

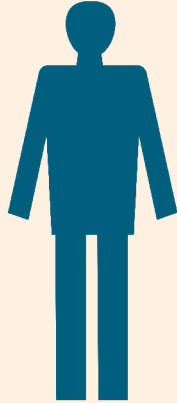
# Scaling up voluntary male circumcision for HIV prevention

## LESSONS FROM A DISTRICT-BASED PROGRAM IN UGANDA

In just **FOUR YEARS**, almost

# 312,000

men voluntarily circumcised in East Central Uganda with the support of the USAID-funded STAR-EC<sup>1</sup> program.



up to **60%**  
protectiveness against HIV infection

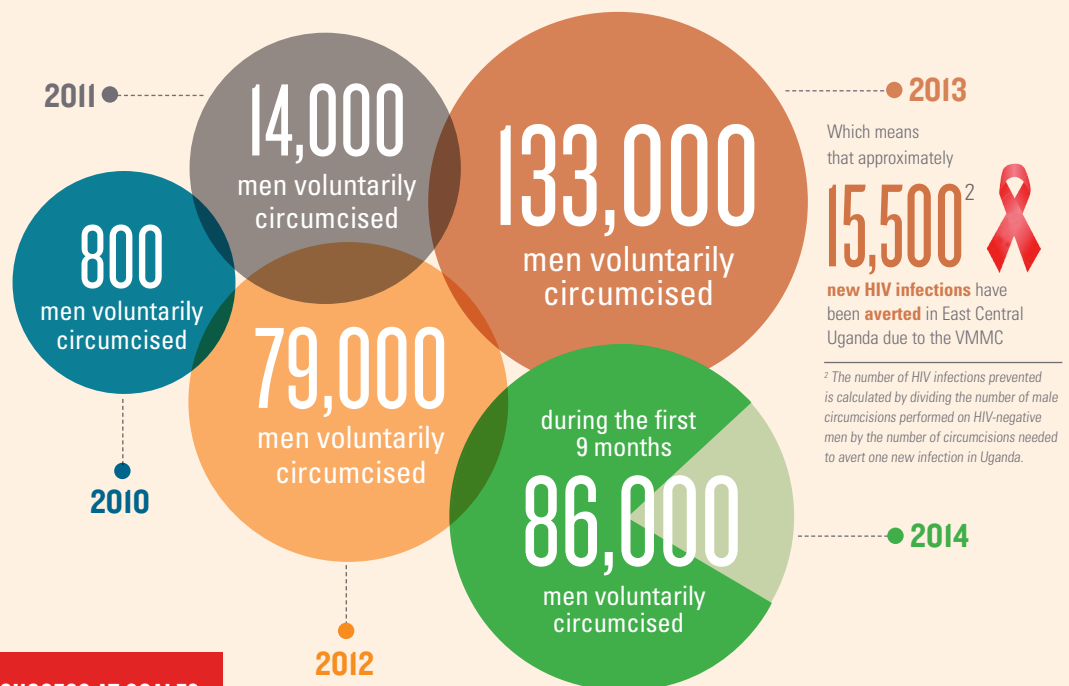


Male circumcision is a proven, one-time, low-cost procedure that saves lives and can save significant resources. Its safety and efficacy to reduce risk of HIV transmission during vaginal sex was demonstrated through three randomized control trials conducted in Uganda, South Africa and Kenya where the **protective effect was shown to be up to 60%**.

<sup>1</sup>Strengthening Tuberculosis & HIV & AIDS Responses in East Central Uganda

**STAR-EC** is a USAID-funded public health program that provides HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment services to communities in East Central Uganda.

In a culture where “healthy” men do not normally visit health facilities, the numbers are astounding:



### HOW DID STAR-EC ACHIEVE THIS SUCCESS AT SCALE?

- Rapidly increased the number of health facilities able to perform male circumcision to include **all major public health facilities** in the region.
- Provided circumcision services at **over 160 outreach sites** every month, in addition to health facilities, in order to bring services directly to potential clients.
- **Extended outreach services**, such as week-long “circumcision camps” held every few months, to high HIV prevalence, hard-to-reach areas – for example, the islands in Lake Victoria.
- Employed a well-known model, MOVE, to assist health facilities to rapidly scale up their ability to perform circumcisions. The model employs surgical and personnel efficiencies, including “**task shifting**,” where some medical responsibilities are transferred to lower level, but fully capable, health workers.
- Rapidly **trained 156 health workers** as part of surgical teams to tackle the unmet need for male circumcision services.
- **Promoted male circumcision awareness** at events such as radio talk shows, fairs, market days, couple testing and counseling weeks, and youth football competitions.

