

IN THIS TOGETHER PHASE ONE
BULLETIN BOARD FOCUS GROUPS 1, 2, 5, 7
MODERATOR SCRIPT

FOCUS GROUPS 1 AND 7: SEXUALLY INEXPERIENCED MALES
FOCUS GROUPS 2 AND 5: SEXUALLY EXPERIENCED MALES

Note: This is a template as questions may evolve based on the content of the discussions.

Day 1: The main goal is to examine issues of program design in order to confirm program components.

DAY 1: QUESTIONS ABOUT TEXTING BEHAVIOR AND PRIVACY

Welcome to our online discussion!

We are Isaac and Emmanuel. We will be moderating our discussion over the next 3 days.
Welcome!

In this focus group, we will ask for your thoughts on different parts of a sexual health and HIV prevention program that we are developing. Today, we will be talking about how you use sms messaging and how much privacy you have/want to have about your texts and texting habits. Tomorrow and the next day, we will talk about ways you prevent HIV (like sex, relationships, and condoms).

As you can probably see, you are one of 18-22 other young adult men who are taking part in this discussion. You all live in Uganda (*following text included in Focus Groups 1 and 2: , have used sms messaging for the past 6 months, and plan to continue to do so*). And you all care about doing what you can to help curb HIV in Uganda because you are here. You all have a many things in common so we anticipate a lively discussion!

Here is some basic information about how the next 3 days will go:

Please look at the entire list of topics for the day. Please answer all the questions if you can using the “REPLY TO THREAD” button. You can also reply to other people's remarks.

Also:

1. Each day, two sets of questions will be posted: one set at 8 AM and the other at 1 PM.

2. You can also reply to other people's comments. To do so, just below the comment you are responding to, there are three buttons, click the first button (an arrow), type your comment, and click post quick reply.
3. Please drop by and check this Board *at least* twice per day (more if you want to!). Throughout the day, we will be reading your posts, responding, and asking follow-up questions. We will keep it short but please check back and answer any follow-up questions we might add during the day.
4. If you have any problems at all with using this Board, or have questions, please let me know or contact the technical help line at: 0758889260 or isaac@iskuganda.com
5. You will receive 5,000 shillings in data if you participate in all 3 days. **Participation means posting in both the morning and afternoon session's each day.**

Okay, let's get started!

Day 1, Session 1

Let's break the ice

Before we get into a discussion about how you use sms messaging, let's start with some general questions.

- To break the ice - tell us your favorite hobby!
- What is your favorite answer from someone else here? Why?
(Question worded as follows in Focus Groups 5 and 7) What answer from someone else here do you like and why?

(Please look at the entire list of topics for the day. Please answer all the questions if you can using the "REPLY TO THREAD" button. You can also reply to other people's remarks.

(When you are finished answering this thread, click the back button to find the next thread for you to respond to.)

Texting habits

Thanks for sharing a little bit about yourself! Now let's move on to talk a little bit about your experiences with texting.

- How many SMS texts did you send and receive yesterday?
How do you know the number of messages are you guessing, estimating, or counting?

(Questions asked in Focus Groups 1 and 2)

- Talk about how your texting changes based upon where you are or what you are doing?
- What do you do if you get a sms message and are somewhere or doing something that prevents you from reading it right away?

(Question asked in Focus Groups 5 and 7)

- How does your texting change based upon where you are or what you are doing?

SMS messaging privacy

- When / why might someone see messages you have on your phone?
- What do you do to keep other people from reading messages you want to keep private?
- What advice would you give to someone wanting to keep their messages private?

(Question asked in Focus Group 1)

- What would you do if you got a sms message about sexual health and it was at a bad time, or there were people around that you didn't want to see your screen? We are thinking about messages that talk about things like having sex, using condoms, and other things related to HIV prevention.

(Question asked in Focus Groups 1 and 2)

- Please comment on someone else's advice here in the Discussion too: Which message do you think would be the most helpful in keeping someone's messages private?

Getting personal SMS messages

(Thread included only in Focus Groups 2, 5, and 7)

- What would you do if you got a personal sms message at a bad time, like when there were people around that you didn't want to see your screen?

