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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>A marked effect or influence</th>
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<td>Working in partnership</td>
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<td>Presenting academic research results in different forms to different audiences</td>
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<td>Unintended impact</td>
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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
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
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


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

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRz5PYxXE#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.


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.


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