Hi everyone, my name is ___________________________ and I am here with my colleague/s _______________________________.

Today we are here to talk to you about a few different strategies we are working on to help improve access to and uptake of oral PrEP. As you may know the government of [XXX] is working to make oral PrEP available to all those who are at substantial risk of contracting HIV. In this case, substantial risk simply means/refers to those people who feel they are at an increased risk or those who feel they could contract HIV due to their individual or partner’s sexual behaviours. The aim of today’s discussion is to better understand what can be said to motivate you or your friends to consider PrEP as an HIV prevention option.

Participation in the discussion is completely voluntary and you do not have to answer any questions that you do not want to answer. You may also withdraw from the discussion at any time if you wish. We have nothing to offer other than listening; there will be no other direct benefits related to this time we spend together today. And, there will be no consequences if you choose not to participate.

We do not want your names and will not be writing your names down. We will not present any other potentially identifying information in anything that we produce based on this discussion. We will treat everything that you say today with respect, and we will only share the answers you give as general answers combined with those from all the people who speak to us.

We ask that you keep everything confidential, too.

We will be audio recording this discussion, and __________ will be taking notes to make sure that we accurately capture what is discussed.

We really want to hear what you have to say, and I want you to answer my questions however you want. There is no wrong answer to any question.

I expect our discussion to last for a maximum time of 60 minutes.

Do you have any questions before we begin?

May I have your permission to turn on the tape recorder and begin the discussion?

[Moderator, turn on the tape recorder if permission granted by all. Anyone who doesn’t give permission will be excluded from discussion, or it can be determined that the discussion is not recorded.]
1. Ice breaker questions

- What does being healthy mean to you?
- Why do you/we value our health so much?
- Where do you see yourself in 5 years?
- What would stop you from getting there?
- Do you think your health matters at all in attaining your vision?

2. Knowledge questions

- What do you know about oral PrEP?
- What do you think about oral PrEP? What are positives and negatives about taking PrEP?
- Where did you get the information?
- Do you think there are a lot of people who know about PrEP in this community?
- Do a lot of people use PrEP?
- What else would you like to know about oral PrEP?

3. Access to PrEP information

- Where do you normally get health-related information?
- How accessible is that information?
- Where would you like to access PrEP-related information? Why?
- Can you think of 3 places you would like to access PrEP-related information?
- How accessible are these places? (Time, transport costs, distance, etc.)
- What is the best way to disseminate information about PrEP?
- In what form should this information be delivered? (written, oral, visual?) Why?
- Who should be targeted with information on PrEP? Where?

4. Preferred service delivery platforms and why

- Where do you normally get prevention/health/reproductive health services?
- If you were going to access PrEP, where would you like to access it?
- Can you think of 2 service delivery platforms you would like to access PrEP from? And why?

5. Potential barriers to access PrEP

- Are you worried about contracting HIV? Why or why not?
- What are the potential barriers to access PrEP?
- What do you think can be done to minimise obstacles to PrEP access?
- What factors can make it difficult for a person to access PrEP? Why?
- How can these challenges be addressed?
- Would your community support you taking PrEP? Why or why not?
- What do you think it would take for your community to support you taking PrEP?
- What needs to happen or change in order for your community to support your taking of PrEP?
- Would you hide the fact that you took PrEP from close family and friends? Why or why not?
6. Potential facilitators to PrEP use

- Why do you think people like you start PrEP?
- What are some of the emotional benefits of PrEP? (i.e. extra protection, more control, etc.)
- What do you feel would help you ask for more information about PrEP?
- What do you think would help people in your community start on, take and stay on PrEP?
- What do you think can be done to make PrEP more acceptable as a prevention method?
- What do you think needs to be done to raise awareness of the benefits of PrEP?
- As a person engaging in sex, what strategies do you or your friends use to minimize your chances of contracting HIV?

7. Support needed to start and stay on PrEP

- What do you think potential PrEP users would need to start PrEP?
- What do you think potential PrEP users would need to stay on PrEP? (in the form of reminders, support, etc.)?

8. Preferred service providers

Now let’s discuss the type of provider that young women like you look for when accessing services like PrEP.

- What type of providers do young women prefer?
- Do young women prefer a woman or a man or does it not matter?
- What about the age of the provider?

9. Disclosure

- Do you think it is important to disclose when you are taking PrEP?
- If you were using PrEP, would you disclose to anyone?
- Who would you disclose to? And why?
- If you were married, would you disclose to your partner?
- Are there risks associated with disclosing PrEP use to your partner? If so, what are they?
- What support do you think you or your friends might need if you were going to disclose your use of PrEP?

10. Partner/peer/parent influence in PrEP

- In what ways can getting or using a product that prevents pregnancy or HIV cause conflict in sexual relationships?
- Is PrEP any different? In what ways can using PrEP cause conflict within sexual relationships?
- What are the potential outcomes if your friends or peers find out you are taking PrEP? Parents/family? Peers?
- If your peers or friends were to support your use of PrEP, what do you wish that support looked like? What would they say to you or what would they do for you?
- If your parents were to support your use of PrEP what do you wish that support looked like?
- If your sexual partners were to support your use of PrEP what do you wish that support looked like?

11. Is there anything else related to PrEP that you would like to discuss that we did not cover?

Thank you so much for taking the time to come here and discuss this very important topic with us. We appreciate the time you have taken. If you feel you have more information for us, please contact our colleague _____________ who is based here at ___________.