Integrating Gender in Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision Programs to Improve Outcomes

Voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) is proven to reduce the risk of sexual transmission of HIV from women to men by 60%, and it is estimated that 80% coverage could reduce HIV incidence in Uganda by 30-50% (UNAIDS, 2011). VMMC is recommended as part of a comprehensive HIV prevention package, which includes HIV testing and counseling, correct and consistent use of male and female condoms, treatment of sexually transmitted infections and promotion of safer sex behaviors. VMMC is a relatively new approach for HIV prevention, and there are limited data or reporting on VMMC programs. This offers an important opportunity to apply improvement methods, including gender integration, in the scale-up of VMMC in order to learn how to effectively implement the intervention. The USAID ASSIST Project is currently working to integrate gender in the Safe Male Circumcision Project in Uganda.

Listen in as John Byabagambi, an Improvement Advisor in Uganda explains how integrating gender into Safe Male Circumcision improvement work will further increase the quality of the services medical teams provide to clients.