Challenges Implementing VOICE

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
Challenges Implementing VOICE

- Accrual Challenges
- Retention challenges
- Pregnancies
- Adherence
- Clinic flow at sites conducting multiple studies
### Cumulative accrual per CRS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Follow-up Period (weeks)</th>
<th>Expected</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Deficit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spilhaus</strong></td>
<td>52</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seke South</strong></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Zengeza</strong></td>
<td>44</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Statistics as at 17 SEP 2010
Challenges Implementing VOICE

- **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
Challenges Implementing VOICE

- **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
Challenges Implementing VOICE

- **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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