



## Combination Prevention: Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision

Recent scientific advances have created an exciting moment for the global AIDS response. We now have the scientific tools to push the rate of new infections downward dramatically. In each country, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is prioritizing a strategic combination of activities based on sound scientific evidence to maximize impact on reducing new HIV infections and saving lives.

### Basic Facts

- Unlike many other interventions, VMMC is a **one-time intervention that provides lifelong benefit.**
- Three large, randomized control trials have indicated that adult VMMC **reduces men's risk** of HIV acquisition by at least **60 percent**, a potential protective effect equivalent to several licensed vaccines for other diseases.
- Extended follow-up of participants in one of the studies for up to five years post-trial indicated that the **protective effect was durable and even increased over time.**
- Mathematical models indicate that scaling up VMMC services to 80% coverage in five years could prevent 3.36 million infections within 15 years. Due to the indirect population-level protection conferred to women by VMMC, 1.3 million of these infections would be prevented in women.
- VMMC **also reduces the risk for human papilloma virus (HPV)** and cervical cancer among female sexual partners of circumcised males.

### Results

- Since 2007, PEPFAR has supported VMMC for **over 2,000,000** men around the world.
- PEPFAR is now supporting VMMC activities in **14 countries in eastern & southern Africa** as part of a comprehensive package of prevention activities & is moving into an even more dramatic scale-up phase.
- Scale-up challenges have differed from country to country, but in many populations, PEPFAR programs have encountered **high acceptability of, and demand for, VMMC.**

### PEPFAR Moving Forward

- Over the next two years, PEPFAR will support over **4.7 million** VMMC's in eastern & southern Africa.
- Modeling studies predict that the benefits of VMMC are likely to be large in populations with high prevalence of primarily heterosexually driven HIV infections and low male circumcision, including many African countries.
- In two of the 14 countries, one new HIV infection is prevented for every five men who are circumcised. Results from the models suggest that if global partners scaled up adult VMMC to reach **80% coverage** in 13 eastern and southern African countries by 2015, this would entail **performing over 20 million circumcisions** between 2011 and 2015 and an additional **8 million between 2016 and 2025.**
- This would result in **net savings** (due to averted treatment and care costs) amounting to **\$16.5 billion.**