

Challenges Implementing VOICE

N M Mgodi for Harare Site

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Presentation Outline

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

MTN Zim.

Spilhaus

Seke
South

Zengeza

MTN-003

MTN-003B

MTN-015

MTN-016

Challenges Implementing VOICE

- 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%

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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