(Question asked in Focus Groups 5 and 7)

- Comment on someone else's advice here too: What recommendations do you think would be the most helpful for people?

Likes about receiving healthy sexuality sms messages

Let's talk more about the program that we are developing. The idea of the program is to send young Ugandan men and women like you sms messages that will give them the skills and information they need to make healthy sexual decisions and reduce their risk for HIV. The program would last about 6 weeks and we would send multiple messages per day.

We will talk more about this idea later but first we have some general questions for you:

- Can you tell us what you *like* about the idea of getting sms messages that talk about healthy sexuality and ways to help prevent HIV and other STDs?
- What do you *dislike* about the idea of getting sms messages that talk about healthy sexuality and ways to help prevent HIV and other STDs?
- How many sms messages a day do you think you would be willing to get from a program like this?
- What times of day would be best to receive sms messages?

(Question asked in Focus Group 1)

- Most of the messages are sent to the participant so it will be free for them. There are about 10 program messages that ask the participant to respond. For these, the participant will be charged. What are your thoughts? Would you take part in a program that asked you to respond sometimes?

Paying to send sms messages in the program

(This thread included only in Focus Group 2)

Imagine you were a participant in the program we are developing. Over the 6 week program, we ask you to reply to about 10 program messages. Normal sms charges would be charged for your reply.

- What are your thoughts?
- How would this affect your interest in taking part in the program?

Thank you! Instructions for the next session

Thanks for your time so far...you are doing a great job. Please log on again this afternoon any time after 1 PM for your next session. You will go to the section titled **"Day 1, Session 2"**.

Day 1, Session 2

Welcome back! Instructions for this afternoon

Please be sure to go to the sections from this morning and do a quick check to see if there are posts (questions) that you missed.

Also, we may have asked additional questions of some of you on this morning's boards in response to your initial answers. **Please go back and look through to see if there is a question for you.**

And, **do not forget to talk to each other.** You can ask someone else for clarification or for examples, share your reaction to their comments, or add new ideas that came to you as you were reading their answers. This will really help our research too -- having better, more meaningful conversations helps us better understand what together you are telling us.

Let's get started....

Thoughts about the HIV prevention program - what could go wrong?

(This thread appears second to last in the session in Focus Groups 5 and 7. Following text included in Focus Groups 5 and 7: Ok, let's go back and talk a bit more about the HIV prevention program that we are developing.)

- *(Following text included in Focus Group 5: Imagine you were taking part in the program.)* What do you think might happen if someone saw messages on your phone that included words like "penis" or "HIV"?
- What are things that we need to be thinking about and planning for, to help young people like you who are taking part in our program avoid situations that might make them feel awkward? How about situations that might make them feel unsafe?
- What concerns do you have about a program like the sms messaging program we are developing?
(Question worded as follows in Focus Groups 5 and 7) What other concerns do you have about the HIV prevention sms messaging program we have been talking about here?

Finding information about sex

- Where do you look for information about *(following text included in Focus Group 1: how to have good) sex?* Please list specific websites or resources you use.
- What kind of information about sex tips would you find useful?

(Questions asked in Focus Groups 1 and 2)

- What kinds of tips would you want to help you have good sex or be a good lover?
- How would you feel about getting sms messages that have detailed sex tips?

(Question asked in Focus Groups 5 and 7)

- How would you feel about getting tips about how to have good sex or be a good lover?

Experiences with healthy sexuality programs

(This thread appears first in the session in Focus Groups 5 and 7)

(Question asked in Focus Group 1)

- To help us think about what we can say to young adults like yourself, please describe any specific sexual health programs or messages you found *helpful* for promoting or educating you about healthy sexual relationships, HIV prevention, and/or waiting or not having sex when you do not want to.
These might be messages from the web, things you have heard on the radio, or programs at school.

(Questions asked in Focus Groups 2, 5, and 7)

- What healthy sexuality / HIV prevention programs have you attended before?
- What information / messages have you found *helpful* to you in making healthier sexual decisions (like using condoms, or not having sex when you do not want to).
These might be messages from the web, things you have heard on the radio, or programs at school.

