



# Stakeholder Engagement in scaling-up VMMC in Zimbabwe

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# Presentation Outline

- ▶ Background VMMC in Zimbabwe
  - ▶ Importance of Stakeholder Engagement :
    - Political leadership for advocacy
    - Traditional and religious leaders for buy in
    - Celebrities for advocacy
    - Partners for resource mobilisation
  - ▶ Lessons Learnt in Engaging Different Stakeholders
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# Background: VMMC in Zimbabwe



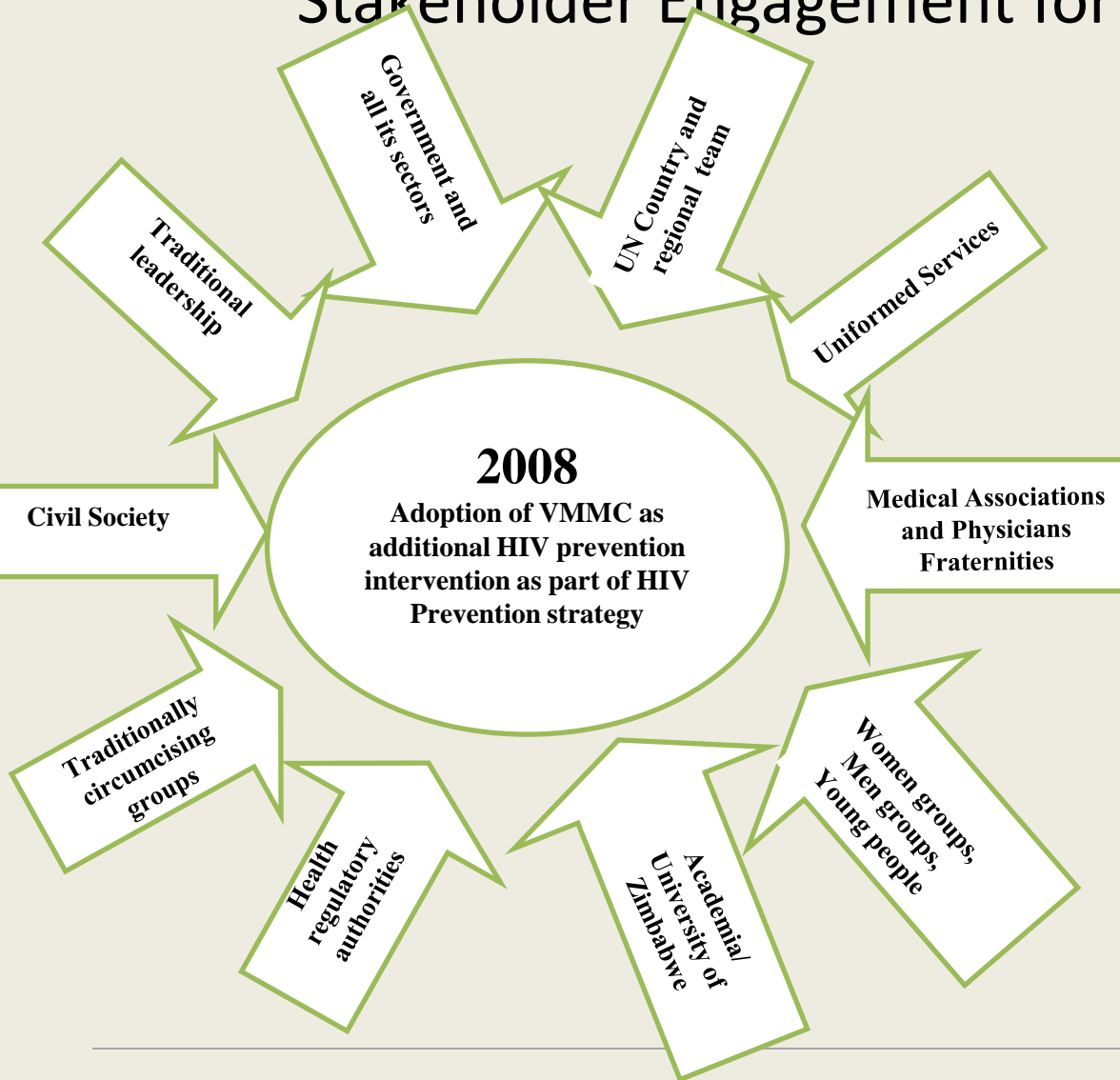
- Among countries with **highest HIV prevalence** in the world
- **15% among adults** (ZDHS 2010/2011), decline from 29 % in 1999
- HIV and AIDS **constitutes 47% disease burden** of the country
- **MC prevalence 9%** (ZDHS 2010/2011)
- VMMC started in **May 2009**
- **175 000 men circumcised** through October 2013



