Seminar Title: Methods for a Behavioral Surveillance Survey of Female Sex Workers in Rwanda

Objectives:

- To describe the objectives of the Rwandan Ministry of Health’s Behavioral Surveillance Survey (BSS);
- To describe the two sampling methods used, Time Location Sampling (TLS) and Respondent-Driven Sampling (RDS);
- To discuss the challenges in feasibility and ability of each of these methods in yielding “acceptable” estimate of outcome(s) of interest.

Summary:

The main objective of the BSS is to provide a basis for designing and evaluating appropriate interventions. Specifically, one would like to gain an understanding of the behavioral and biological factors driving the spread of HIV infection among most at risk populations such as female sex workers (FSWs), men having sex with men (MSM), fishermen, youth, etc. This presupposes that any BSS provides us with good coverage of such group. This seminar examines two sampling methods commonly used, namely TLS and RDS. We describe the main advantages and shortcomings of each method and discuss the challenges in feasibility and ability of each method in producing unbiased estimates.