

## Rationale for Developing a Best Practices Document for VMMC Services

VMMC is a surgical procedure that must be provided safely in order to minimize risks of clinical complications. VMMC surgery can be provided safely by different cadres of health care workers (depending on individual countries' defined regulatory scopes of work) in fixed or mobile settings that meet the quality assurance (QA) standards for infection prevention. VMMC services must be of the highest quality, and mechanisms must be in place for client follow-up and management of AEs. In some communities where VMMC is not commonly practiced, it is potentially a sensitive and controversial intervention. Given these possible sensitivities, extra care should be taken to ensure that communities are provided with complete information about, and sensitization to, VMMC.

Investing in a thorough and measured approach to establishing new VMMC services at each service delivery site will help to ensure that the clinical and the cultural considerations are addressed, minimizing potential delays that could negatively affect the program. Higher levels of local ownership and "buy-in" to providing VMMC services will also benefit the program [20]. This *Best Practices* document describes approaches that have been used to establish VMMC services successfully in numerous countries, while minimizing the risks and maximizing the quality and benefits of the program.

This guide is designed primarily as a reference tool for PEPFAR-funded organizations that are planning, implementing, or evaluating VMMC programs. Each specific topic is a stand-alone section that includes an overview, timeline, useful tools, references to WHO-endorsed guidance, and relevant case studies. The guide is accompanied by a resource document that contains specific tools and resources. These tools and resources are referenced in each section and are also provided on a CD-ROM.

Figure 1 below provides a schematic representation of all the components needed to implement a comprehensive and successful VMMC program. This guide will address most of the components shown in this figure.

**Figure 1: Sample Implementation Puzzle Piece Framework**

This sample implementation “puzzle piece” framework illustrates the various components that are involved in VMMC service delivery. Each piece is an essential part of the program and is dependent on other pieces; some puzzle pieces may occur concurrently while others may occur sequentially. Please refer to Figure 2 for the timeline component of each of the puzzle pieces. The goal of a program is to address all the pieces to ensure high-quality VMMC services. This document provides guidance on each puzzle piece and also draws the broader picture by pointing out the important linkages among the pieces.

(Items underlined are addressed in this guide.)