(Question asked in Focus Groups 1, 2, 5, and 7)

- What sexual health program or messages have you found to be particularly *unhelpful*?

Responding to program messages

(This thread included only in Focus Groups 5 and 7)

Again, imagine that you are a participant in the HIV prevention program we are developing..

Over the 6 weeks, most of the messages will be sent to the person. All he has to do is read them.

A couple of times during the program (about 10 times), we will ask people in the program to reply. People would be charged the normal sms charges that apply when you send an sms to someone.

- What are your thoughts?
- How would this affect your interest in taking part in the program?
- If you were someone in this future program, do you think you would respond to the program sms message?

Thank you! Instructions for the next session

Ok - that is all of our questions for today. Thanks so much for your thoughtful responses - they really help.

If you have answered them all, please remember to check back later to see if we have further questions for you or to comment on other people's responses.

Tomorrow, we will talk about relationships, dating, and sex. Questions will be online by 8 AM, so we will "see" you then! You will go to the section titled "Day 2, Session 3".

Day 2, Session 3

Welcome Back! Instructions for today's sessions

Welcome back! Glad to see you checking in. Yesterday was great. We really enjoyed reading all your comments. We are getting fantastic information and appreciate your detail.

Please also be sure to go to the sections from yesterday and check to see if there are posts you missed. *(Following text used in Focus Group 1: To do this, simply go back to the previous section and click on "Highlight Unanswered Topic" at the top right of your screen. Any posts that are left for you to answer will then be highlighted in yellow.)* Please answer all the questions if you can using the "REPLY TO THREAD" button. You can also reply to other people's remarks.

(Following text used in Focus Groups 5 and 7: When you are finished answering this thread, click the back button to find the next thread for you to respond to.)

We have followed up with several of your posts. Please take a quick look to see if there are any follow-up questions for you to answer from yesterday. You can also ask others what they mean or ask for ideas and clarification. Thanks!

Now, on to the next set of questions! Today's questions will focus on your thoughts and experiences with relationships, sex, using condoms, and things like that.

Current relationship status

Question: Are you currently in a relationship?

Please reply:

1. Yes -- I am in a committed relationship
2. Yes -- I am dating someone / people
3. Yes -- I am with someone but it is complicated
4. No -- I have never seen or dated anyone
5. No -- I have been in a relationship before but I am not with anyone now

Pick one option, and reply with your response below.

Relationship experiences

- What is the most important thing you look for in a dating / romantic partner?
- How do you meet people who you might want to hook up with or have a relationship with?
- How common do you think it is for people of your age to have more than one girlfriend at the same time?
- How common is it for people of your age to play sex with a casual partner when even they have a girlfriend?

(Question asked in Focus Groups 1 and 7)

- What does a healthy relationship look like to you? What about unhealthy relationships?

Healthy relationships

(These questions asked as a separate thread in Focus Group 2)

- What do healthy relationships look like for you?
- What do unhealthy relationships look like for you?

Giving gifts

Question: If a gift is given, is sex expected in return?

Please reply:

1. Definitely yes, sex is expected
2. Maybe yes, sex is expected
3. Neither yes nor no
4. Maybe no, sex is not expected
5. Definitely no, sex is not expected

Pick one option, and reply with your response below.

Making decisions about playing sex

(Questions asked in Focus Groups 2 and 5)

- Tell us a little bit about decisions to play sex. When a young man and a young woman play sex, how does it usually happen? Please take me through a "typical" experience-- from the time someone begins thinking about it to the time it happens.
- When you play sex, what is different between the times when it feels like you are planning to play sex versus times when it feels more like it "just happens?"
- What are the good things that you think about when you look back on your experiences playing sex?

(Question asked as part of this thread in Focus Group 2)

- How do you think alcohol or drugs affect your decision to play sex or not?

(Questions asked in Focus Groups 1 and 7)

- What do you think are some of the good things about waiting to have sex? What are some of the drawbacks?
- What are some reasons that young adults choose not to play sex?
- Whatever your experience has been, what are **your** reasons for not having sex?

