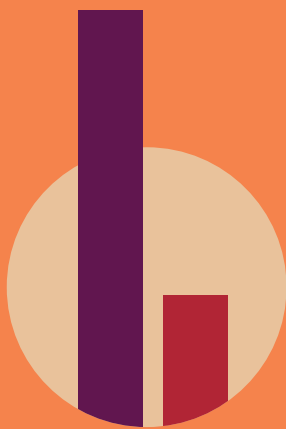


A Healthy World Starts With Healthy Women

Woman-controlled HIV prevention helps empower women to stay healthy.



3X

In sub-Saharan Africa, young women ages 15-24 are more than three times as likely to acquire HIV as young men.

1,800

Every day, more than 1,800 women worldwide become infected with HIV.

Women bear the brunt of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

It's one of the leading causes of death in women ages 15-49 around the world, making it one of the biggest threats to women's health and well-being. In sub-Saharan Africa, young women ages 15-24 are more than three times as likely as young men to acquire HIV.

Women are at disproportionate risk for HIV due to biology and cultural factors.

Women, especially young women, are biologically more susceptible to HIV infection than men.

In addition, because of gender inequities, including economic disparities and uneven power dynamics within sexual partnerships, women and girls are often unable to negotiate safe sex, or even choose when or with whom they have sex. These factors also drive gender-based violence, which further increases women's risk of HIV infection.

Women must be empowered to protect themselves from HIV.

Women and girls have largely been left behind by progress against HIV. Current prevention strategies are all necessary but are not doing enough to stem the persistently high rates of HIV infection among women.

Expanding women's HIV prevention options with new tools that meet their individual needs is just one way to help empower women—but it is an essential one, particularly in regions where women remain at high risk.



Empowering women against HIV must include offering them a range of prevention choices, including ones they can control themselves.

A healthy world starts with healthy women.

Empowering women with the knowledge, support and practical new tools they need to protect their sexual and reproductive health must be prioritized in any effort to achieve the global health and gender equality goals outlined in the UN-endorsed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Closing the gender gap in health outcomes is key to advancing gender equality.

When women are both empowered and healthy, they are better able to ensure their children are healthy and educated, and to contribute to the social and economic well-being of their communities—and that means a healthier, more stable future for everyone.

New woman-centered, self-initiated prevention products could help address an urgent need.

Woman-centered HIV prevention products could come in different forms, including long-acting vaginal rings.

One such ring, called the dapivirine ring, is the first long-acting product to reduce women's HIV risk in large clinical trials. Developed by the nonprofit International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM) specifically for women, the discreet vaginal ring is designed to slowly release the antiretroviral drug dapivirine over the course of a month. Women can insert the ring and replace it themselves.

The dapivirine ring has received a positive regulatory opinion from the European Medicines Agency, a recommendation from the World Health Organization, and regulatory approvals in Zimbabwe and several other countries in Africa. Additional reviews are underway in eastern and southern Africa, where women's need for new prevention choices is particularly urgent. IPM is preparing the ring for potential market introduction, so the product will be affordable and accessible where it is approved for public use.

Investing in women's HIV prevention



Investing in healthy, prosperous societies

Stopping HIV's spread among women will require comprehensive prevention strategies that include new woman-controlled options.

A future where every woman can choose the products she needs to stay healthy is a future where women have opportunities to thrive, and their communities do, too.



EXPANDING WOMEN'S OPTIONS

Long-acting vaginal rings would complement existing HIV prevention tools as well as future injectables and other methods in development such as implants, long-acting oral PrEP and vaccines. Rings are also a platform for follow-on products being developed, including multipurpose prevention technologies, known as MPTs. These include IPM's three-month dapivirine-contraceptive ring designed to help meet overlapping sexual and reproductive health needs: HIV prevention and contraception. Other MPTs being developed would address a range of STIs along with unintended pregnancy.



INTERNATIONAL
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IPM is dedicated to developing new HIV prevention technologies designed to empower women to protect their sexual and reproductive health, and making them available in developing countries.