International Adaptations in Project Accept

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Intervention Adaptations

What: “The degree to which health programs are changed or modified by a user in the process of their adoption and implementation” (Rogers, 1995)

How: “In all cases, adaptation development and implementation should be a planned process that maintains fidelity to core elements of the study protocol” (McKleroy et al, 2006)
Why Adapt?

• Learning by doing

• Cultural sensitivity

• Utilization & uptake

• Unexpected obstacles to implementation

• Ethical imperative
HIV Prevention Trials Network 043

- Phase III randomized controlled trial to determine the efficacy of a community-level behavioral intervention in reducing HIV seroincidence
- Providing mobile HIV voluntary counseling and testing, community mobilization and post-test support services
- Randomizing 48 communities: 8 in rural Zimbabwe, 10 in rural Tanzania, 8 in Soweto, South Africa, 8 in rural KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, and 14 in Northern Thailand
Adaptations in the PA Protocol

• Scope for adaptations: “Is our innovation sensitive to and compatible with the community's existing values and beliefs, local culture, indigenous customs, past experiences, and the needs of potential adopters?”

• Monitoring need for adaptations: “For elements which have been proven for effectiveness in industrialized countries, staff are encouraged to monitor acceptability to local populations.”
The Adaptations Process

- Structured community involvement: ensured continuous communication and expedited responses to ethical and implementation issues

- Community Working Groups, Study Advisory Groups, Community-Based Outreach Volunteers: all central to adaptation process

- Innovative methods of community engagement: informal meetings, local
The Adaptations Process

(1) Identification of possible adaptation
(2) Internal discussions at the site level
(3) Written proposal to intervention core
(4) Review of protocol acceptability
(5) Forward to steering committee
(6) Communicate result to sites
(7) Adaptation implementation
Environmental Adaptations

- River boats and motorbikes (Thailand)
- Roadside service provision (Tanzania)
- Redesign of project vehicles (Vulindlela)
- Storing project equipment remotely (Tanzania)
- Working with special needs of refugees (Thailand)
- Suspension of CM during elections (Zimbabwe)
- Assistance with cholera outbreak (Zimbabwe)
- Tents, cabins & caravans (all sites)
Service Delivery Adaptations
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- Assessing intoxicated participants (Thailand)
- Workplace service delivery (Zimbabwe)
- Gender mix of field staff (Zimbabwe)
- Introduction of satellite venues (Zimbabwe)
- Restructuring component teams (all sites)
- Restructuring timing of activities (all sites)
- Support sessions for staff burnout (all sites)
Religious Adaptations
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- Demands of Apostolic faith (Zimbabwe)
- Protocol training of staff for monks (Thailand)
- Modified activities in Catholic churches (Zimbabwe)
- Special sessions for abafundisi (Soweto)
- Moslem gender preferences (Tanzania)
- Church-based support groups (all sites)
Cultural Adaptations
Social & Cultural Adaptations

- Integration of tribal rituals (Thailand)
- Staff with tribal language skills (Thailand)
- Terminological adaptations (Zimbabwe)
- ‘Bring a Friend’ strategy (Soweto)
- Sporting activities (Zimbabwe & Tanzania)
Epidemiological Adaptations: Following the MARPs

- Truck drivers & military personnel (Zimbabwe)
- Working with teenage groups (Thailand)
- Focus on Zulu populations (Soweto)
- School quizzes, youth support groups (Zimbabwe)
- Focus on young adults (Vulindlela)
- Responsive to epidemiological evidence (all sites)
Measuring Adaptations Effectiveness

- Primarily based on feedback from field staff and project directors
- Evidence from project directors’ monthly reports and SC meetings
- Observational experiences throughout intervention implementation
- Community feedback and approval; other anecdotal evidence
Mapping Adaptations onto Utilization

- Anecdotal evidence from all sites to suggest that adaptations improve intervention utilization
- Note dates of introduction of key adaptations as identified by sites and coincide with subsequent utilization data:
Thank You