



VMMC Online Training Hub Update

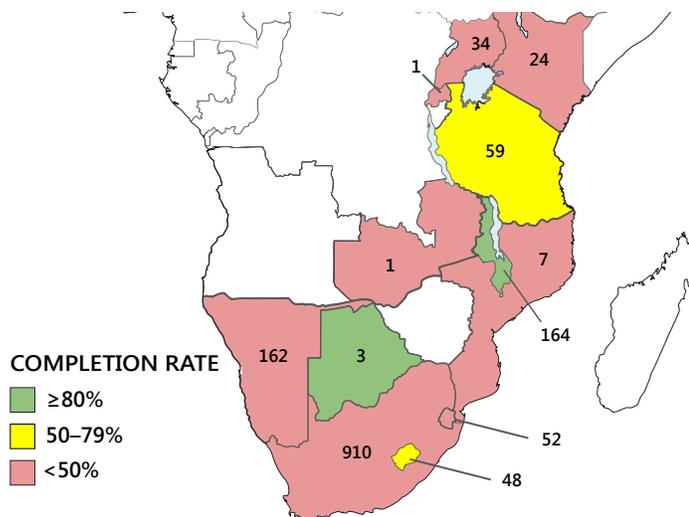
August 1, 2017–March 7, 2019

VMMC OTH Course Completions Soar to 1,400 with Enrollments on the Rise

With 1,465 registered users from 12 African countries and 753 learners already completing the course from August 2017 to March 7, 2019, the robust Online Training Hub (OTH) curriculum boasts seven comprehensive modules with more than 1,570 slides of content, including photos, animations, videos, illustrations, quizzes, and important voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) resources.

The OTH is an eLearning platform that provides classes, resources, and communities of practice to help clinicians advance their skills and knowledge around performing VMMC. The OTH covers the theoretical VMMC information commonly learned through in-person workshops. Learners complete and pass this online course before proceeding on to an in-person clinical practicum. Learners can work at their own pace on- and off-line, downloading their coursework, and working through the content and quizzes using the OTH mobile app. With 25 percent of all users accessing the OTH on their mobile devices, course modules have been downloaded thousands of times, as they accelerate through the curriculum. AIDSFree is pleased to share this VMMC OTH update that describes milestones, such as the number of OTH users by country, role, and sector.

OTH Course Completion



Country	# Registered	# Completed*
Botswana	3	3
Eswatini	52	24
Kenya	24	6
Lesotho	48	32
Malawi	164	137
Mozambique	7	3
Namibia	162	78
Rwanda	1	0
South Africa	910	426
Tanzania	59	35
Uganda	34	9
Zambia	1	0
Total	1,465	753

* As registered users work through their curriculum to finish the course, completion rates will continue to increase.



Table 1. OTH User by Role in VMMC Provision

Role	# Registered	# Completed	% Completed*
VMMC Provider/Surgeon	548	307	56%
Assistant Provider/Surgeon	240	118	49%
Program Manager/Coordinator/Technical Advisor	203	101	50%
Other†	164	55	34%
VMMC Other Nurse (focusing on task outside the operating theater)	154	71	46%
VMMC Counselor/HTC Counselor	79	45	57%
VMMC Mobilizer	68	50	74%
Hygiene Officer/Infection Prevention	9	6	67%
Total	1,465	753	51%

* As registered users work through their curriculum to finish the course, completion rates will continue to increase.
 † Clinical university students, former IPs, and consultants.

Table 2. OTH Users by Sector

Sector	# Registered	# Completed	% Completed*
Implementing Partner	1,166	672	58%
Ministry of Health	173	56	32%
Other†	100	18	18%
US Government	14	5	36%
WHO, UNAIDS, BMGF, and UNICEF Staff	12	2	17%
Total	1,465	753	51%

* As registered users work through their curriculum to finish the course, completion rates will continue to increase.
 † Clinical university students, former IPs, and consultants.

As depicted in Table 1, the majority (68 percent) of the 1,465 registered OTH learners comprise VMMC providers, assistant providers, surgeons, program managers, coordinators, and technical advisors with about 50 percent or more of each role already completing the course. Table 2 shows that the largest sector—implementing partners—has 1,166 registered learners, while 173 learners come from the Ministry of Health. Many registered learners have recently enrolled in the course and are currently taking the moderated sessions. In the coming weeks and months, these learners will finish their curriculum, and completion rates will continue to increase as knowledge is gained on VMMC best practices to provide quality services.

