

GENERAL QUESTION STRUCTURE

The following broad/open ended questions and probes will be applied to each interview topic:

1) Personal experience

- *Can you tell me a bit about your experience with xxx?*
- *What was it like xxx?*
- *Could you give me some examples from your experience?*
- *How did that make you feel?*
- *How do you think other people in your trans community experience xxx?*
- *How has xxx impacted your life?*
- *How accessible is xxx in your setting?*

2) Benefits and Enablers

- *What motivates/motivated you to do xxx?*
- *How do you address/access xxx?*
- *What enabled/helped you in this situation to xxx?*
- *What do you think are the benefits of xxx?*
- *How effective do you think xxx is?*

3) Barriers and Challenges

- *What were some of the challenges to xxx?*
- *What do you perceive as the main barriers to xxx?*
- *Did you experience any difficulties in this situation?*
- *What prevented you from doing/accessing xxx?*

4) Suggested strategies/ solutions

- *What would help/assist you in/to get/access xxx?*
- *What information would you need to do/get xxx?*
- *What would be most beneficial/helpful to you in this situation?*
- *How do you think this problem could be addressed/solved/improved?*
- *How could things be made easier for you in this situation?*
- *How should xxx best be offered to transgender people in xxx?*

In case of questions to interviewer during interview:

- *That's a good question; I will get back to it at the end of the interview. For now I am interested in your experience...*
- *I will make a note of question and answer it at the end of the interview (if possible, or else say you will follow up via email with an answer).*

INTRODUCTION AND VERBAL CONSENT

1. Read consent form, answer any questions and then ask participant for verbal consent (start recording at this time)
2. Commence the interview

SECTION 1 - SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

If already gathered in online survey, don't repeat:

Name:

Age:

E-mail address:

Country of residence:

Primary occupation/primary source of income:

Level of English:

Current gender:

Sex assigned at birth:

Sexual orientation:

Ever tested for HIV:

HIV status:

Gender reassignment surgery:

SECTION 2- HIV PREVENTION

HIV KNOWLEDGE AND ACCESS TO PREVENTION SERVICES

ICE BREAKER

First, I'm curious to hear a bit about your involvement in the trans community and with HIV issues more broadly.

What is your main source of information on HIV prevention (e.g. Internet, transgender friends and community, organizations working in HIV, health centres)

TRANSITIONING

Now, I want to ask you about transitioning. You said in the survey that you have had xxxx....

Tell me a bit about your experience transitioning? (e.g. age, where, how did you start)

(if bottom surgery) You mentioned in the survey you had xxx:

- *did you experience and post operative complications?*

How has transitioning impacted your life?

Did you face any challenges during this process?

If not mentioned yet; ask specifically about use of:

- Hormones (injection risks)
- MtF only: Silicone or other soft tissue fillers
 - What, how (injected?- if so access to clean needles?)
- Gender-affirmative surgery
 - Why desired or not, ease of access, what and how – medically supervised?

How would you ideally like to be able to access these services?

Do you see a role for integration of HIV services with other trans-specific health services (e.g. hormone treatment/gender reassignment surgery)?

SEXUAL HEALTH

Now, I would like to find out a bit more about your sexual health. If any of these questions make you feel uncomfortable and you prefer not to answer them, that is totally fine, just tell me so.

Could you tell me a bit about your sexual health needs?

So in the survey you indicated that you feel physically, romantically and/or emotionally attracted to XXXX.

Do you use prevention commodities to prevent HIV and STIs?

- *How easy is it for you to access these?*
- *(if discordant relationship) explore PrEP, PEP, early initiation of ART*

MENTAL HEALTH AND DRUG USE

Is access to clean needles and syringes a concern for you? (e.g. for use of injecting hormones, silicone, recreational drugs)

- *(if yes) explore access to NSP and OST*
- *(if no) access in the wider community*

How easily available are clean needles in your country/city and where do you get them from?

SECTION 3- TESTING AND COUNSELLING (only for those who have been tested)

You indicated on the survey that you have been tested for HIV and that your result is xxx

Can you tell me a bit more about your experience(s) getting tested?

- *Place (e.g. public clinic, community based, private, NGO)*
- *Did you go alone or with a partner/friend*
- *How did you feel getting tested there?*
- *Can you tell me about getting the result?*

SECTION 4- TREATMENT AND CARE (only for HIV +)

- *What happened after getting the result (e.g. did you get referred to HIV treatment and care services)?*
- *What were you told about treatment?*
- *What do you know about when you start ART?*
 - *Early initiation of treatment, why yes or no*

In an ideal world, what would HIV services be like for you?

- *Do you prefer to have health services that are specific to trans people only or integrated into general health services*

TREATMENT AS PREVENTION (only for HIV -)

Have you ever heard of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) or post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)?

Have you ever used a medication or pill before (called PrEP) or after (called PEP) a time when you felt you were at risk of exposure to HIV?

- a. What have you heard about PrEP or PEP?*
- b. Tell me a bit more about your experiences using xxx?*
- c. What did you think the benefits were?*
- d. Did you experience any difficulties with using xxx?*
- e. Is there much information available on PrEP/PEP in your community?*

SECTION 5- OTHER HEALTH CONCERNS

Are there any other health topics or concerns, HIV or other that are important to you/ OR the broader transgender community?

e.g.

- 1. Co-morbidities (TB, HBV, HCV, STI)*
- 2. Opportunity to raise any other topics/concerns*

DEBRIEFING

Thank you very much for taking part in this interview. WHO really appreciates your time and willingness to share very personal experiences, thoughts and feelings.

Once we collect all the data, it will be analysed and a report will be written and a copy sent to you (probably in late early March 2014).

Reminder: *We will not use any identifying information about you in this report.*

Would you be interested in being emailed a copy?

Yes _____ No _____

Further contact/questions/concerns: contact details provided

Annette Verster VersterAn@who.int

Would you mind if I contacted you later in case of any follow up questions?

Yes _____ No _____

ADDRESS QUESTIONS THAT CAME UP IN INTERVIEW

Either answer question or say "I want to give you an accurate answer so let me check that question and get back to you soon with the answer".