

Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision: Creating an AIDS-Free Generation

VMMC Package of Services

- VMMC services provide an opportunity to counsel, screen, and test men who rarely access health services.
- Jhpiego VMMC programs offer a comprehensive health care package (according to the WHO-recommended minimum package of services) to men coming to facilities for VMMC services.
- The VMMC package of services includes the following:
 - HIV testing services (HTS) and linkage to care and treatment
 - VMMC and HIV risk reduction counseling
 - Screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections
 - VMMC procedure
 - Post-operative counseling
 - 2-day and 7-day postoperative follow-up visits

After decades of effort, the path to an AIDS-free generation is becoming clear. Preventing new infections is key, and voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) can play a pivotal role. In March 2007, after the results of three randomized controlled trials showed that VMMC reduces female-to-male HIV transmission by at least 60%, the World Health

Organization (WHO) and UNAIDS issued guidance urging countries with high HIV prevalence and low male circumcision rates to incorporate male circumcision into their comprehensive HIV prevention programs. Cost and impact modeling studies show that rapidly scaling up VMMC to 80% of men of reproductive age would avert millions of new HIV infections and save billions of US dollars in care and treatment costs by 2025.¹

Jhpiego has been at the forefront of this intervention since its earliest days. With the generous support of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Jhpiego collaborates with ministries of health and defense force health systems in eastern and southern Africa to scale up VMMC as part of a comprehensive package of HIV prevention services. Jhpiego has also made efforts to explore innovative approaches to VMMC scale-up, including the use of circumcision devices. As of April 2015, Jhpiego is proud to have supported sites in 11 countries—Botswana, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Zambia—to conduct more than 1.6 million VMMCs.



Dr. Tigi Adamu, MCHIP HIV Team Leader, greets men waiting for VMMC services in Iringa, Tanzania.

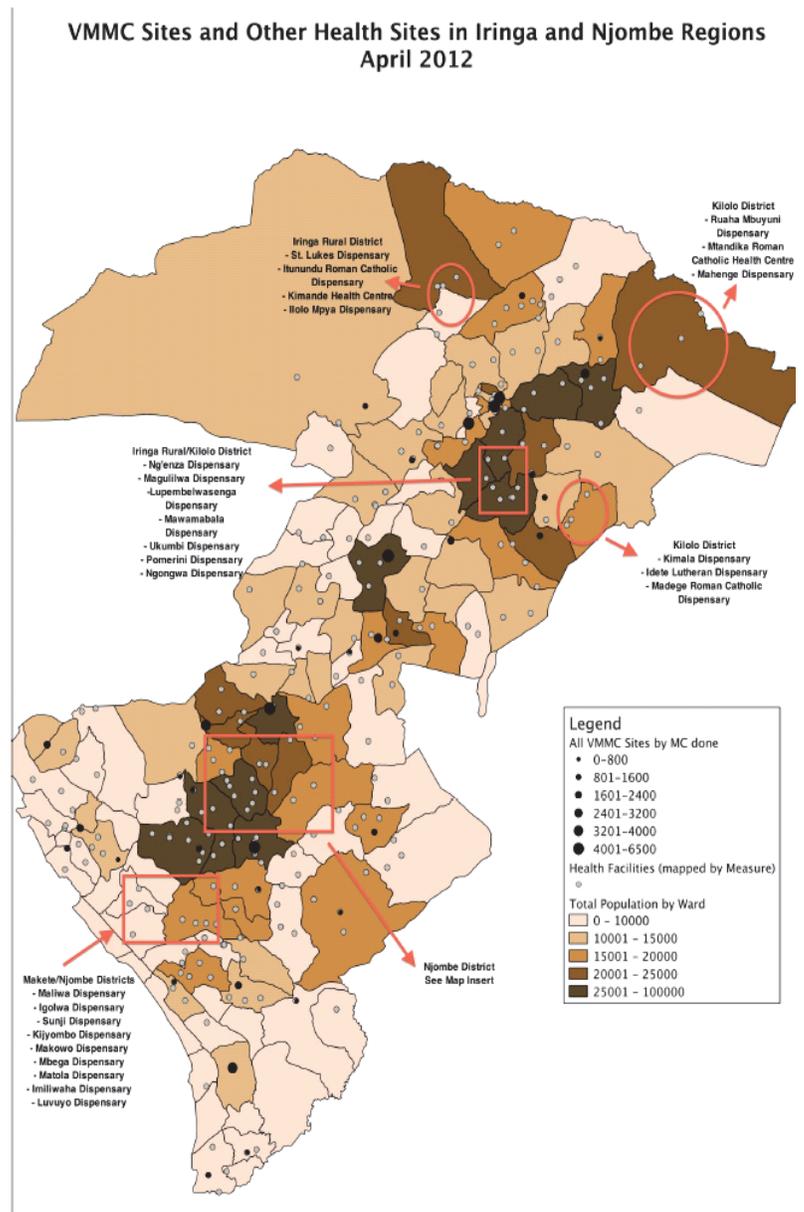
¹ Njeuhmeli E, Forsythe S, Reed J, Opuni M, Bollinger L, et al. 2011. Voluntary Medical male circumcision: Modeling the impact and cost of expanding Male circumcision for HIV prevention in Eastern and Southern Africa. *PLOS Med* 8(11): e1001132. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.1001132.

