

NRHS | Nyanza Reproductive
Health Society

NRHS
ANNUAL
REPORT-2014



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Nyanza Reproductive Health Society

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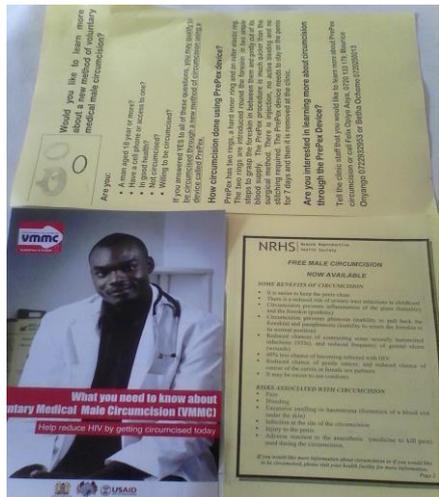
NRHS 's Impact in the Year 2014		
	Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC)	16,413 medical male circumcision procedures were done under the comprehensive VMMC services in 2014
	Mtoto Msafi Mbili	635 children aged between 0-60 days were medically circumcised under MM2 study.
	HIV Testing And Counselling (HTC)	14,779 persons were offered comprehensive HTC services the year 2014.
	Afya Jozi Afya Jamii (AJAJ)	AJAJ study started in April 2014 and we managed to recruit 130 couples by the end of the year.
	AccuCirc study	Between September to December AccuCirc was setting up and managed trained 13 service providers during this period

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ABBREVIATIONS:

1. AJAJ- Afya Jozi, Afya Jamii
2. AM- Anza Mapema
3. BAMATO- Baba Mama Na Toto Environmental and Sanitation Project
4. BWH- Brigham and Women's Hospital
5. BV- Bacterial Vaginosis
6. CDC – Centres for Disease Control
7. CISS- Community Initiative Support Services
8. EIMC- Early Infant Medical Circumcision
9. FACES – Family AIDS Care and Education Services
10. FP- Family Planning
11. GUD- Genital Ulcer Disease
12. HIV- Human Immunodeficiency Virus
13. HTC- HIV Testing and Counselling
14. JSI- John Snow, Inc
15. KDHS- Kenya Demographic Health Survey
16. KEEP- Kakamega Environmental and Education Program
17. MoH- Ministry of Health
18. MM1- Mtoto Msafi Kwanza
19. MM2- Mtoto Msafi Mbili
20. NASCOP- National AIDS and STI Control Program
21. NIH- National Institutes of Health
22. NRHS- Nyanza Reproductive Health Society
23. PHE- Population Health and Environment
24. STIs- Sexually Transmitted Infections
25. UIC- University of Illinois, Chicago
26. USAID- United States Agency for International Development
27. VMMC- Voluntary Male Medical Circumcision
28. YOFAK- Youth Fighting Aids in Kenya



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is my pleasure to share with you achievements and activities from NRHS's work for the year 2014. It was a year of tremendous growth and transformation for the organisation.

NRHS continued with implementation of the Voluntary Male Medical Circumcision (VMMC) programs within Rachuonyo North and South Sub Counties in Homa-Bay County under a cooperative agreement with the Centres for Disease Control (CDC). Within the year, implementation of VMMC was expanded to Nyakach and Muhoroni Sub Counties in Kisumu County. A total of 16,413 circumcision procedures were performed during the calendar year of 2014. During the year, NRHS worked closely with and greatly supported both the National and Inter County VMMC taskforces in implementation of the VMMC program.

With funding from United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through John Snow Inc (JSI) Implementation of a Population, Health and Environmental (PHE) integration program was started in the last quarter of the year. The program aims at offering technical assistance in integration of Family Planning (FP) services within existing environmental conservation programs by three local implementing partners.

In research, NRHS continued to be a trail blazer in early infant medical circumcision (EIMC) with the initiation of the evaluation of the AccuCirc device under a sub-contract with the Brigham and Women's Hospital. This study is being conducted within Kisumu County.

The Mtoto Msafi Mbili (MM2) study, which is evaluating integration of EIMC services into routine community health services, entered its second year. The project is funded by a sub-contract with the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Six hundred and thirty five (635) EIMC procedures have been conducted in healthcare facilities across Rachuonyo North and South since 2013. Approximately twenty (20) health care workers were trained on EIMC procedures during the same period.

The Afya Jozi Afya Jamii (AJAJ) is a study funded through a sub-contract from UIC and is designed to assess factors in the penile micro biome that lead to Bacterial vaginosis (BV) in women and to genital ulcer disease (GUD) as well as genital epithelial disruptions in men and their female sex partners. The study began recruitment in early 2014.