# Importance of Stakeholder Engagement

- It is Zimbabwean's culture to engage stakeholders in planning and implementation of all public health interventions
  - Implementation of VMMC services is guided by the National Strategic Plan and the National VMMC Policy that was developed in line with the 7 Pillars necessary to scale up VMMC
  - In all the processes the stakeholders were engaged for acceptance and success of VMMC
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# Stakeholder Engagement for Ownership



*Broad based stakeholder consultative process at all levels*



# Technical Working Groups for technical expertise

- VMMC Steering Committee
  - Representation of many different stakeholders to guide implementation
- VMMC Technical Working Groups
  - Advocacy and Demand Creation
  - Training and Service Delivery
  - Policy and Resource Mobilisation
- Dissemination and discussion of VMMC related research including PrePex studies, task-shifting pilot, VMMC costing, SYMMACS studies, EIMC



# Engagement with Parliamentarians for Advocacy

- **Members of Parliament's role:**
  - Lobby for VMMC in their constituencies
  - Include messages on VMMC in their rally speeches
  - Mobilise other leaders in their constituencies for VMMC- 65 parliamentarians circumcised & 120 tested for HIV in 2012
  - Global leadership and advocacy in Call To Action





# High Level engagement with Uniformed Services

- High level leaders from Uniformed Forces approved VMMC as an additional HIV prevention intervention
- VMMC UF program started in April 2011, PSI/BMGF funded
- 7 sites and 6 mobile teams contributing to 20% of national VMMC outputs
- UF VMMC program does also support VMMC services for civilian populations





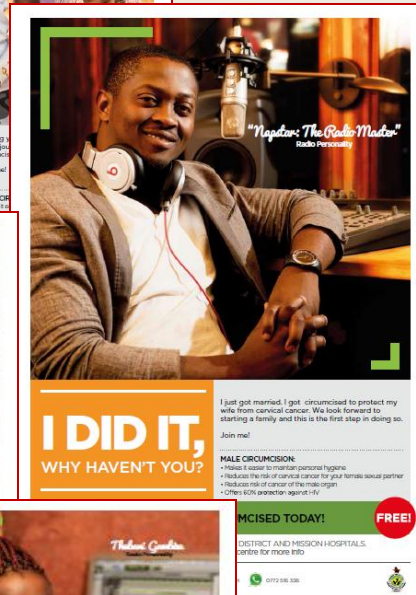
# Traditional and Religious leaders engagement for buy in

- Consultative meetings with traditional circumcising communities:
  - Islamic Medical Association.
  - Shangani Traditional leaders and circumcisers
- Explore areas of collaboration and introduce concept of safe medical male circumcision for HIV prevention
- Circumcised more than 8000 boys and adolescent in the traditional circumcising groups
- \*Consultation and respect of their values is key



# Power of Celebrities to Create Advocacy for VMMC

- Leverage on the power of celebrities to increase acceptance of VMMC
  - Influence low social support from women and peers
- Promote non HIV benefits for both men and women
- Feature women celebrities whose husbands are circumcised
- Encourage dialogue among women and their partners on VMMC
- Improve knowledge of benefits for women
- Encourage female support for male circumcision



# Stakeholders engagement experience sharing

- MOHCC, WHO, PSI, University of Zimbabwe, NAC visited PrePex Study team in Rwanda
- After the visit, MOHCC and its stakeholders agreed to engage into PrePex Device Studies
- UNFPA and PSI mobilised funding for series of device studies
- The findings of the studies have informed the decision for prequalification of the PrePex device



# Stakeholders engagement experience sharing

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- On going engagement for buy-In and acceptability
- Leadership
- Community advocacy & acceptability
- Technical guidance for policy & implementation
- VMMC in the context of public health
- VMMC in the context of society, religion and culture
- Resource mobilization



“Sleep in a straw hut, and then you’ll understand what a leaking roof feels like!”  
“Sango Proverb”





# Acknowledgements

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- Dr. Dagmar Hanisch (UNFPA)
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## VMMC Partners

- MOHCC
  - NAC
  - University of Zimbabwe
  - PSI
  - UNFPA
  - WHO
  - PEPFAR
  - Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
  - DFID
  - JSI
  - Countries visited for look and learn visits
  - VMMC Clients
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Together we can make a difference in VMMC

