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Male Circumcision for HIV Prevention in Military Populations



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The Chinese use two brush strokes to write the word 'crisis.' One brush stroke stands for danger; the other for opportunity. In a crisis, be aware of the danger - but recognize the opportunity.

John F. Kennedy (1917 - 1963), *Speech in Indianapolis, April 12, 1959*

Why Male Circumcision in Militaries?

- Custodians of high risk target population
 - Age 18+
 - Sexually active – “mobile men with money”
- Likely to be HIV negative at entry to military
- They provide medical care to civilian communities

Why Male Circumcision in Militaries?

- Defined population for combination prevention – MC provides another key component
 - Structural – HIV policy, leadership support
 - Behavioral – peer education, IEC campaigns, drama groups, condom support, male norms
 - Biomedical – male circumcision, condoms, men's health services

Full MC Package Delivered

- Prevention counseling
- HIV testing and referrals to HIV care
- STI examination and treatment
- Male Circumcision surgery
- Follow-up care is readily available
- Prevention counseling
- Monitoring is relatively easy
- Can add on other male focused prevention and men's health issues

Opportunities

- The militaries are willing to scale up
- Militaries are interested in conducting research with cohorts of new recruits
- MC exam-based prevalence studies
- The militaries have control over all aspects of their programs
- Task sharing and shifting is a necessity and can be accommodated in many countries
- MC sites can also be care/ART sites –
 - will pilot CD4 Point of Care for those that test HIV+

Challenges

- Resource limitations
 - Personnel, space, commodities and equipment
- National progress on MC
 - Military works in national context
- Mobility – increased training needs
- Military specific communications package needed

Strong Leadership Support



Education



MC Drama Sketches



Gender Involvement



Group Counseling Session



Condom Use Skills Building



Thank You!



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