INTRODUCTION
Suboptimal adherence to investigational products has been associated with ineffectual outcomes in previous randomized controlled trials on vaginal diaphragm, vaginal microbicides and oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). In light of this, key questions that my study will seek to answer are 1) what are the predictors of suboptimal adherence in PrEP trials? and 2) how can we improve on these facilitators and minimize the barriers in future trials? Data will be collected from former trial participants in FEM-PrEP where poor adherence (<40%) led to ineffectual outcomes and Partners PrEP where high adherence (82%) demonstrated PrEP’s protective effect against HIV.

OBJECTIVES
1. To describe the range of user experiences in FEM-PrEP and Partners PrEP.
2. To determine predictors of consistent product use.
3. To explore how the barriers can be addressed and facilitators improved to promote adherence.
4. To identify and recommend possible strategies for optimizing adherence in future trials.

METHODS
This study will be a cross-sectional design, using a mixed method approach which combines both quantitative and qualitative methods. Data collection process comprises of a quantitative survey (n=433), 16 focus group discussions (FGDs) and 36 in-depth interviews (IDIs). Primarily quantitative survey intends to describe factors participants identify as influencing adherence. Logistic regressions will be used to identify predictors of low and high adherence levels. IDIs and FGDs intend to answer the ‘why’ and ‘how’ questions on factors influencing adherence arising from the quantitative survey.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES
Understanding factors that promote or hinder adherence will provide meaningful input in assessing likelihood of adherence in potential participants and customize adherence strategies and messages to suit different needs of participants.