the partner might react, would he/she terminate the pregnancy, their rationale and feelings about it.*
- 5) Do you know how many children (how many boys and how many girls) \_\_YOUR PARTNER\_\_ wants to have in his/her lifetime? *If yes, how do you know this?*
  - 6) Does this knowledge have an influence on your desire for children?
  - 7) Have you ever discussed how many children you want to have with \_\_(YOUR PARTNER)\_\_? Explain. *Probe: What about your husband/wife, has he/she brought up the issue? Tell me about it.*

- 8) Do you think YOUR PARTNER wants to have a child with you now or sometime in the future?
  - i) Why do you think he/she feels that way? What has he/she said? How did that make you feel? *Probe: how does that discussion usually go? Give me an example of what he/she says, what do you say? **If they do not discuss**, why not/what is difficult about this discussion?*
  - ii) Who has more say about the decision to have a child? Why is it that way?
- 9) Have you ever received any guidance or advice or felt pressure from your wife's/husband's family about having children? Tell me about it.
  - i) What about from your own family?
  - ii) What about from your friends?
- 10) Were there times when you or your partner had a pregnancy that you did not want? *Probe: Please tell me about that (how did you react, how did your partner react, what did you do, who decided what to do).*
- 11) Have you ever lost a child? *Probe: can you tell me what happened? Was this during the pregnancy or after they were born?*
- 12) Are you involved in caring for any (other) children? (e.g. adopted, nieces, nephews, etc.) **If so**, Tell me about that. *Probe: how does this experience affect your current desire to have a child or not?*
- 13) What are your thoughts about being a mother/father? (Likes/Dislikes, Importance)
- 14) How does the desire to have children change when someone has the virus?
- 15) How does being a mother/father change when someone has the HIV virus?

B) HIV TESTING, DISCLOSURE & RISK

- 1) Have you ever been tested for HIV?
  - i) **If yes**, have you ever received your HIV test results? *Probe: why or why not? How did you react? Has this changed your life goals in any way – has this changed your desire for a/another child?*
  - ii) **If no**, why not?
- 2) Have you and YOUR PARTNER ever tested for HIV together?
- 3) Have you ever shared your HIV test results with YOUR PARTNER?  
**If yes**, *Probe: Tell me what happened. What motivated you to discuss your results with him/her? How did he/she react?*  
**If no**, *Probe: Tell me why you have not shared your results with each other? What has stopped you and him/her from talking about your HIV test results?*
- 4) Has YOUR PARTNER ever shared his/her HIV test results with you? *Probe: tell me what happened.*  
**If yes**, *how did you react? Has your desire for a/another child changed since you found out your partner's HIV status?*  
**If no**, *why do you think he/she has not shared? Do you think he/she is at risk for HIV? Why? Has your desire for a/another child changed since you do not know your partner's HIV status?*
- 5) If both you and YOUR PARTNER had HIV,

- i) How would it change (how has it changed) your relationship?
  - ii) Would it (did it) influence you wanting or not wanting a/another child? In what way?
  - iii) Would it (did it) influence your use of any birth control methods?
- 6) How about if only one of you had HIV,
- i) How would it change (how has it changed) your relationship? Would it be easier if you both were infected?
  - ii) Would it (did it) influence you wanting or not wanting a/another child? In what way?
  - iii) Would it (did it) influence your use of any birth control methods?

**IF RESPONDENT DISCLOSES OWN HIV+ STATUS TO INTERVIEWER DURING THE INTERVIEW:**

- 1) You have indicated to me that you have HIV. Am I right?
- 2) How long ago did you find out about your HIV status? How do you think you got the virus?
- 3) Does your overall health have anything to do with you wanting or not wanting a/another child? *Probe: in what way does your HIV status affect whether you want a/another child? do you feel well enough to care for or provide for a child?*
- 4) ***If the respondent is on ARV/HIV treatment,*** how long have you been on HIV treatment? What is it like to be on this treatment? Has your desire for children changed since you started ARVs? In what way?
- 5) ***If ever had a pregnancy/ever had a partner who was pregnant:***
  - i) Last time you were/your partner was pregnant, did you seek any health care at a health facility? *Probe: what advice were you given about being HIV- positive and having a child? What advice were you given about the child's well-being? How were you treated by the health care provider? Were you given any counseling for family planning methods?*
  - ii) Where was your (her) delivery? Did you (she) take any medications to prevent HIV transmission to the baby?
  - iii) During your (her) pregnancy were you concerned about how pregnancy might affect your (her) HIV status? Please describe.
  - iv) How did your family/ your partner's family react when you decided to have a child? Do they know about your HIV status?
- 6) Since you learned you were infected have you tried to have a child with anyone besides YOUR PARTNER? Tell me about that.

