Engaging African Men in Rectal Microbicides

BRIAN KANYEMBA
RESEARCH ASSISTANT
Overview

• Community Mobilisation – ProjectARM & GLAM
• Surveillance studies in Africa and recruitment process.
• Engaging African Men in Rectal Microbicides
• Men's division recruitment experience
• Our Community engagement philosophy
• Plans for 017
Who Are These Men

- Gay identified
- Bisexual
- Trans-women
- Straight Identified men
Men who have Sex with Men Exist EVERYWHERE

Engaging MSM in studies
Worldwide
Geography of HIV Intervention Studies for MSM

WHY

• Community, religious, and governments stigma toward MSM inhibited information-gathering
• A few qualitative studies, anecdotal information
• No quantitative assessments of MSM and HIV risk in sub-Saharan Africa prior to 2000
Case Study - Uganda

• Study in 2008

• DG Statement, Arrests of Activists

• Difficulty in Recruitment of Respondents
  – Background of fear

• Comparative studies in Kenya, TZ, Zanzibar

Case Study- Senegal

• Concentrated epidemic

• Comprehensive outreach in place for MSM

• ICASA 2008 held in Dakar and MSM mentioned

• 9 outreach worker arrested and prosecuted
  – Released April, 2009
PROJECT ARM

- Long-term, sustained project of IRMA to develop community capacity around rectal microbicide advocacy
  - ensure broad participation in guiding research activities
  - ensure well-informed community input into development of African rectal microbicide research and implementation agenda.

- Project ARM born from series of community consultations with African advocates and allies at Microbicides 2010, AIDS 2010 and through IRMA listserv

- First-year funding provided by National Institutes of Health/Office of AIDS Research, New Venture Fund

- AVAC an organizing partner
**PROJECT ARM Goals**

- Project ARM’s activities will lead to expanded African rectal microbicide education and advocacy.

- Project ARM’s activities will support the planning and implementation of rectal microbicide clinical trials in Africa in an environment that is as safe as possible for participants.

- Project ARM’s activities will support the eventual rollout of safe, effective, acceptable and accessible rectal microbicides for African men, women, and transgender individuals.
Pre-Conference at ICASA in 2011

- Social and Scientific discussion on Rectal Microbicides
- Country specific working groups advocating for RMs and engaging men as well women.
- Future studies
ON THE MAP: ENSURING AFRICA’S PLACE IN RECTAL MICROBIocide RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY
Our diverse sexualities in Africa shouldn’t be defined only by the prevention tools we have available. HIV prevention tools must be adapted to our sexualities.

Alliance Nikuze, Rwanda

Having founded what is now IRMA Nigeria, I am really excited to see so much new energy around rectal microbicides across Africa.

Kadiri Auđu, Nigeria
“Turning the Tide Together” Is:

Honest Discussion

# of

Anal Sex

“Turning the Tide Together” Is:

Developing Safe, Effective and Accessible Rectal Microbicides
Rectal Microbicides Video
Global Lube Access Mobilization (GLAM) For all

During Anal sex or vaginal sex;

• Sex workers need lube

• Women who have dry sex need lube.

• MSM need lube.
Engaging Men and Woman too

AND LUBE
GLOBAL LUBE ACCESS MOBILISATION
GLAM

Safe, Condom-Compatible Lube 4 All
Visit http://tinyurl.com/AndLube
GLAM

• Survey: AmFar, AVAC, IRMA
• 42 National Strategic Plan were consulted.
• Only 7 mentioned lube
  (Does not mean they have access to lube on vise versa).
GLAM: Engaging the community

- A review of Lube Access in Africa to posted on IRMA blog soonest
- A creation of the toolkit is in the pipeline.
- Creating materials advocates on the ground on Lube access.
- Marc Andre, meeting with OGAC enhance lube access in the MSM African community.
DTHF Community Engagement philosophy

• create programmes that are:
  • Community Driven
  • Sustainable
  • Focus on education empowerment
DTHF Community Engagement

• Worked with MSM since 2005.
• Extensive experience in implementing Bio-Medical research in this community.
• Significant community engagement work since 2008.
• Work hand in glove with study staff to further engage MSM into the study.
DTHF Community Engagement

• DTHF has enrolled MSM from over 42 different communities into previous research projects.

• Currently runs community based bi-weekly programmes and outreach activities in five communities
Community Engagement
2011MTN MEETING

• South African Civil Society consultation and MTN 017 protocol evaluation.
  ➢ AVAC, MTN, DTHF
• Set the stage of having a broader discussion on Rectal Microbicides.
• An ongoing discussion on RM s by different MSM stakeholders.
Plans for MTN 017: Recruitment Process

Our long standing relationship will enhance:

• Recruitment process, by seeking MSM with excellent understanding of study and its objectives.
Plans for MTN 017 : Retention

Our Peer Leaders selected from the community and extensively trained in regards to outreach, education and community building skills will;

• Serve as our liason with the MSM community.
• Through their social networks and geographical communities.
Plans For MTN 017: Community Networking

• Online social Networking.
• Community based networking
• Venue based networking
Engaging MSM in Research

• There is a thriving community of advocates and communities moving the Rectal Microbicide agenda forward in Africa

• Engagement should taken into consideration high HIV prevalence, stigma, discrimination and crimilization of MSM

• NB communities are key stakeholders and critical to successful implementation of research
Acknowledgements

• Vibrant MSM community
• DTHF Staff- Men Division
• Elizabeth Batist
• Ben Brown
• Paul Semugoma
• Jim Pickett
• Linda-Gail Bekker
• Ian McGowan and Sharon Hiller
• MTN
• Project Arm, IRMA
Contact details

Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation
Men’s Research Division
Brian.Kanyemba@hiv-research.org.za

+27 21 650 6969
www.desmontutuhivfoundation.org.za