

Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) in Tanzania

Duration of activity: 3-5 years

Anticipated funding for first year: US\$12.8 million

Description: Under AIDSFree, Jhpiego is working with the National AIDS Control Program (NACP) within the Tanzania Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW), to rapidly expand the provision of high-quality, client-centered, voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) as a core component of comprehensive HIV prevention services. The AIDSFree Tanzania VMMC program builds on the successes of USAID's Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP) and Accelovate program to scale up VMMC in three regions of Tanzania—Iringa, Njombe, and Tabora. The goal of the program is to increase circumcision prevalence to 80 percent of males aged 10–34 years. Additionally, the program provides technical support to the NACP in the development of monitoring and evaluation tools, strategies, and key guidelines and policies. Since 2009, the program has provided over 400,000 VMMCs in over 500 health facilities across the three regions. Through routine and campaign services implemented in fixed, outreach, and mobile settings, the project works to bring the full package of VMMC services down to the "last kilometer" to reach adolescent boys and men in their own communities. In 2013, MCHIP also helped the MOHSW to introduce Tanzania's first early infant male circumcision (EIMC) pilot project in Iringa region which is now supported through AIDSFree. The introduction of EIMC for newborns—24 hours to 60 days of age—will reduce the need for adult circumcision in the future. By establishing the foundations for the scale up of VMMC and EIMC services nationally, the project is working with the MOHSW to realize the vision of an AIDS-free generation in Tanzania.

The AIDSFree VMMC program aims to achieve five objectives:

- **Objective 1:** Transition Iringa and Njombe regions into the sustainability phase. Continue scale up of VMMC services in Tabora region.
- **Objective 2:** Expand the pilot of EIMC services in Iringa and Njombe regions and collaborate with the GOT to review initial pilot and study results and develop national policies and guidelines for EIMC.
- **Objective 3:** Advance program learning through implementation research, the collection and use of M&E data, and the documentation and sharing of lessons learned.
- **Objective 4:** Provide continued technical and implementation support to the MOHSW, NACP, and Reproductive Child Health Services (RCHS) for VMMC and EIMC.



- **Objective 5:** Collaborate with USG VMMC partner agencies in Tanzania and maintain or develop other strategic partnerships with organizations that enhance program implementation.
- **Objective 6:** Implement management, procurement, and logistics processes to ensure program results.

Planned AIDSFree VMMC Tanzania Key Activities

Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision: Activities will include developing sustainability strategies in two of the three AIDSFree regions where male circumcision prevalence is approaching 80 percent. This will include expansion of static service sites in all three regions and handing over VMMC service delivery to specific districts within Iringa and Njombe regions. In Tabora, scaled up services will be continued through four different implementation modalities—campaign (time bound intensive services), outreach (team from the outside provides VMMC services), mobile (service provided by a mobile team) and routine service delivery (services on a regularly scheduled basis). Activities also include comprehensive programmatic support of VMMC service delivery which includes innovative demand creation strategies, quality assurance activities, provider training, supportive supervision, mentorship, monitoring and evaluating, operational research and building capacity of local partners and the local government structures.

Early Infant Male Circumcision: AIDSFree is working to scale up EIMC services that are integrated into reproductive and child health services. The EIMC pilot initiated in April 2013 has conducted over 2,500 EIMCs. AIDSFree will support the expansion of EIMC services into priority regions (upon MOHSW approval) as a sustainability strategy for male circumcision. As more infants are circumcised, fewer adolescent and adults will need circumcision in the future.

Implementation Research: Historically the program has had a robust learning agenda. Under AIDSFree, three research studies will be completed and findings disseminated through reports, conference presentations and manuscripts. As needed, operational research that will guide the program will be explored.

Build the Capacity of Government of Tanzania in Implementation of VMMC and EIMC: AIDSFree will continue to provide TA and support to the NACP and the RCHS to conduct quality assurance, supportive supervision, and develop national curricula, guidelines, and policies. In addition, AIDSFree will continue to support the MOHSW to build their M&E systems to ensure data collection and revision of various M&E tools. Under MCHIP, the project used GIS to map out facilities to support VMMC planning for service delivery. AIDSFree will provide capacity building of local partners and the MOHSW to expand this mapping to further regions.