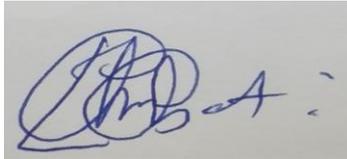
I take this opportunity to thank the Ministry of Health (MoH) teams and leadership within Kisumu and Homa-Bay Counties, the leadership and team at National Aids and STI Control Program (NASCOP) as well as the leadership of Ministry of Health. I also appreciate the cooperation and support from all our donors. Your support and cooperation was fundamental in achievement of our success.

Much of the achievements in 2014 were due to the dedication and diligence of the NRHS staff. I appreciate and commend all of you. The NRHS management and board of directors appreciate your dedication and diligence.

Finally, I acknowledge our donors; namely; CDC, NIH, USAID, UIC and Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Edmon Obat', is shown within a rectangular frame.

EDMON OBAT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2. PROGRAMS

2.1 Voluntary male medical circumcision (VMMC) Program

Since the Kenyan randomised control study which proved that male medical circumcision reduces chances of HIV transmission to a circumcised man by close to 60%, NRHS has been a lead organisation in the roll out of the VMMC program within Kenya.

2014 was no different. Under CDC funding, implementation of VMMC by NRHS continued in Rachuonyo North and South Sub counties within Homa-Bay County. NRHS was further granted permission to offer services in Upper Nyakach Sub County and resume services at its Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital (JOOTRH) site, all within Kisumu County. A total of 16,413 men were circumcised during the year. HIV Testing and Counselling (HTC) is an integral part of services offered under the VMMC minimum package. A total of 13270 people received HTC services, representing 81% of all men circumcised under the program. Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) were also detected and treated; syndromic management of STIs also being an integral aspect of the minimum package for VMMC. A total of six surgical teams offered the services in static and outreach sites within the area of operations, and these were opportunistically supplemented by locums trained by NRHS.

NRHS was selected by NASCOP to lead training of providers to deliver VMMC services using the PrePex device. In preparation for the PrePex Active Adverse Event Surveillance phase, NRHS sent two of its staff to the Kigali centre of Excellence in Rwanda to be trained as master trainers. NRHS will be the lead partner in implementation for the active AE surveillance.



Photo: PrePex Device

On the national scale, NRHS supported the national and inter county VMMC task forces, contributed to formulation of National VMMC policies, were the primary organization in provision of Quality Assessment (QA) and Quality Improvement (QI) for VMMC service provision sites, were the repository for the national VMMC database and generated reports to assist in tracking and evaluating the national program.

2.2 SHAPE- LVB

SHAPE-LVB is an acronym for Sustainable Health and Peoples Environment within Lake Victoria Basin.

Environmental degradation due to population pressure is a major concern worldwide. Uptake of Family Planning (FP), especially the long-term methods, has been lower than expected. According to the 2014 Kenya Demographic Health Survey (KDHS) report there is an unmet need of 18% for a family planning method among married women, with the figure being higher (20%) in urban areas compared to 13% in rural areas.

With funding from John Snow Inc. (JSI), SHAPE-LVB aims at integrating family planning into routine environmental conservation work, through provision of technical assistance on PHE integration to three local implementing organisations working within the realms of environmental conservation.

The three local implementing organisations are:

1. BAMATO- Operates within the informal settlements within Kisumu town. They mainly do recycling of plastic waste and provision of sanitation services
2. KEEP- a conservation organisation working within the larger Kakamega Forest.
3. YOFAK- operates mainly within the beaches off Lake Victoria within Rachuonyo sub counties.
4. CISS- does environmental conservation within the larger Siaya County.

The VMMC program hopes to benefit from SHAPE- LVB as an entry point to recruit women to reach out to uncircumcised menfolk in a bid encourage uptake of circumcision among older men.

3. RESEARCH STUDIES

3.1 AFYA JOZI, AFYA JAMII (AJAJ) STUDY

(The Effect of the Penile Microbiome on BV, GUD, and Genial Epithelial Trauma)

The study which began recruitment in May, 2014 is evaluating under what conditions the penile micro biome leads to: (1) BV in female sex partners, and (2) GUD and genital epithelial disruption in men and in their female sex partners. The study, funded by a sub-contract from UIC with funding from NIH, is recruiting 204 heterosexual, sexually active couples and will follow them up for 12 months. The study population is men aged between 18-35 years and women aged at least 16 years, both of whom have to be residents of Kisumu.

