Male Circumcision for HIV Prevention: Country Implementation Update

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Overview

• Background
• WHO/UNAIDS Recommendations
• UN Support Actions
• Country Implementation Update
• Opportunities and Challenges
Background

• About 30% of males globally are circumcised mainly for religious, cultural or social reasons

• HIV infection is less prevalent in areas where male circumcision is common

• Three randomized controlled trials among men in Kenya, Uganda and South Africa demonstrated 60% lower incidence of HIV infection in circumcised men
WHO/UNAIDS Consultation

• In March 2007, WHO/UNAIDS convened an international consultation and subsequently released policy and programme recommendations on MC and HIV prevention

• Eleven conclusions and recommendations were detailed outlining key areas identified by the expert consultation
WHO/UNAIDS Recommendations

• The recommendations cover; communication, socio cultural, human rights, gender, programming, health systems, resource mobilisation, HIV positive men, and research issues

• Promoting male circumcision should be recognized as an additional, important strategy for the prevention of heterosexually acquired HIV infection in men

• Male circumcision should be provided with full adherence to medical ethics and human rights principles, including informed consent, confidentiality, and absence of coercion
WHO/UNAIDS Recommendations

• Male circumcision should never replace other known methods of HIV prevention and should always be considered as part of a comprehensive HIV prevention package

• Health services should be strengthened to increase access to safe male circumcision services

• Male circumcision performed by well-trained medical professionals in properly equipped facilities is safe
Recommendations

• Also countries with high prevalence (>15%), generalized heterosexual HIV epidemics and low rates of male circumcision should consider urgently scaling up access to male circumcision services

• As a result thirteen 'priority' countries have been identified: Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe
UN Support Actions

UN Agencies under the leadership of WHO have a joint work plan:

• The goal of the UN partners joint work plan on male circumcision is to assist countries to make evidence-based policy and programme decisions to improve the availability, accessibility and safety of male circumcision and reproductive health services as an integral component of comprehensive HIV prevention strategies.
UN Support Actions

The objectives are to:

1. Set global norms and standards
2. Provide technical support to countries
3. Conduct high level advocacy and develop global communication strategies and messages
4. Coordinate the setting of global research priorities, and develop systems for monitoring and evaluation of male circumcision services
The UN partners are working together to develop resources to support programme scale up:

- Information/Advocacy documents
- Guidance documents
- Tools
- Reports
- The Male Circumcision Clearing House
Information and Advocacy
Tools and Guidance
Tools and Guidance
Developed by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC), and Family Health International (FHI)
www.malecircumcision.org

- Database of scientific abstracts and full-text articles
- Inventory of research activities on male circumcision
- Tools and guidelines
- Evidence-based protocols and guidelines
- Compendium of better and best practices
- User-friendly summaries of advocacy issues and civil society engagement
- An opportunity to sign up for an RSS feed
- A global mechanism for exchanging and integrating information on MC programs and associated services
Landmark Events and UN Actions

- 2005
  - ANRS 60% risk reduction in South Africa Orange Farm
  - US NIH announces 53%/ 51% risk reduction in Kisumu/ Rakai

- 2006
  - Consultations in Tanzania, Swaziland, Zambia, Kenya and Lesotho

- 2007
  - Manual for male circumcision under local anaesthesia
  - Training manual and package
  - Monitoring & evaluation toolkit
  - UNAIDS/WHO ethical guidance

- 2008
  - Quality assurance guidance
  - Implications for women
  - Communication package
  - Situation analysis toolkit
  - Operational Guidance

Logos: World Health Organization, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA
Progress made on Male Circumcision up to 2009

Male circumcision prevalence at country level, 2006

Kenya
- Policy, strategy,
- Manual and clinical guidelines
- Quality Assurance guide
- WHO MC Collaborating Centre (CC) process

Uganda
- Situation analysis, policy development, WHO MC CC

Tanzania, Malawi
- Situation analysis

Zambia
- National and regional trainings, draft policy, WHO MC CC

Botswana
- Situation analysis, strategy, communication, M&E, QA

Swaziland
- Policy, strategy
- Implementation plan
- Quality Assurance

Rwanda
- Implementing national MC programme in young adults (university and military)

South Africa
- Situation analysis, policy development

Lesotho, Namibia
- Situation analyses, policy development, communication strategy

South Africa
- Situation analysis, policy development

Zambia
- National and regional trainings, draft policy, WHO MC CC

Botswana
- Situation analysis, strategy, communication, M&E, QA

Swaziland
- Policy, strategy
- Implementation plan
- Quality Assurance
Innovations

- MC MOVE – Models for Optimizing the Volume and Efficiency of MC services
- Volunteer programme
- MC Devices
- Partnerships for progress
Opportunities....

• Increasing political support in countries
• Leadership and coordination of the UN
• Donor support and interest: GFATM, PEPFAR, Gates
• More implementing partners working on MC therefore technical support more available
• Increasing demand ....
...... and Challenges

• Human resource and health systems constraints in Africa

• Ensuring the integration with other programmes

• How to rapidly scale up to maximise impact

• Communication

• Role of traditional providers

• Implications for women
Acknowledgements

- Country Male Circumcision Task Forces
- UN Male Circumcision Working Group, Geneva
- UN Inter Agency Working Group (IATT)
- Implementing partners supporting MC roll out in countries
Countries are moving.....

We need to work together to maximise impact