



# **‘MAKING AN IMPACT WITH RESEARCH ON SEXUALITY AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH’**

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# IMPACT

Impact A marked effect or influence

- Working in partnership
- Presenting academic research results in different forms to different audiences
- Unintended impact

# PARTNERSHIP

## ■ Who benefits from the research?

- Direct and indirect target groups and beneficiaries? Policy makers? Pregnant women?
- How do you know they benefited? Who measures when and what?
- How can you maximize these benefits?
- Gatekeepers > who may stop you & why

## ■ Contribution and attribution

- Research contributes to impact
- Partnerships might claim a result that can be attributed. Each individual contributes.
- Inputs have unintended and planned results.

## Effective partnering

Presenting academic research results in different forms to different audiences = coordinating

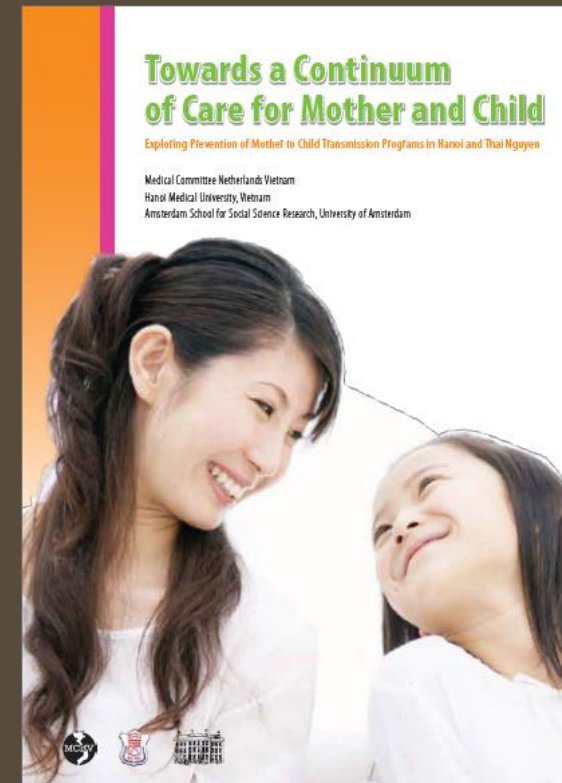
Synchronizing timelines > present results before planning and budgeting = sequencing

Take a stand based on your results > speak out when you have to = making friends and enemies

# EXAMPLE IMPROVE PMTCT UPTAKE VIETNAM

Operational program initiated by MCNV a Dutch INGO in country since 1968

- Assessment in 2003-2004
- IDU driven concentrated epidemic
- Women are expected to have a child in the first year of their marriage. Most HIV+ women do not know their husbands used drugs before marriage. They learn about their status during pregnancy.
- AIDS medicines used to reduce transmission of HIV from mother to her child, not for treatment of the mothers
- In 2004 treatment for adults was available, but women were hiding and dying alone



# PARTNERING AND PLANNING

- Participatory and evidence based programming: mother centred care and support for HIV+ pregnant women and young mothers.
- Partnership with Vietnamese government and mass organizations (national, province, district, commune and district levels), service providers (medical, social, legal, economic) HIV+ women, their children and partners
- Self-help group for HIV+ mothers linked with multisectoral service network (medical, social and economic services) to help prevention of HIV transmission to the child and help women to raise their child.
- 2004 4 women, 1 MD and international advisor, no funding, 1 director red cross
- 2011 >3000 direct members, 17 support groups, >200 partner organizations
- Regional research 4 PhD 2004-2008 Medical anthropological operational research with ethnic minorities 2008-2011



# GENERATING SOLUTIONS TO REAL PROBLEMS

- **Many HIV+ women are poor. What should we do? Can micro-credit empower HIV+ women?**
- Kabeer (1999) defines empowerment as: “the process by which those who have been denied the ability to make strategic life choices acquire such an ability” (Kabeer, 1999; 437)
- Empirical measurement of a process requires documentation at least at two points in time.
- Being able to observe the group showed that women do not take out loans unless health situation is stabilized (i.e. can see results of access to ART)
- Immediate program sequencing implications: build micro-credit on ART (not as tool to help start access ART)
- Highly successful research and operational program (external evaluations) f.e. Universal ART for mother and child, universal access to education of all members

