AURUM YOUTH PSYCHOSOCIAL PROGRAMME
THIS PRESENTATION WILL COVER

• Programme rationale
• Youth MMC programme
• YPS community engagement
• YPS as recruitment tool
• Successes
• Challenges
• Most South African cultures associate circumcision with a transition from boyhood to manhood
• Whist MMC is primarily about HIV and STI reduction, health and hygienic benefits
• Adolescents may twist the 60% HIV reduction messages of MMC into 60% HIV prevention and assume that MMC provides a “silver bullet” against HIV
• Now that they are men they take on the role of a “man” which often has negative undertones (promiscuity, multiple partners, forceful, aggressive and violent behaviour)
Implemented in partnership with Sonke Gender Justice network in March 2012 at WMMSHC in Tembisa

Sonke trained Aurum and gave technical support regarding implementation of the programme in May 2012

Aurum started implementing the programme independently from Sonke in 2013 and expanded to NW

Sessions currently implemented by Aurum recruiters in NW and EKN
YPS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- YPS recruitment is done concurrently with MMC recruitment
- Parents are informed of the YPS as a package of services offered to boys aged 14 – 17 undergoing MMC
- This is to get parental buy in to the programme
- Once parents buy in they send children to YPS designated area for participation in sessions
- Tool to start dialogue between adolescent boys and older men in the community
YPS AS MMC RECRUITMENT TOOL IN SCHOOLS

• Schools are reluctant when coming to MMC recruitment due to its surgical nature and parental consent required
• YPS is used as an entry into the schools
• Schools have buy in to the YPS messaging especially with violence rates on the rise in schools and amongst the adolescent population in general
TOPICS ADDRESSED IN SESSIONS

• Defining manhood and masculinity
• Addressing gender norms and how these can lead to gender based violence
• Consent vs coercion in sexual intercourse
• Rape defined
• Exploring readiness for sex and how peer pressure influences this decision
• Correct, consistent condom usage
SUCCESSES

• Over 9,000 adolescents have been through the YPS programme since inception in 2012 (23%)

• More than 60% of these adolescents are males that have been reached through the MMC clinics in 2 provinces (NW and GP) in South Africa and 40% have been reached through school programme

• Fully fledged schools programme developed from YPS activities (sessions in schools, team invited to participate in interschool cultural and sporting activities)

• Well established relationship with DOE as a result of YPS in schools
CHALLENGES

• Space in facilities to run the session
• Programme has less than 20% coverage (YPS vs MMC) due to message conflict in some area (rural NW)
• Running sessions with the targeted group (age appropriate messaging due to interest in topics discussed)
• Because it is not clinical in nature YPS is often misunderstood as part of MMC package of service
CONSIDERATIONS FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMING

• Streamlining clinical and psychosocial services in VMMC
• YPS is an opportunity for collaboration with traditional and cultural sectors as messages are not similar (manhood vs YPS)
THANK YOU

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