Outline

- Study design
- Study objective
- Study duration
- Current study status
- Lessons learnt
Study Design

- Is an observational cohort study. Participants were recruited over six months at four sites in SSA using convenience sampling strategies, with no replacement for participants lost to follow-up.

- Participant will be followed for 12 months, during which five study visits involving structured HIV behavioral assessments, medical examinations, and collection of biological samples will be conducted.
Study Objective

• To determine the feasibility of recruiting and retaining men who have sex with other men (MSM) in a multi-country prospective cohort study in preparation for HIV prevention studies in Sub-Saharan Area (SAA)
Study Duration

• Total study duration in the field is 21 months:
  > 3 months of implementation preparation
  > 6 months of accrual
  > 12 months of follow-up
Blantyre Site

- Established in 1989
- Implements studies for all networks
- First ever MSM study
- Start date: 19 Jan 2016 (screening)
- Number screened - 129
- Number enrolled – 100 (Pos17 Neg 83)
Site Office
Current Study Status

- Total number enrolled – 100
- Total number exited – 46
- In follow up – 54
- Last participant to be exited in June
Lessons Learnt

- There is a possibility to recruit participants in our setting despite current laws.
- Most of these participants are mobile
- There is Stakeholder involvement in studies involving MSM
  - IRB
  - CAB
  - Staff (Govt & JHP)
  - Media
  - MSM affiliated organizations
  - Police
  - Participants
Lessons Learnt, cont...

- MSM have unique needs during the study implementation.
- It pays to keep in touch with screened out participants.
- Do the unusual for recruitment and retention.
- MSM remains a criminal offence.
- Mapping is important.
Thanks

What are your comments/questions?
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HPTN 075 study participants
HPTN 075 study team
FHI360 team