OTH User Feedback

Users are surveyed about their OTH experience as they complete each module. Of users surveyed, 94 percent indicated that the VMMC OTH was an effective way to learn VMMC content and 93 percent were likely to revisit the modules and additional VMMC information. Although many users

encountered technical challenges, largely linked to internet connectivity, more than 88 percent of respondents found the OTH easy to navigate and were able to get timely technical assistance through helpdesk support. As one VMMC mobilizer stated, “The learning became easier because it’s so exciting to [do] online training.”

Users commented that the mix of audio, illustrations, and videos enhanced the learning experience and the slides were well-developed with up-to-date information, with one user commenting, “The content was excellent, integrating different aspects of theory, practical application of different types of VMMC and supportive information.”

“The content was excellent, integrating different aspects of theory, practical application of different types of VMMC and supportive information.”
 —VMMC provider/surgeon



Users expressed their satisfaction at the knowledge and skills they gained through the OTH in many areas, such as:

- roles in demand creation.
- sterile procedures.
- device methods.
- local anesthesia procedures.
- advantages and disadvantages of the three surgical methods.
- physical exam and screening.
- managing adverse events.
- waste management.

"This course was really an eye opener, especially the [adverse events]."

—VMMC nurse

For the OTH social media platform, learners commented that it helped them understand the information better, connect with colleagues, and troubleshoot problems, with one VMMC provider stating the platform "makes this a pleasant learning environment as interaction with fellow students and facilitators is so easy and there is that connection and individualism as anyone can say or comment and will be heard." In addition, 93 percent of learners indicated that they would recommend the VMMC OTH to their colleagues.

Moderators were an essential part of the VMMC OTH curriculum. More than 100 moderators from nine countries have been trained during four workshops on techniques and approaches to motivate and assist other participants/learners to complete the course. Many OTH users have noted that moderators are knowledgeable and responsive to their needs. As one learner, a VMMC provider, stated, "He communicated and made excellent explanations on course content; hence, made it easier to follow the course."

"The part about tetanus and Fournier gangrene was a completely new thing for me, and it was great to learn about it."

—VMMC counselor

Comprehensive OTH Resources

As part of the OTH, a comprehensive resource library provides a rich collection of documents, guidelines, handouts, and videos for learners to build their capacity and increase their knowledge to help improve the quality of VMMC services.

With over 160 VMMC resources available for download, learners have viewed more than 1,500 postings: 726 files and 995 OTH discussions. The top three resources viewed include (1) *Module 1 Script for VMMC and HIV Infection*, (2) *South Africa MMC Training Manual*, and (3) *VMMC In-Service Communication Best Practices Guide*. The *Manual for Male Circumcision under Local Anaesthesia*, the most viewed discussion by learners, had more than 276 views. Other popular discussion topics included the *Report on Health Benefits of VMMC for Women* and *Local Anaesthesia Dosing for VMMC*.

"[The moderator] communicated and made excellent explanations on course content, [which] made it easier to follow the course."

—VMMC provider

93%

...of OTH learners would recommend the OTH to their colleagues.



"I have learnt a lot of things...and I'm ready to practice them."

—Assistant VMMC provider/surgeon

Since the OTH launched in August 2017, the OTH section of the AIDSFree website has received over 4,100 visits with more than 850 downloads of the OTH one-page brochure, suggesting there is a lot of interest in learning about and signing up for the VMMC course.

AIDSFree continues to enroll more learners (surgeons, nurses, program managers, counselors, mobilizers, etc.) on this comprehensive platform, which allows them to build their capacity and enrich their knowledge and skills to ensure that high-quality VMMC services and programs are provided to clients seeking VMMC services for HIV prevention.

To inquire about registering for the OTH course, please contact:

- Kim Chandler, kim_chandler@jsi.com.
- Zebedee Mwandu, zebedee.mwandi@jpiego.org.

For questions about the course itself, email: vmmc.training@gmail.com.

To register for the OTH, please click here: <http://bit.ly/2Jc8ij6>.



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