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**WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES ON THE ROLL-OUT OF
MALE CIRCUMCISION AS AN HIV PREVENTION TOOL**

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Although male circumcision for HIV prevention is an intervention that men will choose to undergo, it is an emerging intervention of great significance and some concern for women. AVAC and partners have been engaged in articulating some of these issues; this presentation summarizes these issues and the proposed action steps that have emerged.

“The roll out of male circumstance for HIV prevention is an opportunity to strengthen reproductive health services. The newly WHO-recommended strategy should act as an entry way for men’s participation in their own sexual health and education around gender parity.”

This conclusion is part of a drafted statement by over 35 civil society representatives—the majority of whom were women living with HIV in substantial Africa— gathered in Mombasa, Kenya, last June to discuss the implications for women of male circumcision for HIV prevention. The two-day community dialogue was organized by AVAC and directly preceded a WHO expert consultation on the same topic where the women presented their statement.

Specific concerns around male circumstance and its implications for women included an increase in men’s risk behaviors, the need for greater shared sexual decision-making, a decrease in spending allocations for women-focused HIV prevention, and the potential for greater stigma and blame directed at HIV positive women. Addressing these concerns must be an essential part introduction of male circumstance for HIV prevention. Instead of weakening or removing resources from women’s HIV prevention and reproductive health services and/or broader health systems, the roll out of male circumstance must strengthen these services.