Background

- Stakeholder engagement is foundational to conducting ethically rigorous HIV prevention trials
- Yet beyond broad guidelines and anecdotal site reports, scant empirical research has addressed the implementation challenges of stakeholder engagement
- We explored and identified challenges and facilitators of stakeholder engagement in biomedical HIV prevention trials in diverse global settings

Methods

- From 2009-2012 we conducted an embedded multiple case study:
  - in-depth interviews – civil society organization representatives, community advocates, service providers, clinical trial investigators/staff
  - interviews or focus groups – individuals from key HIV risk populations
- Semi-structured interview guide with scripted probes adapted to local contexts
- Interviews/focus groups were digitally recorded, transcribed, translated into English and systematically analyzed using narrative thematic techniques
- After intra-case analyses [1-4] we conducted cross-case analysis to corroborate, contrast and synthesize themes across case studies

Table 1. Participants by Country & Methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus groups</th>
<th>Key informants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>(n=140)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results

Participants (N = 235)
- 64.3% men (86.8% gay/men who have sex with men)
- 33.2% women
- 2.6% transgender women

Themes

- Cross-cutting challenges (with evidence from all cases)
  - Ensuring joint literacy
  - Addressing historically-based mistrust
  - Implementing specific participatory processes (e.g., engaging early; developing appropriate roles)
- Site-specific challenges
  - Recognizing global disparities (India, South Africa, Thailand)
  - Managing early trial cessations (India, South Africa)
  - Managing early trial cessations

Conclusions

Cross-cutting challenges in implementation of UNAIDS Good Participatory Practice (GPP) [8] guidelines suggest the following measures will advance successful stakeholder engagement in biomedical HIV prevention trials:
- Compile social evidence across trials on effective stakeholder engagement
- Identify specific intersections across competing GPP guidelines
- Address the impact of trial funding streams on decision-making
- Evaluate the effectiveness of engagement practices in achieving specific outcomes

Literature Cited


Acknowledgements

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