Costing for Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision Services

Rationale for the Studies
Estimating the costs and benefits of voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) services is crucial to the success of scale-up. Findings from three new studies by the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the USAID-funded Health Policy Project, which examines issues related to costing VMMC programs, may aid decision makers in future allocation of HIV prevention resources.

Key Findings
• The benefits of VMMC far outweigh the costs. In Tanzania, scaling up VMMC to reach target levels over a five-year period and then maintaining coverage through 2025 could prevent 190,500 HIV infections and result in savings of over US $800 million.
• VMMC remains in the scale-up phase, with substantial opportunities to increase efficiency and reduce costs. Personnel and consumables are the most significant factors affecting the cost of VMMC. In addition to benefiting from economies of scale as service delivery scales up, there are other key opportunities to increase efficiency through task shifting/sharing and maximizing site utilization by aligning the availability of VMMC services with demand for the procedure.
• In Zimbabwe, integrating a VMMC device into the existing VMMC program did not have a large impact on VMMC unit costs.

Implications for the Future
As the major cost drivers of VMMC services are personnel and consumables, strategies to increase efficiency and reduce costs include task shifting and/or sharing and aligning availability of services with demand. Integrating VMMC devices/procedures into conventional VMMC programs does not necessarily result in substantial cost savings.