



Introducing Nyanza Reproductive Health Society Male Circumcision Activities in Kisumu East, Kisumu West, Nyando, Suba and Siaya Districts

The Nyanza Reproductive Health Society (NRHS) is funded by FHI as one of the members of the Male Circumcision Consortium (MCC) working in Kisumu East, Kisumu West and Nyando Districts of Nyanza Province. NRHS is also a recipient of PEPFAR funding to work in Suba and Siaya Districts. The key roles of NRHS under MCC are to provide training and to conduct operational research to evaluate the roll-out of male circumcision (MC) as an HIV prevention strategy within Nyanza Province. In order to fulfill these roles, NRHS will carry out the following: 1) establish and operate the *Male Circumcision Research and Training Center*, 2) manage the In-House Surgical Training Team and the Mobile Male Circumcision Training Teams (MCTTs) that will provide training to public and private health facilities, 3) provide material support to twelve participating health facilities, and 4) design and execute selected research studies. Under PEPFAR, NRHS will: 1) train additional MCTTs to train MoH staff in Suba and Siaya to provide safe circumcisions, 2) equip the health facilities with the necessary instruments and supplies, and 3) hire and train staff as part of Mobile Service Provision teams (MSPs) to provide mobile MC services.

Under MCC, NRHS will work with the PMO's office, the DMOHs and their DHMTs to select the twelve health facilities that will participate in the program of male circumcision service provision and research; six of these will be in Nyando District, and three each in Kisumu East and Kisumu West Districts. In Suba, in consultation with the DMOH and DHMT, all health facilities will be supported, while in Siaya, NRHS will start with Karemo, Wagai and Boro Divisions (CDC's DSS areas) and move to other divisions in subsequent years.

In order to carry out activities 1) and 2) under MCC, above, NRHS has developed a comprehensive training curriculum and manual. This has been adapted from the larger WHO manual for male circumcision under local anesthesia and is specific to the Nyanza setting and the lessons learnt from the UNIM¹ research. Within the *Male Circumcision Research and Training Center*, NRHS has a team of male circumcision specialists whose role is to train individuals from other organizations, mobile training teams, mobile and static provision teams as well as to provide ongoing refresher training, continuing education, quality control and monitoring for those who have already been trained.

Under the MCC, NRHS has two mobile male circumcision training teams that will train the MoH staff at the twelve selected facilities to perform safe, voluntary male circumcisions and to integrate male circumcision and other HIV prevention services. Once the twelve facilities have been selected, NRHS will work with the DHMTs and the facility in-charges to develop a schedule that will provide timely training of the facility staff whilst minimizing disruption to normal services. As well as being trained on male circumcision and its integration into HIV prevention services, the staff will also be trained on the tools and protocols required for the research studies (see below). The facilities will be provided with the necessary sterilization equipment, surgical instruments and expendable supplies for the circumcisions necessary for the training and for conduct of the research. Under PEPFAR, NRHS will train three teams of mobile trainers and four teams of mobile service providers.

The research activities to be carried out by NRHS in collaboration with partners will focus on the following three areas:

- Establishing and evaluating a monitoring and evaluation system to collect information about adverse events as well as factors that promote and inhibit the uptake of male circumcision. This study will take place in twelve selected health facilities; six in Nyando District and three in each of Kisumu West and Kisumu East districts.
- Examining the issue of behavioral disinhibition/risk compensation among men who become circumcised versus those who do not. It will compare changes in sexual behavior, assess perceptions of HIV risk, and assess sexual function and overall satisfaction. This study will take place in six selected health facilities, three in Kisumu East and three in Nyando Districts.
- Assess attitudes and beliefs about MC and its effect on sexual risk behavior and HIV/STI rates. This will be a population-based survey and will be carried out in Kisumu East District only.

¹ Universities of Nairobi, Illinois and Manitoba. These are the three collaborating universities who conducted the Kenya research on male circumcision for HIV prevention in Kisumu.