# PRESENTING ACADEMIC RESEARCH RESULTS IN DIFFERENT FORMS TO DIFFERENT AUDIENCES

## Communicating research: gender, medical technology, fertility choices, empowerment

Oosterhoff P., Nguyen T. A., Pham N. Y., Wright P., Hardon A., (2008) HIV-positive mothers in Viet Nam: using their status to build support groups and access essential services. Reproductive Health Matters November 2008 <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1373747>

Oosterhoff P., Hardon A., Nguyen T. A., Pham N. Y., and Wright P., (2008) Dealing with a positive result: risks and responses in routine HIV testing among pregnant women in Vietnam. AIDS care, 2008, 20:6, 654 — 659 <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~db=all?content=10.1080/09540120701687026>

Oosterhoff P., Nguyen T. A., Ngo T. H., Pham N. Y., Wright P., Hardon A., (2008) Holding the line: Vietnamese family responses to pregnancy and child desire when a family member has HIV. Culture Health and Sexuality, 2008 Volume 10 Issue 4 Pages 403 – 416 [http://www.informaworld.com/openurl?genre=article&issn=1369-1058&volume=10&issue=4&spage=403&uno\\_jumptype=alert&uno\\_alerttype=new\\_issue\\_alert,email](http://www.informaworld.com/openurl?genre=article&issn=1369-1058&volume=10&issue=4&spage=403&uno_jumptype=alert&uno_alerttype=new_issue_alert,email)

## Research finding:

- Gender roles double edged sword causing; vulnerability can be turned into power: I am a mother so I organize, speak & demand. HIV+ men cannot/refuse to make similar fatherhood claims
- Lineage key in understanding fertility choices of HIV positive couples enabled by medical technology

# PRESENTING ACADEMIC RESEARCH RESULTS IN DIFFERENT FORMS TO DIFFERENT AUDIENCES

## **Starting with mother focused PMTCT**

Phuongs story” (2010) 1 min. Executive producer. Director Nguyen Thi Thao. TV commercial/testimonial on PMTCT by the Sunflower Network, a national network of HIV positive women in Vietnam.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRzS5PYyxXE#t=17>

## **Shifting to involving men**

“With or without me” (2011) 80 min. Director Nguyen Thi Thao and Dubus Swann. Documentary film portrait of two young heroin addicts and their families in Dien Bien, Vietnam.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikjFG0c6jal>



# UNINTENDED AND UNPLANNED PARTNERS AND IMPACT

**Research finding:** Achieving the non-controversial medical goals of sexual health requires dealing with the controversial aspects of sexual life

**Sexual health isn't just about health – it's about sex too**

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2014/sep/04/sexual-health-sex-medical-goals>

Banned by the community moderator because I gave a reference to a site with examples of feminist porn. Trolls could post comments against sex education.

**Evaluative study findings:** Conflicting messages on the length of time that Ebola remains in semen after recovery make education and prevention confusing. We need to avoid mixed messages and focus on girls' rights

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2015/apr/22/sexual-health-ebola-semen-sierra-leone>

Letters of complaint to research director, hate mail, hate twitter

**BUT contributed to being approached**

by Love Matters to design a project (open-ended)

DUREX to be in global advisory board for sexual and reproductive health

# UNINTENDED AND UNPLANNED PARTNERS AND IMPACT

- Two action-research projects with Love Matters <https://lovematters.co.ke/> Sauti music academy, Penya record label, installation artists, radio stations, health services, Goethe institute, and we hope many more...
- Research about on-line information search behaviour and off line research on sexuality in Kenya
  - Production of songs using on-line competition at the Love Matters site
  - Installation art

