

Kayombo, L. (2008). Reasons behind low responses to joining the MDP trial by women living in the Sugar Plantation in Mazabuka, Zambia. Microbicides 2008. Dehli.

BACKGROUND The objective of the study was to ascertain the reason why women within the estate area of Microbicides Development Program Mazabuka site, where they have a better social economic status, do not want to enroll in the Phase III Microbicides clinical trial on a candidate PRO2000/5 gel as compared to the town area where women s educational and economic status is low. **METHODS:** A simple survey of 147 women in the estate area was conducted to find out; what they may have heard/know about the MDP, what their partners know about the study? **RESULTS:** The data collected shows that: 20% (29) thought that only invited people join the study, 20% (29) thought that only HIV people/those that feel are HIV positive join the study and get medication, 10% (15) did not know anything about the study, 50% (74) thought it was a VCT centre, of these at least 70% (103) had heard from friends who had never visited the clinic. **CONCLUSION** This experience highlights the challenges in conveying correct information about the trial so as to enable women to participate, in a context of other non-research HIV related activities such as VCT. Mobilization strategies for research studies need to clearly differentiate themselves so as to avoid misunderstanding.