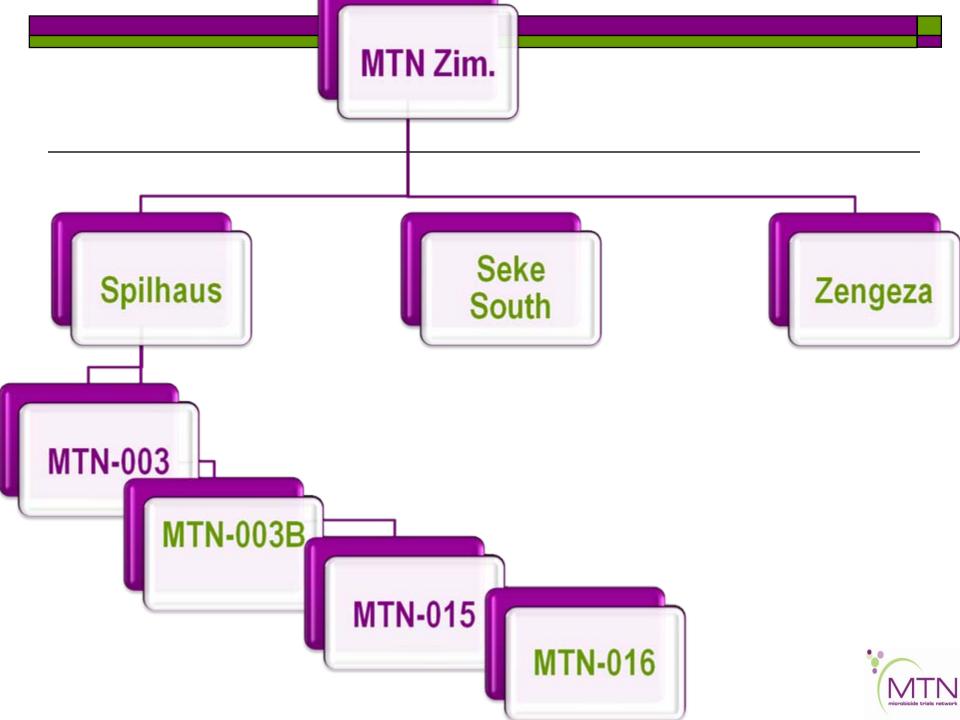
N M Mgodi for Harare Site MTN Regional Meeting, Cape Town 4th October 2010



Presentation Outline

- Background
- Challenges Implementing VOICE and the strategies to address these Challenges
- Lessons Learned
- Unresolved Challenge





- Accrual Challenges
- Retention challenges
- Pregnancies
- Adherence
- Clinic flow at sites conducting multiple studies



Cumulative accrual per CRS

	Follow-up Period (weeks)	Expected	Actual	Deficit
Spilhaus	52	125	96	23%
Seke South	50	110	109	<1%
Zengeza	44	100	93	7%



Accrual Challenges

- Low turn-out of booked participants intensified community activities - assisted by CAB, use of electronic/print media, move to non-traditional areas,
- Length of time spent at clinic increased the number of counselors and nurses, MO, split visits
- Reimbursement issues revised the rates, to use staggered rates
- Dwindling participant recruitment pool Booking more, revised the S:E ratio, increase upper limit of age



Retention Challenges

- Unexpected economy stabilizing
- To date, 14 participants have exited
- Conduct visits after hours/weekends
- Intensify follow-up reminder letters, courtesy calls

Pregnancies

- Low uptake of long term contraceptive methods in Chitungwiza
- Reproductive age, sexually active, healthy
- Encourage long term contraceptive methods



Adherence

- Missed doses
- Stolen product at home or gatherings
- Lack of privacy fail to use study product
- Use of participant initiated reminder tools/strategies

Multiple Protocols

- Impact on participants time spent at clinic, adversely affects accrual/retention.
- Associated with confidentiality challenges
- Strategic booking of participants



Lessons Learned

- Participants from previous prevention studies (MIRA, 039, 035) are:
 - More likely to fall pregnant
 - Less likely to be retained

Retention

Involve males from the onset

Pregnancies

- Consider parity, age, partner before enrolment
- Long term methods



Unresolved Challenge

- Retention challenge
 - When and how best to engage males?
 - How do we prevent research fatigue in the research community and in participants?
 - We suspect a few participants are planning to exit, how might we retain these?



Partner Influence

"The most infuriating thing is not that she was taking part in the study but the fact that she did not disclose to me that she would be using tablets from the study... After all I am not promiscuous so we are not at risk!"

Male partner of VOICE participant, Zimbabwe



Questions?

Thank you

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