# Zimbabwe ASRH VMMC Linkages pilot project

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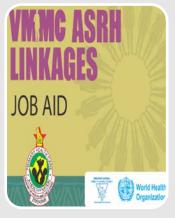


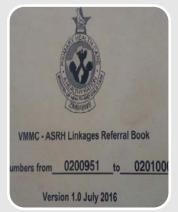
## **ASRH-VMMC Linkages pilot project**

- To assess the feasibility & capacity strengthening needs to enhance & sustain linkages between ASRH & VMMC services
- Will contribute towards guidance on how to link efficiently and effectively the 2 programs & provide sustainable adolescent services
- Started in 2014 and in three phases
  - First phase: Preparatory assessment and stakeholder inputs
  - Second (current) phase: Implementation to identify linkages, feasible approaches &
    learning lessons for scale up
  - Third phase: Implementation research to optimize the delivery of interventions & strategic actions to assess effectiveness, costs & inform scale up

## **Current project activities**











Advocacy & Sensitisation meetings

District review meetings

Monthly support visits

Development of IEC material

Development of training manuals

Development of a Job Aid

Established referral & tracking system

Service directories

Capacity building

Joint demand creation with service provision

Service integration

Community dialogues & Boys forums

Use of social media (Whatsapp & Facebook)

U-Report platform for opinion polls

#### **Lessons learnt**

- User fees are a barrier
- Geographical inaccessibility of youth centres & VMMC clinics in rural areas
- Competing priorities for HCW at all levels
- Low referral initiation and tracking

**Inherent** system weaknesses are reflected

> in the linkages

> > and

**IEC Materials** and Social Media

- Use of local models on IEC material had good reception
- Need to regulate social media content especially Whatsapp
- Development of IEC material targeting different groups.

 Dedicated personnel improved coordination

- Strong partnerships key for information & service delivery
- Local community leaders a key partner- Local solutions identified

**Partnerships** Coordination

Community dialogues

- Platforms for discussions on social and behaviour change
- Need for standardised manuals for facilitators
- Parents & girls participation in dialogues enable open discussion

## **Recommendations & Way forward**

- Explore referral and tracking system with less clerical work- Potential of mobile phone technology
- Explore service delivery approaches that reduce resource burden on adolescents i.e. distance, travel costs and user fees
- Systematic harnessing of local resources for sustainability- Communities and Corporates
- Explore sustainable capacity building e.g. Blended learning & In the long term integrate ASRH/VMMC into existing HIV and pre-service training
- There is need to address the issue of competing priorities at all levels of the health system – integrating ASRH & VMMC into the horizontal health system



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- SAfAIDS
- Young Men Christian Association
- ZNPP+