**C) CONTRACEPTIVE USE**

- 1) When you first got married to this partner,
  - i) Did you use any birth control (traditional or new)? ***If yes,*** What method(s), how frequently used, why they/he or she choose it/them. Who decided on the contraceptive use? ***If no,*** Tell me why not? Who decided that you should not use them?
  - ii) Did you talk to your partner about what kind of birth control methods to use? *Probe: what do you discuss? When did you discuss? (If not using Depo or other long acting method) who decides on the method to use when you have sex?*
  - iii) Did you ever receive any advice from a health care provider about birth control? *Probe: please tell me about this – when did you get the advice? What method did they*

- recommend? Did you accept their advice? Why or why not (concerns about the quality of the service)?*
- iv) What concerns did you have about using birth control at this time? *Probe on effects on fertility and health, difficulties in getting birth control, in using birth control.*
- 2) Are you currently using any method of birth control? Which methods (traditional or new) are you using?
- If same method as before,***
- i) Was there any change in why you chose this/these method(s)?
- ii) Where do you prefer to get this/these method(s) from? Why?
- If different from before,***
- iii) What made you switch the method? Tell me about it. *Probes: Did you and your partner talk about the change in the method? Were the discussions different from before? Did you seek advice from a health care provider about this?*
- iv) Where do you prefer to get this method from? Why?
- If no,***
- v) Do you intend to use birth control in the future? Why? Or Why not?
- vi) Which method(s) would you like to use?
- vii) What might prevent you from using birth control? *Probe on partner perspectives, difficulties in access, concerns about health, etc.*
- 3) Have you ever used any other type of birth control? Can you tell me about that. *Probes: when did you use this method? why did you use this method? Was that with this partner or with someone else? Do you still use it or have you stopped? What made you stop?*
- 4) Were there times when you want to use a method but are not able to? *Probe: have you ever used withdrawal with your partner? How or why do you use it? How frequently do you use it? How is this helpful for your desire to avoid pregnancies or avoid HIV? Please tell me more.*

#### D) CURRENT RELATIONSHIP CONTEXT

- 1) How long have you and YOUR PARTNER been together? *Probe: do you live/stay together all the time? (If no) What is the living arrangement?*
- 2) Do you currently have any other partners?
- If yes,***
- i) how many?
- ii) how is/are the extra-marital relationship(s) different from the current one?
- iii) have you already or do you hope to produce children with (any of) your extra-marital partner(s)?
- iv) do you know HIV status of the other partner(s)?
- v) do you use birth control with the other partner(s)?
- 3) Does YOUR PARTNER have other sexual partners? How do you know?
- If yes/suspect yes,***
- i) How many other sexual partners do you think he/she has?
- ii) How does this affect your relationship with him/her?
- iii) Have you and \_\_\_\_\_ ever talked about his/her other partners? What specifically did you talk about? What was the outcome of your talk?
- 4) What kind of work do you and your partner do?

- 5) How do you and YOUR PARTNER make decisions about (or Who makes decisions about) things like
  - i) Spending money?
  - ii) Which child to send to school or spending money on schooling for kids?
  - iii) Getting health care for yourself? Getting health care for children?
  - iv) When to have sex?
- 6) I want ask a little more about your expenses. Let's say you earn 10,000 shillings in one month, how does this money get spent? How much goes into paying school expenses, food, other household expenses? How does this amount change when it is time to pay for school fees?
- 7) How much does your income change from month to month?
- 8) When you and your husband/wife disagree, who **usually** has the final say or gets their way?
- 9) Tell me about the last time when you and YOUR PARTNER had a major disagreement about something that you considered important. *Probe: tell me what happened.*
- 10) Did you have any previous marital partners before this one? How many? How/why did those partnerships dissolve?
- 11) What are your future goals/hopes about this relationship?