

Accelerating ARV-based HIV Prevention Product Introduction and Access

OPTIONS - Optimizing Prevention Technology Introduction on Schedule

The OPTIONS Consortium provides targeted support to expedite and sustain access to ARV-based HIV prevention products in countries and among populations where most needed, with a particular focus on women.

Overview

The OPTIONS Consortium is a five-year cooperative agreement funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in partnership with the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). It is led by FHI 360, Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute (Wits RHI) and AVAC. In addition to these three core partners, the OPTIONS Consortium includes six primary partners: Avenir Health, FSG, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, LVCT Health, McCann Global Health, and Pangaea Zimbabwe AIDS Trust (PZAT). The consortium represents an international, multidisciplinary partnership dedicated to catalyzing collaboration across the ARV-based prevention research-to-rollout continuum to ensure access for those who need it through a combination prevention approach.

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The consortium works globally, regionally, and in-country with a focus on South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Kenya. At the country level, activities are aligned with the work of ministries of health, USAID missions, and other community and research organizations through national-level working groups.

OPTIONS has four project aims:

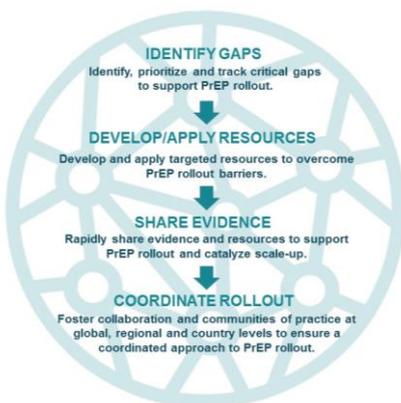
AIM 1: Develop evidence-based business cases and investment strategies for PrEP* introduction.

AIM 2: Support country-level regulatory approval, policy development, program planning, marketing and implementation strategies for PrEP introduction.

AIM 3: Facilitate and conduct implementation science.

AIM 4: Provide technical assistance with rapid data use to identify and address implementation bottlenecks throughout the value chain.

OPTIONS operationalizes the project aims by applying systems thinking to support and accelerate PrEP introduction through four activities:



*OPTIONS uses PrEP to refer to the product category of ARV-based HIV prevention inclusive of all formulations. When our work is focused on a single product, we will specify the product and/or formulation, e.g. oral PrEP, dapivirine ring, injectables, etc.

How We Work

Our support is flexible and is designed to be responsive to global, regional, and national country priorities and plans. We have strong in-country partners, with significant experience working on HIV prevention in the South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Kenya contexts.

In addition to local partners, our consortium is able to bring multi-disciplinary expertise to the effort to introduce new HIV prevention products in sub-Saharan Africa.

We are taking significant steps to ensure we do not replicate existing or ongoing work - our mission is to fill gaps and help answer key questions as outlined by global stakeholders, national governments, USAID missions, and other key local stakeholders.

In Year 2, OPTIONS work is focusing on the development of oral PrEP rollout scenarios, cost and impact modeling for oral PrEP and dapivirine ring, investment case for dapivirine ring, market communications, oral PrEP provider training materials, provider surveys (knowledge, attitudes, practices, and beliefs), operations research, and ongoing support for national PrEP technical working groups (TWGs) in Kenya, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. OPTIONS will also continue to build out and enhance the product introduction clearinghouse on PrEPWatch.org.

PARTNERS

