



October 2020

Reaching Impact, Saturation and Epidemic Control (RISE)

# Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision

## The Global Challenge

In 2019, there were an estimated 38 million people living with HIV (PLHIV) worldwide. Approximately 1.7 million of these were new HIV infections—three times more than the benchmark set by UNAIDS for 2020. Although significant progress has been made to slow the rate of HIV infection, prevention remains a critical priority. In response, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) have provided generous funding to RISE, a 5-year global project (2019–2024), led by Jhpiego, that supports countries to achieve and maintain epidemic control by providing strategic technical assistance and direct service delivery to improve HIV prevention, case finding, treatment, and viral load suppression.

Preventing new HIV infections is vital to achieving epidemic control. Our team delivers a core package of high-quality HIV prevention services tailored to vulnerability, client, and community. In the use of biomedical tools to prevent transmission of HIV, our expertise includes voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) and oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

## Our Technical Focus in VMMC for HIV Prevention

VMMC is a safe, minor surgical procedure that reduces the risk of female-to-male HIV transmission by 70%. Since the early 2000s, strong and consistent scientific evidence has supported inclusion of VMMC in HIV prevention programs. Cost and impact modeling studies show that rapidly scaling up VMMC to 80% of men of reproductive age could avert millions of new HIV infections and save billions of US dollars in care and treatment costs by 2025. VMMC has a vaccine-like durability: a brief interaction with the health system yields a lifetime of partial protection against HIV. Moreover, VMMC serves as an entry point to engage men—an often underserved population—in HIV testing and linkage to care.

Jhpiego—PEPFAR's premier VMMC partner—has provided VMMC services to more than 4.9 million men and boys across 12 of the 15 VMMC focus countries in East and Southern Africa since 2009. Jhpiego has the knowledge, experience, and skilled teams to support, strengthen, and scale up VMMC services while ensuring safety and quality, and has published training packages and manuals that serve as international reference materials on VMMC and early infant male circumcision (EIMC). Jhpiego is also a leader in VMMC training, working with implementing partners in Botswana, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia.



In COP19, RISE provided short-term VMMC service delivery support in Malawi and Tanzania, supporting continued implementation of VMMC services and transition to bilateral awards. In Tanzania, Jhpiego provides ongoing technical assistance support to VMMC programming through the SAFE project. And in Malawi, Jhpiego continued service delivery implementation in VMMC through the EMPOWER project. IN COP20, Jhpiego will continue to provide technical assistance for VMMC capacity building through the VMMC Online Training Hub (OTH), supporting learners from Namibia, Tanzania, and Lesotho.

## Examples of Our Work in VMMC

RISE recently completed an update to the VMMC OTH curriculum, which provides evidence-based training to orient VMMC providers to acquire essential knowledge and skills for safe, quality VMMC services. The OTH now reflects updated guidance from PEPFAR and the WHO released in FY20, with particular focus on the pivot towards provision of VMMC services to males ages 15 and above. Other RISE and Jhpiego-led VMMC efforts include:

- During a single quarter of implementation (COP19 Q2), the RISE-Tanzania project provided VMMC services to 40,384 clients in 5 regions in Tanzania. Across multiple programs, Jhpiego has supported the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in Tanzania to provide more than 930,000 men and boys with VMMC services.
- Since 2010, 374,881 VMMCs have been conducted in Malawi through Jhpiego programs, including RISE. The RISE-Malawi project served as a bridge to the Jhpiego-led bilateral project (EMPOWER) and provided VMMC services to 10,259 clients in three districts (COP19, Q1/Q2). Additionally, Jhpiego supported the Malawi Defence Force (MDF) to provide VMMC services at all 12 main military bases across the country, and training MDF personnel to deliver both safe, high-quality VMMC services and to train others in VMMC. These and other efforts, including development, with the MOH, of national standard operating procedures for VMMC, have helped Jhpiego to not only consistently meet but also regularly exceed Malawi targets.
- In Mozambique, Jhpiego worked with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to build its capacity to expand quality VMMC services; together, they have provided VMMC services to more than 1.63 million men and boys at Jhpiego-supported sites since 2010.
- In both Tanzania and Zambia, Jhpiego worked with host governments to develop policies and trainings that enable nurses to provide VMMC surgeries, dramatically increasing the number of procedures performed in both countries. In Lesotho, Jhpiego worked with the Lesotho Nursing Council to pilot VMMC/EIMC task sharing to nurses.
- RISE partner ICAP supported VMMC services for more than 380,000 men and boys in Zambézia, Mozambique, home to more than 40% of all PLHIV in that country. ICAP's technical assistance included support for health facility renovations, outfitting of two mobile clinics, health worker training and mentorship, and ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and quality assurance activities. ICAP also supported demand-generation activities through mass media campaigns, education sessions, and community events.

### RISE Project Principles

- Break the cycle of HIV transmission and reach those at highest risk for HIV.
- Scale up proven and innovative approaches, using human-centered design thinking to inform the development and implementation of locally driven, adaptive solutions.
- Implement interventions that address structural drivers.
- Strengthen local partners and build networks for resilient systems.
- Impart a culture of quality, data use, and accountability.
- Rapidly mobilize to respond to immediate country needs and establish strong working platforms to achieve the bold vision of epidemic control by 2020.
- Work with local partners to tailor impactful, innovative, evidence-based services to targeted populations, particularly at-risk adult men and women, including key populations.

## Tools & Resources

- [\*Manual for Male Circumcision under Local Anaesthesia and HIV Prevention Services for Adolescent Boys and Men\*](#)
- [PEPFAR's Best Practices for VMMC Site Operations: A Service Guide for Site Operations](#)
- [HIV Prevention Toolkit A Gender-Responsive Approach](#)
- [VMMC Online Training Hub](#)

### RISE Technical Areas

To learn more about our work, visit our website at <https://www.jhpiego.org/riase>, and see our briefs on:

- [RISE Introductory Brief & Project Overview](#)
- Health Systems Strengthening
- HIV Prevention: Oral Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
- HIV Prevention: Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision
- Engaging Men in HIV Testing, Linkage, and Retention in Care
- Antiretroviral Therapy Optimization
- Strategic Information
- Key Populations
- TB/HIV Integration
- Laboratory Services

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