Lesotho

- Jhpiego began the Lesotho VMMC program in February 2012. VMMC services in Lesotho are integrated within existing health facilities and services. The integrated model of service provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen linkages to HIV care and treatment services for men who come in for VMMC services but test HIV-positive. Recent data analysis in Lesotho indicates that
- VMMC services contribute to an increased knowledge of HIV status among men at the district hospital. In addition, the use of facility-based, point-of-care CD4 testing for HIV-positive clients who were diagnosed when seeking VMMC services showed that these men were more likely to enroll in care and treatment than men whose CD4 count was delayed or who were referred to another facility.

Tanzania

- Jhpiego has supported the Tanzanian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to scale up VMMC services in Iringa/Njombe Regions of Tanzania since 2009 and the Tabora Region since 2012.
- As of June 2015, more than 450,000 adolescent boys and adult men have received VMMC in these regions supported by Jhpiego.
- Recent population survey data have shown an increase of male circumcision prevalence in Iringa, Tabora, and Njombe Regions. In Iringa, male circumcision prevalence increased from 29% in 2007–2008 to 59.7% in 2011–2012.²
- To reach men who may have not yet had the opportunity to receive VMMC, Jhpiego Tanzania is using Quantum GIS (geographic information system) to overlay population data with coordinates of the majority of health facilities to identify areas of Iringa, Njombe, and Tabora where there is a high concentration of potential clients for VMMC.



Sample GIS mapping of Iringa and Njombe Regions, Tanzania

² Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS), Zanzibar AIDS Commission (ZAC), National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Office of Chief Government Statistician (OCGS), ICF International. 2013. *Tanzania HIV/AIDS and Malaria Indicator Survey, 2011–12*. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: TACAIDS, ZAC, NBS, OCGS, and ICF International.

Mozambique

- Jhpiego, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, implemented the provision of minor surgical services including male circumcision in 2009. In 2012, a national program for VMMC was established by the Ministry of Health. As of June 2015, the Mozambique program has provided comprehensive VMMC for HIV prevention services to more than 380,000 adolescents and young adults in five provinces of the country.
- The Mozambique program also used its successful community-based HTS program to refer HIV-negative men from the community to VMMC services. From 2009 to 2015, a total of 41,664 eligible men have accepted VMMC referral from integrated HTS.
- Mozambique's VMMC program is one of Jhpiego's four pioneer programs that have implemented pilot studies on the use of circumcision devices for VMMC.

Rwanda

- Jhpiego has worked with the Rwanda Defence Force since 2009, providing VMMC services in 14 military health facilities in 11 districts.
- As of June 2015, the Rwanda program has provided VMMC services to more than 120,000 men.

Moving forward, Jhpiego will continue to play a leadership role in expanding the availability of high-quality VMMC services that are accessible and acceptable to communities with a high burden of HIV disease. Over the coming years, Jhpiego will continue to:

- Ensure that the services provided are safe and of high quality and accessible to everyone by using service delivery approaches to reach the unreached—for example, by using GIS mapping to identify communities that have not yet received VMMC services;
- Lead studies that hold promise for expanding choice in VMMC, such as introductory studies of the PrePex™ device in Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, and Tanzania;
- Intensify efforts to ensure that men who test HIV-positive in VMMC settings are effectively linked to HIV care and treatment;
- Participate in global technical working groups to advance the state of the science in VMMC; and
- Introduce early infant male circumcision as a key element of maternal, newborn, and child health services in settings with high HIV prevalence, to ensure that the next generation receives the protective benefit of medical circumcision.



Jhpiego is motivated by the current momentum in averting HIV infections and is constantly pushing the pace of change to create an AIDS-free generation.

