

Case 3: Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision in Nyanza Province, Kenya

Case overview

This case traces the development of the voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) campaign in Nyanza Province, Kenya as it transformed from the subject of a randomized clinical trial into national policy to prevent HIV. After providing some cultural, political, and scientific background on male circumcision, the case explores the PEPFAR-funded implementers' male circumcision delivery strategies in Nyanza. Seeing they were behind their target, implementers launched the Rapid Results Initiative (RRI), an aggressive male circumcision campaign to speed up progress. In 30 working days the implementers circumcised 36,077 males, surpassing their goal. A second aggressive, 30-day implementation campaign proves successful in performing 55,376 circumcisions. The head of Kenya's National AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections Control Programme must wrestle with how to use lessons from the successful surgical campaign to improve the national HIV prevention program and scale up this surgical procedure.