Planning to play sex

(This thread titled "The roles we play in deciding to play sex" in Focus Groups 5 and 7)

- What role do you think **men** play in deciding when a couple is going to play sex?
- What role do you think **women** play in deciding when a couple is going to play sex?

(Question asked as part of this thread in Focus Groups 5 and 7)

- How do you think alcohol or drugs affect your decision to play sex or not?

Pressures to play sex

- How, if at all, are young adults pressured by their partners, friends, or other people to play sex? How do you think these pressures to have sex (or not) are different for men than for women in Uganda?
- How difficult is it for a **woman** to say "no" to a **man** who wants to play sex?
- How difficult is it for a **man** to say "no" to a **woman** who wants to play sex?

(Questions asked as part of this thread in Focus Group 1)

- What are things a **woman** could say to a **man** or do if *she* does not want to play sex and he does?
- What are things a **man** could say to a **woman** or if *he* does not want to play sex and she does?

Refusing sex

(These questions asked as a separate thread in Focus Groups 2, 5, and 7)

- What are things a **woman** could say to a **man** or do if *she* does not want to play sex and he does? How do you think he will react?
- What are things a **man** could say to a **woman** or if *he* does not want to play sex and she does? How do you think she will react?

Thank you! Instructions for the next session

That is it for this morning's questions... please log back in this afternoon any time after 1 PM for your next session. You will go to the section titled "Day 2, Session 4".

Day 2, Session 4

Welcome back! You are doing a fantastic job.

As a reminder, please go back and make sure that you have answered all of the questions in the previous threads. Also we have posted some follow up questions in the threads. You will find them in bold. We would love your additional thoughts!

Ok, on to this afternoon's questions:

Reasons to use condoms or not

(This thread appears last in the session in Focus Groups 5 and 7)

(Questions asked in Focus Group 1)

- What percentage of young adults like you would you guess use condoms every time they play sex?
- What do you think are reasons some young adults do not use condoms? Please be as specific here as possible. Tell a story about yourself or a friend if that is an easier way to explain!
- Even if you have never had sex, please share how you feel about condoms and using them?
- Again, even if you have never had sex, please share how you think you would decide when or when not to use condoms - Do you talk about it as a couple, it just happens, some other way...?

(Questions asked in Focus Groups 2, 5, and 7)

- Why do you think some young adults do not use condoms? Please be as specific here as possible. Tell a story about yourself or a friend if that is an easier way to explain!
- How you feel about condoms and using them?
- How do you think you would decide when or when not to use condoms - Do you talk about it as a couple, it just happens, some other way...?

(Question worded as follows in Focus Groups 5 and 7) How do you decide when to use condoms and when not to use condoms when you have sex? How would you tell your partner your decision?

Getting free condoms

(This thread appears first in Focus Groups 5 and 7)

Question: Do you know where to get **free** condoms where you live?

Reply with your response below.

Using condoms

(This thread included only in Focus Group 5)

How often do you use condoms?

Please answer:

1. Every time
2. Most of the time
3. Sometimes
4. Never

Pick one option, and tell us why you choose that option.

Making it easier to use condoms

- What do you think is the biggest challenge young adults face when trying to get condoms?
(Question worded as follows in Focus Group 5) What do you think is the biggest challenge men face when trying to get women to use condoms?
- What pressures do you feel as a man to use or to not use condoms?
- What messages do you think would be helpful to send to young Ugandans like you to get them to start using condoms more often? *(Following text added in Focus Group 5)* How are these messages different for women and for men?

(Questions asked as part of this thread in Focus Group 1)

- What are things a **woman** can say to a **man** if *he* doesn't want to use a condom and she does?
- What are things a **man** can say to a **woman** if *she* doesn't want to use a condom and he does?

Using condoms the right way

(Following text included in Focus Group 5: We know we have a lot of questions for you and you are really busy. Thank you so much for your time answering our questions – your answers matter.)

- How many young adults do you think know how to put on a condom the right way?
- Where and how do people learn information on how to correctly put on a condom?

(Questions asked in Focus Group 1)

- What have you heard about when it is okay to stop using condoms (if ever)?
- And how do you (or young adults like you) decide when to stop using condoms? (As a couple, it just happens, some other way...?)

