



OPTIONS

*Optimizing Prevention
Technology Introduction
On Schedule*

*2018 HIV R4P Conference
Neeraja Bhavaraju, FSG
October 2018*





What is OPTIONS?

The Optimizing Prevention Technology Introduction on Schedule (OPTIONS) Consortium is one of five microbicide projects funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in partnership with the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), working to **accelerate and sustain access to antiretroviral-based HIV prevention products** (collectively referred to as PrEP).



What does OPTIONS do?

OPTIONS works to help countries move from **PrEP potential to PrEP impact**, so adolescent girls and young women have HIV prevention options that meet their needs.

We work in three ways:



Country Level: Take a *strategic approach to PrEP rollout* to support policymakers and implementers in South Africa, Kenya and Zimbabwe



Regional Level: Develop *evidence-based tools and build capacity* for PrEP introduction in sub-Saharan Africa



Global Level: Coordinate *global action* to support PrEP rollout



OPTIONS Plan 4 PrEP Learning Collaborative



Introducing oral PrEP is not easy!

Effective, affordable products



Healthcare and lab capacity



Appealing branding & packaging



Partner, family & community support



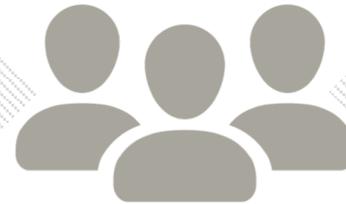
Regulatory approval



Information & communications on PrEP



Supply Side



Demand Side

Government plans & budget for PrEP



Physical access to facilities



Adherence



Effective supply chain



Knowledgeable, supportive healthcare providers



Storage



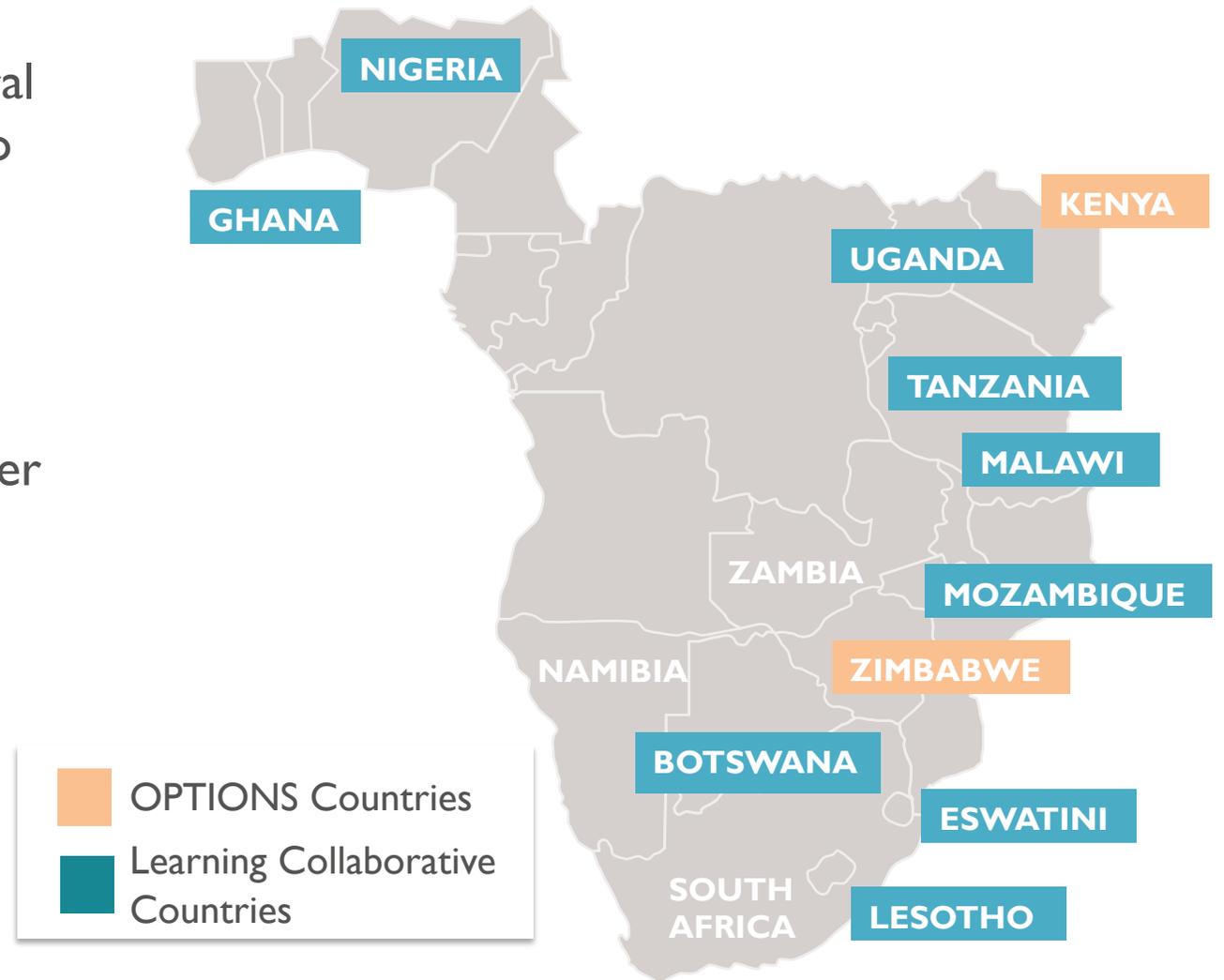
Stigma, rumors & misinformation





The learning collaborative was conceived to support countries to introduce PrEP

- Conceived in Summer 2017 to leverage oral PrEP experience in OPTIONS countries to support other countries to rollout PrEP
- Teams from **eleven countries** have participated in **two rounds**: December 2017 – March 2018 and August – November 2018 (ongoing)
- Country teams included **over 70 participants** with staff from implementing partners, ministries of health, national AIDS councils, PEPFAR, USAID, CDC, DOD





