R2P Objectives

Research to Prevention (R2P), a USAID-funded task order under the Project SEARCH IQC, aims to identify effective interventions for preventing HIV and improving HIV prevention programs in countries most affected by the HIV epidemic. The specific objectives of the project are:

1. To conduct applied research and program evaluation to identify interventions that successfully increase access to, and the quality of, HIV prevention services.
2. To promote the utilization of data in the design or mid-course modification of HIV prevention programs to make them more effective.
3. To build local capacity, both in applied research and in the utilization of data, for improving programs and influencing policies.

Ongoing R2P Research Activities

Biomedical Aspects of and Interventions Related to HIV/AIDS

Systematic Monitoring of the Male Circumcision Scale-up (SYMMACS) in Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe: The goal of this study is to monitor the adoption of the six necessary elements for delivery of improved male circumcision services and to determine if adoption of these elements is associated with higher levels of productivity of male circumcision services while maintaining adequate quality in Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

Quality and Efficiency in the Counseling Process for Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision in Tanzania: This study assesses the integration of HIV testing and counseling (HTC) into voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) services across different models of service delivery for the rapid scale-up of VMMC in the Iringa Region of Tanzania.

Exploring Aspects of Demand Creation and Mobilization for Male Circumcision among Older Men in Kenya: This study examines facilitators and barriers to demand for male circumcision, including mobilization of hard to reach populations such as older men in Kenya.

Behavioral Aspects of and Interventions Related to HIV/AIDS

Improving the Validity of Reported Sexual Behaviors including Partner Concurrency in South Africa: This study explores characteristics of sexual partner concurrency. It also aims to construct an instrument to measure concurrency and to test the measure’s validity and reliability among heterosexual couples in Soweto, South Africa.

Evaluating the Impact of Mass Media Efforts on Multiple Concurrent Partnerships in Mozambique: The study estimates the reach and impact of a national mass media campaign to reduce concurrent sexual partnerships using two cross-sectional, representative household surveys across four provinces in Mozambique.

Formative Research on Multiple Concurrent Partnerships in Malawi and Tanzania: The study develops an in-depth understanding of the relational dynamics and social context of concurrent sexual partnerships and their implications for HIV prevention in Tanzania and Malawi.

Interpretations of HIV Campaign Messages in Tanzania and Botswana: This study examines how men and women understand and are influenced by public health constructs, such as sexual partner concurrency, sexual networks, and acute HIV infection currently being incorporated into mass media campaigns in sub-Saharan Africa.

Structural Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Combination HIV Prevention Interventions

Formative Research to Inform Combination HIV Prevention in Iringa, Tanzania: This study uses formative research, both qualitative and quantitative, to strategically define, refine and align a combination HIV prevention package attending to the biomedical, behavioral and structural drivers of HIV-related risk within the Iringa Region of Tanzania.
Assessing Barriers and Facilitators to Linkages to Care in Iringa, Tanzania: This study examines individual, social, institutional, and structural factors shaping linkage to care for individuals living with HIV in the Iringa Region of Tanzania.

Understanding the Mechanisms, Effects and Consequences of Cash Transfer Initiatives in South Africa: This study in Johannesburg, South Africa, investigates the feasibility, potential effectiveness and mechanisms for reducing HIV risk, as well as the possible social consequences of introducing cash transfer initiatives within an urban sub-Saharan African setting.

Intersections between HIV/AIDS and Other Health Challenges

HIV Serological and Behavioral Surveillance among Alcohol Venue Patrons in Botswana: This study assesses HIV prevalence and estimates sexual risk behaviors associated with HIV transmission among adults attending alcohol-consumption venues in Gaborone, Botswana, using time location sampling.

Formative Research Regarding the Sexual Risk Behavior of Drug Users in Guatemala: This study explores the types and contexts of drug use, sources of drug supply and characteristics of users in Guatemala City including risk behaviors and HIV prevalence using respondent-driven sampling.

Integration of Mental Health Services into HIV Prevention and Care: This activity develops a manual to assist program planners in identifying and evaluating interventions that address the intersections of mental health and HIV/AIDS.

Addressing the Needs of Key Populations in Relation to HIV/AIDS

Formative Research among Female Sex Workers and MSM in Swaziland: This study collects quantitative data on HIV prevalence, risk behaviors, and socio-structural aspects of HIV risk among sex workers and MSM recruited through respondent-driven sampling.

Addressing Positive Health, Dignity and Prevention (PHDP) Needs of Key Populations in Swaziland and the Dominican Republic: This study explores the social experiences and PDHP needs—including challenges accessing HIV treatment, care and support and ongoing prevention services—of HIV-infected female sex workers and MSM in Swaziland and the Dominican Republic.

Understanding HIV-Related Vulnerability Among Sex Workers and Their Regular Partners in the Dominican Republic: This study seeks to understand the context and dynamics of HIV risk among female sex workers and their male, regular partners and will develop and pilot an integrated prevention and care intervention based on formative research findings.

Evaluating a Pilot Combination HIV Prevention Intervention for Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) in Malawi: This study develops and pilots a multi-level comprehensive approach to HIV prevention among MSM in Malawi.

West Africa Research for Programming Project among Sex Workers and MSM in Cameroon, Burkina Faso, and Togo: This study uses data triangulation, qualitative methods, respondent-driven sampling and venue-based sampling surveys to assess HIV prevalence, risk behaviors, socio-structural aspects of HIV risk and services among sex workers and MSM in Cameroon, Burkina Faso, and Togo.

Promoting Data Utilization: HIV Prevention Fact Sheets

R2P is developing accessible and user-friendly fact sheets for program managers and policy makers that summarize the evidence on HIV prevention interventions. Fact sheets topics include the following: peer education; voluntary HIV counseling and testing; provider-initiated HIV counseling and testing; needle and syringe exchange; positive health, dignity and prevention; the impact of treatment on prevention; condom social marketing; income generation; school-based sex education; and family planning for women living with HIV.

Building Local Capacity: R2P Small Grants Program

The Small Grants Program strengthens in-country capacity to conduct HIV prevention research. Each year has a specific research theme of importance to HIV prevention.

- Year 1: Alcohol use as a behavioral risk factor in HIV prevention (DRC, Vietnam, Ethiopia)
- Year 2: HIV/AIDS among Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) (Senegal, Kenya, and South Africa)

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