Scaling Up Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision Services in Lusaka District, Zambia


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HIV and Male Circumcision Prevalence Rates in Lusaka Province, Zambia

- Prevalence of male circumcision (MC) is 23%, and the prevalence of HIV is 16%—the highest in the country.
- Majority (80%) of the population resides in Lusaka District, which was targeted for the scale-up of HIV prevention services, including VMMC.
- Historically, the number of VMMCs have been low—only 33% of the annual VMMC target numbers was achieved in 2016.

Description of VMMC Project in Lusaka District—Restructuring Demand Creation

- Jhpiego VMMC project provides services to reduce HIV transmission and control the epidemic.
- Project increases MC coverage to 80% in its supported districts, which includes Lusaka.
- In 2017, VMMC services were scaled up by restructuring demand creation and service delivery strategies in the Lusaka District.

Lessons Learned

- The restructuring approach used in Lusaka District resulted in continuous client flow and seamless service provision.
- VMMC uptake in Lusaka District dramatically improved since April 2017.
  - Over 4,000 clients were circumcised each quarter since April 2017, compared to about 1,000 VMMCs performed in the previous five quarters (see Figure 1).
- After three quarters in 2017, the VMMC project has contributed to meeting 15.3% of the Ministry of Health’s annual target (67,566) for Lusaka District, compared to the project’s contribution of 5.5% in 2016.
- VMMC project also exceeded its annual target by 15%.

Next Steps

- VMMC project is now incorporating this restructuring approach into its standard implementation procedures and scaling up this approach in other districts where the project is being administered.
- These successes will also be shared with relevant stakeholder groups—e.g., Ministry of Health, technical working groups, and other implementing partners—for potential use across the country.

This material was made possible by the generous support of the American people through the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and Center for Disease Control (CDC), under the terms of the Cooperative Agreement 102GGH021438-01.

The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of PEPFAR, CDC, or the United States Government.