(Question asked in Focus Group 2)

- When do you think it is ok to not use condoms?

Condoms and confidence

(This thread included only in Focus Group 7)

How confident are you that you could convince your woman to use a condom?

Please answer:

1. Extremely confident -- I know I could convince her
2. Somewhat confident
3. I am not sure
4. Somewhat unconfident
5. Extremely unconfident -- There's no way I could convince her

Pick one option, and reply with your response below.

Convincing your partner to use condoms

(This thread included only in Focus Groups 2, 5, and 7. This thread titled "Using condoms the right way" in Focus Group 2.)

- What are things a **woman** can say to a **man** if *he* doesn't want to use a condom and she does?
- What are things a **man** can say to a **woman** if *she* doesn't want to use a condom and he does?

(Question asked in Focus Group 2)

- How confident are you that you can put on a condom the right way?
How would you tell your partner that you want to use a condom?

(Question asked in Focus Group 5 and 7)

- How have you told your partner that you want to use a condom and it went well? How have you told your partner that you want to use a condom and it has not gone well?

Thank you! Instructions for the next session

That is all of our questions for today. We know these last couple of questions may have been challenging to answer. Thank you for your answers. They will help us write content for people who might be in unhealthy relationships.

Please remember to check back later to see if I have further questions for you or to comment on other people's responses.

Tomorrow we will be discussing specific parts of the intervention that we are developing including "Text Buddies" - we will tell you more about what those are tomorrow.

The questions will be online by 8 AM, so we will "see" you then! You will go to the section titled "Day 3, Session 5".

Day 3: Objectives of this last day will be to present the SMS Buddy and Genie concepts and to document participants' reactions.

Day 3, Session 5

Program name suggestions

(Thread included only in Focus Groups 1 and 2)

You all have such great thoughts! Please remember to check back to yesterday's posts to see if we have further questions for you.

Today, we are going to talk about other parts of the program that we are developing to see what you think about them.

First, we would like your help to come up with a name for the HIV prevention program. Our ideas include:

- SMSenga
- TextSenga
- ITG (In this Together)
- What do you like the best and why?
- What do you like the least and why?
- Do you have ideas for other names that we might consider?

Likes about the "SMS Buddy" idea

Ok. Let's talk more about our program. When participants sign up to participate they will be paired with a "SMS Buddy". *(Following text used in Focus Groups 1 and 2: Each person enrolled in the program will be matched with another person in the program to sms back and forth with.)* *(Following text used in Focus Groups 5 and 7: This person is someone else in the program to sms back and forth with.)* Buddies will not know each other face-to-face and will be from different parts of Uganda. The messages will be sent through the program to protect each buddy's privacy. The idea is that the two sms Buddies, although they will not know each other face-to-face, will provide support to each other and talk about the things that they are learning in the program.

So, **imagine that you are a participant** in the HIV prevention program...

- What do you like *most* about the SMS Buddy idea? Would it be helpful for you? If so, how?
 - What do you like *least* about this idea? In what ways would it not be helpful to you?
 - If you were taking part in our future HIV prevention program, do you think you would sms your buddy? Why or why not?
 - Just like with regular SMS conversations, you would have to pay to sms your buddy. How does that change your thoughts about the SMS Buddy idea?
- (Question worded as follows in Focus Groups 5 and 7) Would you message your SMS Buddy if you have to pay to send them an sms?*

Texting your SMS Buddy

- If you were in the HIV prevention program, what kinds of messages would you send to your SMS Buddy?
- What would you want to know about your SMS Buddy? Are there characteristics that you think we should be thinking about to match the buddies on to make it easier to talk to each other?
(Question worded as follows in Focus Group 5) What would you want to know about your SMS Buddy? Should we match buddies, for example by sex, to make it easier for them to talk to each other?
- What some sexual health topics that you think would be good ice breakers to help start the conversation with your SMS Buddy?

SMS Buddy concerns and worries

- What concerns would you have if your SMS Buddy dropped out of the study early?
- Are there ways that you think the SMS Buddy might make it harder to stick to the sexual decisions that you have made for yourself?

