

Counting Cuts: Getting better at monitoring VMMC

Circumcision should be one of the easiest things to monitor—yet the numbers are out of date. As *AVAC Report 2013* was going to press, total figures for 2012 had just been released. The good news is that the updated figures showed even greater progress than has already been documented. Scale up is moving in the right direction. The problem is that without regularly updated figures, country- and global-level planning efforts are hampered. It is hard to identify gaps in funding by donors or country governments—and to identify countries that are doing exemplary work that can provide insights for their neighbors. To stay on track to begin to end the epidemic, it is critical to track progress in real time. Monitoring and reporting needs to improve—VMMC is one area to watch.