

Investing in Stepping Stones

- Scale up of effective Stepping Stones programmes requires major investment. Donors, NGOs and communities need to be sure that this represents a good use of scarce resources.
- Evaluation that provides statistical evidence of Stepping Stones value-added for public health outcomes requires a large sample and expert researchers. This is costly and may be difficult to attribute and generalise. RCT costs....
- Evaluations using participatory qualitative methods triangulated with practical quantitative methods are grounded in reality and if they converge from a large number of sites, they represent strong evidence



Stepping Stones: Reported Programme Costings

Zimbabwe town: \$3450 for 30 participants = **\$115** each with accomm.

Zimbabwe rural \$820 for 20 participants = **\$41** each

S Africa: ca **\$33** per participant

India: ca **\$55-65** per participant initially, falling to **\$43** per participant

Zambia (Lusaka): ca **\$62** per participant - high room hire costs

Russia: 15 days sessions for 80 people = \$11,000 (total costs) = **\$140** per person

Mozambique: 2003 (World Bank). 500,000 participants **\$1.19** per participant over 4 years. Fully achieved 10 of the 16 UNAIDS benchmarks. Partially achieved 4 more (eg no homophobia training, limited M&E, not schools-based)

The Gambia: 2006 **\$295** per participant (1 village 500 participants over 1 year) down to **\$15** per participant on scale up (to 20 village of 500 participants each in 1 year – ie 10,000 participants)