Suggestions to improve the SMS Buddy idea

- What would you do to improve the SMS Buddy idea?
- What other ways could we help young adults in the HIV prevention program talk and support each other?

Thank you! Instructions for the next session

That is it for this morning's questions... please log back in this afternoon any time after 1 PM for your next session. You will go to the section titled "Day 3, Session 6". Thanks!

Day 3, Session 6

Likes about the "Genie" idea

Ok, we are almost there. Thanks for your enthusiasm - it has been great to hear what you think about all of our program ideas! These are the final questions. Here we go!

This morning, we talked about the "SMS Buddy" idea. Another idea we have for the program is "Genie". To use this feature, young adults in the program would sms the word "Genie" to the program, and the program would send them back a list of topics (e.g., how to break up with a girlfriend, where to buy condoms). Then, they would sms the topic of their choice (e.g., how to break up with a girlfriend) to the program, and get back several informational texts about the topic they chose.

- What do you like *most* about the Genie idea? Would it be helpful for you? If so, how?
- What do you like *least* about this idea? In what ways would it not be helpful to you?
- If you were in charge of writing the Genie messages (the sms that would come back to you if you texted Genie), what three topics would you be interested in?
(Question worded as follows in Focus Groups 5 and 7) What are three Genie topics that you would be interested in?
- Just like when you regularly sms, you would have to pay to sms the program to use Genie. How does this change your view of the Genie idea?
(Question worded as follows in Focus Groups 5 and 7) Would you use the Genie if you have to pay to sms the Genie?

Writing your own program sms

Here's your chance to help us write some of the sms messages we will send to young adults like you. We might even be able to use yours in the program!

- Please write one message for people who are waiting to play sex with women.
- Please write one message for people who are playing sex with women.
- Look at the messages other people wrote. Which one would work best for you? Why?

Badges

We also will have goals in the HIV prevention program. These might include things like buying condoms, carrying condoms, and using condoms. When you achieve a goal, you will earn a "badge."

The badge will be a graphic image that you can download. For example, when someone in the program says that he has gotten condoms, we will respond with a sms that says "Great! Well done!" and link to a picture image of a badge.

(Following text included in Focus Groups 2, 5, and 7: Again, **imagine that you are a participant** in the HIV prevention program we are developing...)

- Of the example goals above, which one do you think would be most helpful in helping you make healthy sexual decisions and why?

- What other ways we can say "good job" that would make you feel recognized about your achievement?
- What additional goals do you think would be useful for young adults like you?
(*Question worded as follows in Focus Groups 5 and 7*) What additional goals should we add that would be helpful in making healthy sexual decisions?
- Again, to earn your badge, you would need to sms the program, which would cost money. How does that affect your view of the Badge idea?
(*Question worded as follows in Focus Groups 5 and 7*) This sms would cost money. Would you respond to the badge question if you have to pay to sms?

(*Question asked in Focus Group 1*)

- What specific goals would be good for young adults who have not had sex yet?

Final feedback

Finally, we would like to get some feedback from you about your experience over the last 3 days in this online discussion.

- In what ways do you think your views have changed (if at all) as a result of taking part in this Discussion?
- In what ways do you think your behavior might change (if at all) as a result of taking part in this Discussion?
- In what ways (if at all) has this Discussion changed your views or thoughts about having / not playing sex?
- In what ways (if at all) has this Discussion changed your views or thoughts about using / not using condoms?
- Finally, what device did you use to take part in the Discussion? Your phone, a laptop, computer, etc.? And, what, if any, problems did you have viewing / posting to the Discussion?

Discussion wrap up

We have had such a great experience talking with all of you! We are sad to say our discussion is complete. You have been great and we appreciate the time and effort you put into the discussion over the last few days.

As a last request please take one final look over all the sections to make sure you didn't miss any postings and to see if there are other comments you would like to respond to. If you have participated fully and answered all the questions, you will receive your incentive in a few days' time.

(*Following text included in Focus Groups 1 and 2*) **Also, to help us improve the program in future, do you think the program should be run during week days or during weekend?**

Thank you!