



MEDIA RELEASE

KZN gets MMC service from savvy mobile unit

Pietermaritzburg, 5 May 2015 – One of the first NGOs in South Africa to provide free medical male circumcision (MMC) services – Society for Family Health (SFH) – has introduced a state-of-the-art mobile clinic to improve this service in Umgungundlovu.

Through its New Start programme SFH is determined to make MMC accessible to every man in uMgungundlovu district. The eye-catching and modern mobile unit equipped with four surgical beds will ultimately sweep through five municipalities namely Msunduzi, iMpendle, Mpofana, uMshwati and uMngeni.

Any man who comes to the MMC mobile clinic is guaranteed to receive New Start's comprehensive quality service. This entails group information sessions, one-on-one counselling and testing, physical screening, the surgical procedure as well as the follow-up process after the procedure.

New Start's innovative approach to providing MMC services intends to boost HIV prevention in KZN. Research has proven that MMCs reduce the risk of HIV infection by 60% among men and enhances the protection of their female partners from a number of other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including cervical cancer

According to a 2012 HSRC household survey, KZN has the highest HIV prevalence in South Africa (16.6%). The average rate of HIV prevalence among South Africans is 12.2%. Coupled with declining overall condom usage, these figures have made it more important for programmes like New Start Medical Male Circumcision to bolster HIV prevention services to curb HIV infections.

Speaking at the launch, SFH deputy country director Miriam Mhazo said the organisation was proud to provide this very important service.

"The new mobile clinic will contribute greatly towards our goal to make quality health services easily accessible to the people in the communities that need it most. We are committed to providing health services that give men and women a new lease on life."



The KZN Department of Health has shown its full support of this development as it enhances the capacity of the public health sector to improve people's health and lives.

The department's Deputy Director General Mfowethu Zungu: "We have made great strides in changing the face of the HIV epidemic in South Africa but there is still work to be done. We are looking forward to collaborating further with New Start to ensure that the make this new development is a success."

Note to editors

The **New Start programme** was developed by **Society for Family Health (SFH)** in partnership with the government of South Africa. The programme is funded by the South African Department of Health and the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). SFH is a registered not for profit organisation and is an affiliate of Population Services International (PSI), a global social marketing organisation.

Distributed on behalf of SFH by Meropa Communications.

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