

The following three case studies represent different problems regarding the use of data. The organizer of this exercise should break the participants into groups of 4 to 6 individuals. If feasible, each group should be comprised of individuals from the same country.

Each group should then be assigned one of the case studies and should be asked to read the problem statement. The group should think about the problem within the context of their own country (note: if it's not feasible to have groups from a common country, then the team should decide which country they represent).

Each group should spend approximately half an hour discussing the problem and an additional half an hour preparing a presentation which summarizes the findings from the discussion. Each presentation should last approximately 5 to 10 minutes.

The organizer of the exercise should emphasize that this session focuses on the issue of data for decision-making. Therefore each presentation should emphasize the data gaps which currently exist and the data that would be required in order to fully answer the question.

Case Study 1: Applying Data from Other Countries in Your Own Country's HIV/AIDS Planning

Your Minister of Health has recently asked you to come to her office. On her desk is a copy of a recent study from South Africa which indicates that male circumcision can reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS among heterosexual men by 60%. On her desk there is also an editorial from the local newspaper, which harshly criticizes the Minister for failing to be innovative in her approach to addressing HIV/AIDS. The article refers to the study from South Africa and notes that the Minister's recently released HIV/AIDS strategic plan fails to even mention the issue of male circumcision. The Minister asks you to develop a "white paper" which addresses the findings from South Africa and addresses its relevance to your country's situation. She informs you that she will support any decision you take, but you must develop a rigorous defense for why the country is, or is not, going to address the issue of male circumcision in its HIV/AIDS strategy. You should assess what information you currently have in your country which can help set the stage for your response. You should also consider what new data you would propose generating in order to develop a long-term response to the issue of male circumcision?

- Develop a presentation which outlines how you plan to proceed over the long term.

Case Study 2: Using Data to Set National HIV/AIDS Priorities

The Minister of Health informs you that a new call for proposals has been received from the Global Fund. Your country's last unsuccessful Global Fund proposal included a request for \$1 billion, which is more than was allocated to all of the 23 winning proposals combined. Therefore the Minister is asking for a much more focused response. Specifically she wants a list of only 3 priority interventions which will be emphasized in this proposal. The Minister is not putting any restrictions on you, although she also may not accept your recommendations. Your job is to develop a presentation which identifies the 3 specific interventions which you are going to propose to the Minister. You should develop a strong case for why your priorities are best for the country. Your presentation should include a review of currently available data (if you don't have access to this information, you can make it up) as well as an assessment of what data you are likely to require over the next 5 years. Your proposal can focus on HIV/AIDS, malaria or tuberculosis.

- Develop a presentation which outlines how you plan to proceed in terms of the country's priorities for its Global Fund proposal.

Case Study 3: Program Sustainability and the Use of Data

Your country has been providing antiretroviral therapy for people living with HIV/AIDS for a number of years. Initial negotiations with drug manufacturers resulted in a significant discount in the cost of ARVs. However, the resources needed for ARVs have begun to rise, in large part because of the high cost of second line therapy. As first line therapy has failed for many people living with HIV/AIDS, you have had to purchase brand name second line therapy, at a cost of \$10,000 per person per year. Meanwhile the country's primary source of external funding for its antiretroviral program has recently announced that it is planning to withdraw all of its funds from your country within the next 2 years, due to its greater emphasis on the HIV/AIDS epidemic in other emerging countries. As a result, the sustainability of your program is in danger. Your job is to develop a presentation which defines the problem and provides clear solutions to the country's problems. You should present data regarding the current situation (if you don't have any data, you can make it up). You should also present the information which your country will need to collect over the next two years in order to assure that you are achieving your goals. Finally, you should present options for assuring the sustainability of ARVs in your country.

- Develop a presentation which outlines how you plan to proceed in terms of sustaining the country's HIV/AIDS program.