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# Implementation of VMMC Services in Traditional Settings

Cynthia Nhlapo- SFH

# Background

- Tens of thousands of young men and boys undergo initiation as a passage to manhood
- The number of deaths related to TMC motivated the Premier in Mpumalanga, PAC, DOH, COGTA and the House of Traditional Leaders to assess the state of initiation schools.
- The Ingoma Forum was established for the integration of TMC and MMC
- SFH contracted a partner authorised to provide MMC services in TMC settings

# Data method

- SFH facilitated discussion with the VMMC service providers to get them to obtain some data such as:
  - demographic data of the client,
  - credentials of the medical service provider and
  - relevant clinical notes/records.
- A form that would specifically collect TMC data was created by SFH

# Key Results

## Best Practices

- There is clear evidence that partnerships between VMMC and TMC service providers:
  - Greatly increases uptake of services - 5,017 MMC through Initiation schools ; 4,021 VMMC. This represented a 200% performance against set target of 9,038 in the Nkangala district
  - No fatalities reported

## Key Results 2

- Targeted age group for the project is reachable through TMC as most of the initiates are within the age 15 –34 year age groups
- Deaths related to TMC were reduced in comparison to fatalities before the integration of TMC and VMMC

## Key results 3

- **Key challenges related to TMC environment :**
  - Language
  - The secrecy of events during the initiation
  - Terminology

## Key Results 4

- **Key challenges related to implementation :**
  - Lack of comprehensive data collection tools
  - Data verification
  - Linking of positive clients and other medical conditions
  - AEs may not be documented or submitted

# Conclusion and recommendations

- Integration of MMC and TMC has positive results for increased uptake of safe circumcisions.
- The collaboration has directly reduced the number of deaths that usually result from TMC
- Ingoma forums present a great opportunity for integration with MMC
- For successful integration of TMC and MMC, it is critical to bring key players together.

THANK YOU

