

# Sustaining Impact: A Comprehensive Assessment of the National Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) Programme in South Africa

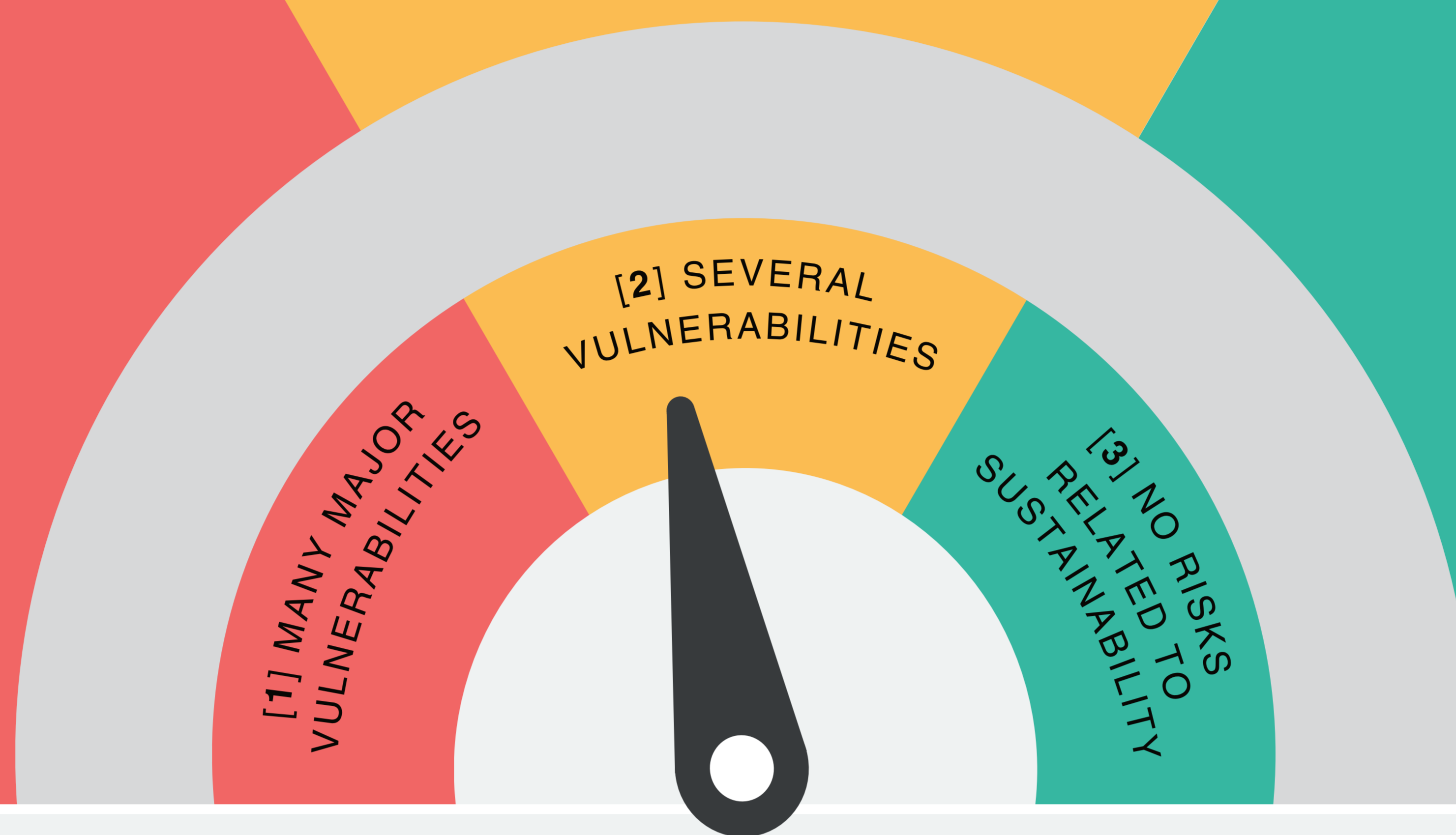
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## What is the **impact, effectiveness and sustainability** of South Africa's VMMC Programme?

This new tool has an answer.

*"A sustainable VMMC programme entails the routine provision of services within a holistic, comprehensive healthcare model, contributing towards universal health coverage."*



### Context & need

VMMC has been proven to be a cost-effective strategy in reducing HIV transmission rates by up to 60%: a necessary addition to the HIV public health crisis. With the National Department of Health (NDoH) working to sustain its VMMC Programme amid a changing aid landscape, it needed to take stock of its progress.

**Why? To identify risks to programme sustainability.**

**An assessment tool was thus developed** to better understand the structural, financial, and societal implications of the VMMC programme, helping South Africa sustain its fight against HIV while optimising health outcomes.

### Tool design & application

The **Excel tool** is based on the **SWOT-analysis model**, identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. With **36 indicators** across **6 programme domains** (Table 1), it assesses the applicable unit and overall programme's risks related to sustainability. Results are reflected on a **3-point scale** (see dial above).

We completed the tool at the National, Provincial and District levels through key informant interviews with DoH officials at 11 programme units. Sites included the National VMMC Programme Unit and 3 Provinces (Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and Mpumalanga) with 7 Districts among them.

### Results

**Overall results** (Table 1) indicated that the SA VMMC programme faces several vulnerabilities related to its sustainability. **No programmatic pillar scored 3** ('no risks related to sustainability'). At the Provincial level, **Service Delivery scored a 1** ('many major vulnerabilities').

Programme domains	National	Province	District
I. Leadership and advocacy	2	2	2
II. Governance and coordination	2	2	2
III. Service delivery	2	1	2
IV. Communication and demand generation	2	2	2
V. M&E and operational research	2	2	2
VI. Domestic resourcing	2	2	2

**Table 1:** Overall sustainability scores for South Africa's VMMC programme

### Conclusion

No programmatic area was completely 'risk free'. **This means the need for ongoing improvement remains.**

Thanks to the tool, targeted interventions (where the programme is most at risk) can now be initiated in a systematic and evidenced informed manner.

The NDoH is tasked with developing action plans in strengthening programme sustainability through leveraging areas that have lower risk and addressing areas of major risk.

**Overall score:** ★★☆☆



MMC SUSTAIN is a technical assistance programme that empowers government officials to lead a locally coordinated and implemented MMC programme in eight high HIV-burden South African districts in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and Mpumalanga. The aim of this programme is to build resilient local systems that successfully plan, effectively manage, and efficiently execute the MMC programme at scale.

