Six steps in the IR process

1. Contextualize challenges
2. Develop a proposal
3. Plan and conduct project
4. Analyse and present data
5. Disseminate research findings
6. Monitor and evaluate the project
Interacting domains in implementation research

- **Outer setting**: Economic, social and political contexts
- **Inner setting**: Context within the organization implementing the intervention – Culture, structure, networks etc.
- **Individuals involved**: Individuals who have a role to play in the implementation process – health care providers, managers, policy makers, beneficiaries,
- **Process for implementation**: Methods used to facilitate adoption of the intervention at all levels (planned and emergent strategies and activities)

**Intervention**
Presentation outline

Objective
Expected outcomes
Key concepts
  Understanding the context
  Understanding the intervention
  Ethical considerations in IR
Application of key concepts
Learning Objective

Increase your understanding of and knowledge regarding contextual issues related to IR, the planned intervention and ethical considerations
Expected outcomes

Able to:

• Analyse the contexts in which IR projects are conducted
• Understand and appreciate the context relevant to the proposed/planned intervention
• Describe the ethical principles and dilemmas related to IR
Key Concept 1: Understanding the context

Why do we need to understand the context in which we will be implementing our projects?
Proven interventions lose impact in health systems
Key Concept 1: Understanding the context

The four dimensions of the context

- Physical, socioeconomic and cultural context
- Health system
- Stakeholders
- Institutional/organizational
Contextual factors for implementation research

- **Examples:**
  - Beliefs
  - Ethnic identity
  - Traditions

- **Examples:**
  - Power relations
  - Political affiliations
  - Governance Structures

- **Examples:**
  - Terrain
  - Distance
  - Rivers

- **Examples:**
  - Education
  - Demography
  - Residence

- **Examples:**
  - NGOs
  - Schools
  - Women groups

- **Examples:**
  - Health
  - Information
  - Service delivery
  - Workforce

- **Examples:**
  - Here look for institutional culture and attitudes

This could be any other factor that might affect the intervention.
Key Concept 1: Analysis of the Environment

Physical and demographic factors
Socio-Economic Status Cultural and Political Factors
Key Concept 1: Health system analysis

- Socioeconomic, political, cultural, physical, epidemiological
- National
- Regional
- District
- Health care
- Agriculture
- Education
- Water
- Public works
- Sanitation
- Factors
- Contextual
- NGOs
- International organizations
- Self & community care
- Family
- Community
- Pharmaceutical
- Private practice
- Folk medicine
Key Concept 1: Stakeholder analysis

Stakeholders
Who are they?
Why do you need them?
How can you identify and engage them?
What role should they play in your study project?
Key Concept 1: Institutional analysis

Ask:
Which institutions?
Why does the intervention need them?
How can you identify them?
What role can they play in the project?

Conduct SWOT analysis
Reflection activity

What are the sociocultural and political systems in your project area?

How is the health system structured (public and private)?

How might the health system impact your project?

Who are the stakeholders?

What specific knowledge and (or) skills does each stakeholder bring to the research project?

How will the consideration of these factors impact the planning of your project?
Key Concept 2: Understanding the intervention

Intended intervention
Planned implementation process
Phases in the implementation research process:

1. Setting up of a core working group
   - Setting objectives
   - Stakeholder consultation
   - Situation analysis, Needs assessment

2. Pre intervention
3. Implementation with continuous monitoring
4. Intervention/package of interventions
5. Evaluation

Indicators:
- Indicator #1 (Quantitative)
- Indicator #2 (Qualitative)
Key Concept 2: Understanding the intervention

Intervention logic: The ‘if–then’ model

• If activities are undertaken then outputs should be produced
• If outputs are produced then outcomes that serve the purpose should result
• If outcomes result then they should contribute towards achieving the goal
The logic model

Assumptions relating to external context
Monitoring and evaluation
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<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Means of verification</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
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Key Concept 2: Understanding the Intervention

Complex adaptive systems

Interventions can succeed in one environment but not in another.

Implementation may not proceed as planned because of changing behaviour(s).

Implementation managers have varying degrees of control over behaviours of providers, community members etc.
Feedback loops in the demand for immunization

- Level of awareness
- Effectiveness of mobilization
- Availability of services
- Level of trust in the health system
- Mothers’ availability
- Other competing interests

Immunization drop out

Demand for immunization

+ve feedback
-ve feedback
Reflection activity

Use family planning services as an example of an intervention currently taking place in your project area.

What are the environmental and contextual issues that are currently affecting (positively and negatively) the implementation of these services?
Key Concept 3: Ethical considerations in IR

Ethical principles of research involving human subjects
- Autonomy/respect for persons
- Beneficence and non-maleficence
- Justice

Ethical dilemmas in IR
Ethical issues and principles in research

Autonomy/respect for persons
- Respect for autonomy of those capable of deliberation about personal choices and self-determination
- Protection of persons with diminished autonomy

Beneficence and non-maleficence
- Promoting the welfare of individuals as the primary goal of health research
- Maximizing benefits while avoiding causation of harm

Justice
- Moral obligation of treating people with respect & giving equal opportunity to the participants in both high risk or beneficial research.
Key Concept 3: Ethical dilemmas in IR

Undue expectations of research results and social/authority pressure

Multidisciplinary teams may have conflict of interest

Participants’ may be over burdened
Case study

In a study to ensure prompt and effective treatment of Buruli ulcer patients, the research team created half way homes for patients to stay in so they could get their daily injections. The study was designed such that the health worker in the facility closest to the half way home provides these daily injections.

Due to a lack of staff and transportation, the health worker could not do the daily visits and trained the researcher who lived in the premises of the half way home to give the injections.

Should the researcher give the injections?
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Respect for traditional figures of wisdom and authority including leaders of the community |                             |
<p>| Traditional and beliefs of health care and disease | Difference in the respect for traditional healers and doctors/researchers |                             |
| Unfamiliar with research                      | Sensitivity to research procedures                                          |                             |</p>
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Reflection activity

What are some of the ethical dilemmas specific to your project?
Case study

A case of voluntary male circumcision
Concept 1: Understanding the Environment
Concept 2: Understanding the Interventions
Concept 3: Ethical issues
  Ethical principles
  Ethical dilemmas
Although randomized trials in Sub-Saharan Africa strongly suggest that male circumcision could play an important role in the struggle against the continued rise in new HIV infections. It has proved rather difficult to translate the research on male circumcision, into policy and practice in many settings. This has mainly been due to economic, social and ethical implications. Therefore, certain considerations should be considered when planning to implement / scale up voluntary male circumcision as a public health intervention.

Which contextual and ethical issues should be considered when planning for male circumcision as an HIV prevention intervention.
End of Module 1

Before the next module starts two teams will present a summary of:

- One thing they learnt
- One thing that was done well
- One thing that could be improved about this module