INTRODUCTION

- HIV prevalence in Eswatini is (27.3%) and still among the highest in the world (SHMIS 2) though incidence declined by 31% since 2010 due to high treatment coverage (86%). Fewer HIV positive men (75%) are aware of their status than HIV positive women (84%) (Avert 2020). Previous studies to understand Swazi men’s health-seeking behaviours revealed that men are reluctant to access healthcare services or avoid sexual health services due to facility and provider barriers resulting in them preferring informal providers and traditional healers (Mak et al, 2016). This threatens progress made in HIV control and leaves women and young girls at risk of infection. In 2018, about 90% new HIV infections were among adolescent boys and girls (15 to 24 years) of which 31% occurred among young women (ICAP 2022).

METHODS

- A survey to collect qualitative and quantitative data on health risk self-assessment and gender

RESULTS

- Eswatini men are aware of their risk to HIV and other diseases. Nonetheless, many engage in risky sexual behaviors with multiple concurrent partners and without using condoms. The men who participated in this study use modern health facilities sparingly, with many choosing a mixture of both modern and traditional facilities.

- Other gender norms that directly influence HIV transmission and violence are still strictly followed in Eswatini, meaning women and girls are at-risk.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Findings to be documented into a publication capturing the voices of Swati men on HIV and gender norms, to be shared with key stakeholders (implementing partners, other CSOs, policy makers, development partners, communities).

To hear from the participants themselves, scan the QR code below.