Appendix D: Local Headlines

African news headlines on VMMC/EIMC critical issues and implementation gaps
Patients in Butaleja and other neighbouring districts are distressed after health workers subjected them to forced circumcision in exchange for medical care.

https://www.kampalapost.com/content/health/butaleja-health-workers-subject-patients-forced-circumcision
The personnel from the hospital who recruited the minor ... were reportedly ‘agents’ of a non-governmental organisation, Population Services International (PSI), who were paid commission for the people they bring in for circumcision. ... The minor’s parents withheld their consent. But ... the boy was circumcised anyway and had to be taken home by an ambulance since he could not walk.

https://www.zimeye.net/2018/06/03/doctor-circumcises-13y-old-for-money

I want my son's foreskin returned - Homa Bay dad

https://www.sde.co.ke/thenairobian/article/2001263873/i-want-my-son-s-foreskin-returned-homa-bay-dad
At least 17 boys of school going age in Goromonzi were recently forced to seek urgent medical attention after an unknown organisation circumcised and abandoned them.

https://www.zimetro.co.zw/17-rushed-to-hospital-after-botched-circumcision

“Voluntary” circumcision campaign coordinators admit that where men refuse circumcision, minors are targeted instead:

[T]he majority of the patrons were children from the age of 10 to 14 years. ... “We cannot say that we did not do well considering the challenges that were there.”


Between 2009 [local VMMC roll-out] and 2015, there was an increase of 14.8 per cent in the proportion of adult Mozambicans who are HIV positive. ...

Shockingly, IMASIDA found that knowledge of how HIV is transmitted and how it can be prevented had declined since 2009. Only 56 per cent of men and 47 per cent of women interviewed in 2015 knew that it is possible to reduce the risk of HIV infection by using condoms, and by limiting sexual relations to one non-infected partner. ...

Tete is the province where the lowest percentage of men are circumcised – yet Tete is also the province with the lowest HIV prevalence rate.
No circumcision for us – Nsanje men say

https://malawi24.com/2017/03/15/no-circumcision-us-nsanje-men-say

Medic fined Shs70m over failed circumcision

A one-month-old subjected to UNICEF’s EIMC campaign faces permanent sexual damage.

https://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Medic-fined-Shs70m-over-failed-circumcision/688334-3364080-13xiuio/index.html

Trouble after school circumcises pupils without parents consent


Circumcision goes terribly wrong... as boy dies during procedure

https://www.manicapost.co.zw/circumcision-goes-terribly-wrong-as-boy-dies-during-procedure
I note with alarm the gathering momentum to circumcise over a third of Namibia’s adult male population by 2025. Relevant authorities are deceiving men into thinking their risk of contracting HIV will be smaller and that they will somehow be ‘safer.’

Malawians have questioned the motives of the US and other Western NGOs that are promoting circumcision despite evidence showing that the questionable initiative does not reduce HIV as claimed. Vetting their anger and frustrations on social media, the people took to task the US for “prioritizing sex” and not real development.
Employees of Baylor College of Medicine Children’s Foundation-Uganda (Baylor Uganda), a US-based NGO, circumcised children in Soroti District without informing parents. One child ran away from home while another has refused to return to school.


Malawi: Is Voluntary Male Medical Circumcision De-Campaigning Condom Use?

https://allafrica.com/stories/201508310775.html

Circumcision disaster: Malawi HIV infection rate doubles


Malawian circumcised men most likely to be infected by HIV, research shows

Waza blogger Jera believes that ongoing circumcision campaigns should inform as much about possible negative outcomes as they do about the positive effects of circumcision.

This article has been retracted from Waza’s archives, and is available at https://allafrica.com/stories/201507231334.html.

“First we have to clear the notion that circumcision is an effective remedy against HIV/AIDS [which] has fueled the spread of the disease... [T]here is an urgent need to re-educate [youth] on the misconception.” ... The trend has promoted the spread of the virus in the county.

This article has been retracted from the Star’s archives, and is available at https://allafrica.com/stories/201505120134.html.
A new study of 314 female sex workers (FSWs) in Makindye division found that more than half of respondents falsely believe that once a man is circumcised, protection is not necessary during sex.

[UN report: African opposition to mass circumcision]

Push to Stop Child Circumcision Causing Stir in Parliament

[Zimbabwe Senator Sithembile Mlotshwa] argues that children should be allowed to make their own choices when they grow up instead of being circumcised under the medical male circumcision programme funded by international donors.

Population Services International (PSI) spokesperson Paidamoyo Magaya was unreachable for comment. PSI sponsors the circumcision drive in Zimbabwe.
Circumcised Men Abandoning Condoms


Experts Express Mixed Feelings on Circumcision

A Zimbabwe demographic and health survey conducted by the country’s statistics agency in 2010 and 2011 revealed that men between ages 15 and 49 who were circumcised were slightly more likely to be HIV positive than uncircumcised men. ... In most cases, circumcised men are believed to be engaging in unsafe sex.


Zimbabwe Lawmaker: Stop Infant Circumcision

https://www.voazimbabwe.com/a/medical-male-circumcision-mlotshwa/1862018.html

Former inmates decry forced circumcision

https://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Former-inmates-decry--forced-circumcision/688334-2110502-m5ag3f/index.html

Circumcised men indulge in risky sexual behaviour

Some circumcised men are contracting HIV and AIDS after ditching the use of condoms under a misguided belief that male circumcision (MC) would prevent them from getting infected, the Standard has heard.

https://www.thestandard.co.zw/2013/11/10/circumcised-men-indulge-risky-sexual-behaviour
There is an upsurge of cases of people who got infected with HIV following circumcision. This story has been retracted from Gabz FM’s archives.

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Push for male circumcision in Nyanza fails to reduce infections

By George Orido

https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2000093293/push-for-male-circumcision-in-nyanza-fails-to-reduce-infections

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Man loses penis in medical circumcision

By Vision Reporter  Added 16th July 2013 02:56 PM

Speaking with teary eyes, Izimba curses the day he read a sign post at the private clinic that offers free male medical circumcision.


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Ugandan Circumcision Campaign Goes Awry

Although the decision to be circumcised is supposed to be voluntary, men have consistently been pressured to participate.

https://www.voanews.com/a/ugandas_cultural_battle_over_forced_circumisions/1441320.html