

## Abstract

### **WEKC501 - The external eye: rationale, design and initial findings of an external process evaluation of the scaling up of an innovative adolescent reproductive health intervention, in Mwanza region, Tanzania**

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**Issues:** There is an urgent need for improved understanding of the factors determining the efficacy of the sustainable and effective scale up of multisectoral HIV interventions in sub Saharan Africa. Little is known about the transition from small-scale NGO-led pilot implementation, to large-scale integration into government structures.

**Description:** Mema kwa Vijana phase 2 (MkV2) is scaling up an innovative adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) intervention, from an NGO-led pilot project involving 18 health facilities and 61 schools, to an integrated government-led programme involving all 179 health facilities and 649 primary schools in 4 districts of Mwanza Region. An independent team is conducting external process evaluation (EPE) which moves beyond documentation of activities. EPE aims to identify and understand key issues and processes necessary for effective large-scale implementation and the successful integration of such programmes into existing government structures. Both quantitative and qualitative tools and a variety of indicators are used. The rationale, design and initial findings of the EPE will be presented.

**Lessons learned:** The independence of the research team has successfully served to validate the implementation team activities and internal process evaluation findings. The variety of methods adopted has enabled the research team to:

- (i) Document the implementation process and coverage,
- (ii) Assess the intervention quality;
- (iii) Identify the key facilitating or inhibitory issues and processes
- (iv) Inform the development of effective internal process evaluation systems and appropriate channels to provide ongoing, multilevel feedback to stakeholders.

Challenges were faced in the division of work and in the production of timely feedback given the scale and timeline of the programme.

**Recommendations:** Process evaluation research conducted by an external team offers an important opportunity to understand and improve implementation quality and can strengthen the development of internal process evaluation systems to improve the effective scale up of multifaceted interventions of this nature.