

Learning and Documentation

COMPACT will measure changes in behavior in the four project communities using a knowledge, attitudes, and practices survey that examines topics such as gender norms, gender-based violence, alcohol abuse, sexual behavior and condom use, HIV counseling and testing, uptake of male circumcision, and disclosure of HIV status. The evaluation will carry out HIV testing in the community to provide a basis for measuring progress. In addition, the project will carry out ongoing documentation that will highlight outcomes of community participatory assessments, lessons and challenges in developing and implementing community compacts. The feedback will be shared with district and national HIV program managers and policy makers, as well as globally, to share lessons learned about this innovative approach.

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The Population Council conducts research worldwide to improve policies, programs, and products in three areas: HIV and AIDS; Poverty, Gender, and Youth; and Reproductive Health.

Project Concern International (PCI) is a non-profit health and humanitarian aid organization dedicated to preventing disease, improving community health, and promoting sustainable development in Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

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COMPACT

Community Mobilization for Preventive Action

Background

In Zambia, 14.3 percent of adults are infected with HIV, with an estimated 1.6 percent of the population newly infected each year. The National AIDS Council's strategy for the Prevention of HIV and AIDS in Zambia aims to reduce new HIV infections by 50 percent by the end of 2014. To contribute to that goal, the Population Council and its partner, Project Concern International, with financial support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), are implementing a three-year HIV prevention project called Community Mobilization for Preventive Action (COMPACT). The project will develop and determine the feasibility of "community compacts" as an innovative approach to prevent HIV in Zambian communities. The project began in late 2010 and will run through 2013.

COMPACT's Approach

Broadly, community compacts are agreements between service providers and recipient communities that are intended to increase the effectiveness of services by promoting community ownership. COMPACT will work directly with four communities to design and implement some of the first compacts in Zambia. The aim is to mobilize the communities in efforts to prevent HIV through a capacity building process that enables communities to identify HIV

prevention targets, develop interventions to achieve those targets, and measure the results. We are complementing the community compacts with a system of incentives designed to reward communities for reaching their targets. The rewards are not given to individuals; they are community goods that are intended to further the goals of each intervention and motivate the community. They will be bestowed at public events to celebrate achievements and reinforce community ownership of and participation in the compact.



Project Objectives

COMPACT seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- 1) Work collaboratively in selected communities to develop community compacts for HIV prevention interventions;
- 2) Transfer skills to communities by building capacity of community-based organizations (CBOs) to improve and expand their HIV prevention activities; and
- 3) Develop and implement measurement frameworks to track progress of community prevention activities.

A cornerstone of the compact approach is to work with existing community structures to form a Community Compact Development Committee (CCDC), which will comprise community leaders and other stakeholders and will manage the compact. COMPACT will support the CCDC by conducting participatory assessments that will determine existing CBO capacity and the key drivers of the HIV epidemic in the community. The CCDC will select evidence-based HIV prevention interventions relevant to the community, set targets to achieve, identify CBOs to implement the interventions, and develop the compact. It will then monitor and evaluate progress at community level and reward the achievement of results. COMPACT will continuously build the capacity of the CCDC and CBOs through structured training, ongoing mentoring support, and community-to-community skills transfer.