3.2 Mtoto Msafi Mbili (MM2)

(Integration of Infant Male Circumcision with Community Health Services in Kenya)

Mtoto Msafi Mbili (MM2) is a study assessing integration of infant male circumcision into community health services in Kenya. The study is funded by a sub-contract with UIC with funding from NIH. It is in its second year and is being undertaken in Rachuonyo North and South Sub counties in Homa-Bay County, in eight MoH facilities within the two sub counties using the Mogen clamp infant male circumcision device. It is modelled around two service provision approaches;

1. Standard delivery package – where EIMC is provided within the MCH clinic in health facilities.
2. Standard delivery package plus - in addition to provision of services within the health facilities, community nurses also offer EIMC services within the community. This model was influenced by the fact that hospital deliveries stood at only 43% according to the 2008-2009 KDHS and also, according to our previous pilot study, that fathers need to be part of the circumcision decision.

The study aims to compare the two models of service delivery in terms of uptake, rates of adverse events, parental satisfaction, costs and post-operative reviews.



The Mogen Clamp Device

Mtoto Msafi Mbili is built out of Mtoto Msafi Kwanza which was conducted in Kisumu and Siaya, from 2009 to 2011, and mainly assessed the safety, parental

decision making and acceptability of early infant male medical circumcision in Kenya.

NRHS experience in training and implementation of EIMC was instrumental in the development of the Kenya National EIMC under local Anaesthesia Manual and the formulation of Kenyan National Strategic Plan for VMMC, which includes transitioning from adult and adolescent VMMC toward EIMC.

In 2015, we will build on the lessons learnt in 2014, as well as during Mtoto Msafi Kwanza, to improve demand creation, EIMC service provision and development of National policies around EIMC.

3.3 Evaluation of the AccuCirc Device for Early Infant Male Circumcision in Nyanza, Kenya (AccuCirc Device Study)

In the last quarter of the year 2014, a study on acceptability and safety of the AccuCirc infant circumcision device was rolled out. It is funded by the Brigham and Women's Hospital with funds from the NIH.

The study is being conducted at the UNIM Research and Training Centre as well as Ahero Sub County hospital. In addition to safety and acceptability, this study aims to assess parental decision making and the influence on the EIMC decision by type of EIMC device (e.g., Mogen clamp versus AccuCirc). It is also assessing provider experiences and preferences based on the type of device. The age group targeted for the study is infant boys aged 0-60 days.



Photo Insert: AccuCirc device

3.4 Anza Mapema (AM)

NRHS received funding from the CDC to initiate the Anza Mapema (20AM) Study, of men who have sex with men (MSM) in Kisumu. The design of the study is to recruit 700 MSM to be tested for HIV. Those men who are HIV-positive will be offered immediate treatment with antiretroviral therapy (ART) irrespective of their CD4 count. Those men who are HIV-negative will be asked to come to the AM site for repeated testing, behavioral counseling, and condom and lubricant distribution. The primary outcomes for the study are uptake of ART, adherence to treatment assessed by pill counts and viral loads, and incidence of STIs.

During 2014, NRHS provided HIV care and treatment at AM to approximately 30 HIV-infected MSM in collaboration with FACES, and worked with CDC and two institutional review boards (IRBs) to finalize the study protocol and to prepare the site for onset of the study.

4. CONCLUSION

2014 was a great year for NRHS especially in terms of beginning new research studies and expansion of program areas. Emphasis was, as has been in the past, laid on provision of quality services.

The major challenges during the year were:

1. Erratic supply of HIV testing kits which greatly affected HTC services.
2. Recruitment of older men(25 years and above) to accept VMMC

Implementation of programs by NRHS was community based like in preceding years and this has ensured community ownership and support. As always, NRHS continued its commitment to leveraging its excellent resources and staff to conduct the highest quality research focused on testing interventions designed to address pressing reproductive health needs and on translating its research findings to inform sound health policies and cost-effective programs that improve the health and well-being of Kenyans.

In the year 2015, NRHS` will continue with implementation of the programs and studies . Specifically, we anticipate being the lead organisation in carrying out the active adverse event surveillance of the Prepex adult circumcision device. A bridging wound healing study for HIV positive men circumcised using the PrePex device will also be started in the course of the year. Recruitment of participants in the field evaluation of the AccuCirc infant circumcision device will be escalated with the initiation of an additional study site at Ahero Sub County Hospital. The test and treat study is expected to begin recruitment of participants by March 2015.NRHS also looks forward to developing its first ever strategic plan in 2015.

We look forward to a more successful year in 2015, with further expansion in both program areas and research.