
**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.