Goals of the learning collaborative

- The collaborative was designed to be helpful both for countries that are in the early stages of considering oral PrEP and countries that are engaged in active planning for oral PrEP rollout
- Three main components were put in place to support countries:

1

Training and support for countries to find and use relevant resources, such as the *Plan 4 PrEP Toolkit* and the *OPTIONS PrEP Communications Accelerator*

2

Opportunities to share experiences between participating countries and from OPTIONS country partners

3

Opportunities to learn about and from other projects (e.g., HP+, Project SOAR, DREAMS)



Both rounds of the learning collaborative were held over 4 months

MONTH 1



In-person session with 30 – 40 participants across countries

MONTH 2

Series of virtual webinars

Webinars on priority implementation topics including: target setting, best practices for AGYW, demand creation, adherence & retention, and monitoring & evaluation



MONTH 3

Participants complete tools

that are relevant for their national planning processes. Tools include the *Plan 4 PrEP Toolkit* and *OPTIONS PrEP Communications Accelerator*.



MONTH 4

Participants engage with OPTIONS team

for support as needed to complete tools and connect with OPTIONS country partners and other experts





The learning collaborative included training on two toolkits developed by OPTIONS

PLAN 4 PREP TOOLKIT

A set of tools to support national planning for oral PrEP rollout and scale-up based on OPTIONS experience in South Africa, Kenya and Zimbabwe

- 1 SITUATION ANALYSIS**
Understand the current situation for oral PrEP
Identify existing assets, current gaps, challenges, stakeholders, and key questions for oral PrEP rollout
- 2 PROJECT LANDSCAPE**
Assess findings and gaps in PrEP studies / projects
Survey current and planned studies and implementation projects to identify expected outcomes
- 3 ROLLOUT SCENARIOS**
Decide where and how to rollout oral PrEP
Define scenarios for oral PrEP rollout that differ by counties/ districts or population groups
- READINESS ASSESSMENT**
Assess regional readiness for oral PrEP
Assess district/county readiness to introduce and scale oral PrEP to support planning and investment



PrEP COMMUNICATIONS ACCELERATOR

ABOUT THE ACCELERATOR COMMUNICATIONS FAST TRACKER DEMAND CREATION 101 AUDIENCE PROFILES AUDIENCE CONNECTIONS

Welcome to the PrEP Communications Accelerator

Fast tracking PrEP uptake through strategic communications and demand creation

[Get Started →](#)





The collaborative is also a platform to share lessons learned across countries and projects

OPTIONS TRAINING TEAM

Presented and supported countries to complete the Plan 4 PrEP Toolkit

ADDITIONAL EXPERTS

Shared approaches and processes for target setting and the COP process



Provided a walkthrough of the resources on PrEPWatch

University of the Witwatersrand
WITS RHI

Shared early experiences with PrEP delivery from Zimbabwe



Shared early experiences from oral PrEP rollout in Kenya



Shared early modeling analysis results for many participating countries





We tracked engagement and conducted interviews to assess impact

- In the first round, we tracked participant engagement and use of tools by country teams.
- After the final session, we conducted in-depth interviews with one participant from each country.
- With this input, we were able to understand:
 - The usefulness and applicability of the tools developed by OPTIONS
 - What changes to the learning collaborative could be made to improve the experience for participants
 - What impact the learning collaborative and OPTIONS tools had on PrEP planning and implementation in participating countries

Participant feedback from first virtual session
(screenshot from Webex chat platform)

from Denise Mumba to all participants:
Thank you. This was a great session
from Wame Dikobe to all participants:
Thanks
from Joseph Lubwama to all participants:
Okay, thanks
from Aafke Kinemo to all participants:
Thank you so much!!
from Jackson Okuku to all participants:
Thank you for a good work
from Gadzikanani Gokatweng to all participants:
Thank you that was a great session
from Mervin Dhamani to all participants:



Countries completed the tools most relevant for their contexts and needs

Country teams completed the following *Plan 4 PrEP* tools:

	Botswana	Mozambique	Namibia	Tanzania	Uganda	Zambia
Situation Analysis						
Project Landscape						
Rollout Scenarios						
Readiness Assessment						



From the first round, we identified five impacts for participating countries

1

The *Plan 4 PrEP* toolkit helped countries **plan systematically** for PrEP

2

The toolkit helped **identify gaps** in emerging PrEP implementation plans

3

The toolkit was useful to **track collective progress** towards PrEP introduction

4

The collaborative helped countries **integrate effective practices** into PrEP plans

5

The *Plan 4 PrEP* tools and the learning collaborative helped **build confidence** for PrEP introduction and **accelerate the process** of introducing PrEP



The toolkit enabled countries to **plan systematically** for PrEP introduction

1

The tools have helped us systematically plan for the implementation of PrEP. Through sharing experiences we were able to come up with a PrEP curriculum and tools to monitor PrEP provision. The tools and the information learned from the PrEP learning collaborative was presented to Ministry of Health, PEPFAR and implementing partners.

Botswana learning collaborative participant



The toolkit helped **identify gaps** in emerging PrEP implementation plans

2

*The Situation Analysis gives us a **barometer of where we are** and is helping us **consolidate across a lot of different things**. For example, we realized that while each implementing partner had PrEP training, we still needed a national training plan. It helped us understand where we are, what is remaining, and how to finalize our PrEP framework.*

Zambia learning collaborative participant



The tools were useful to **track collective progress** towards PrEP introduction

3

*The tools were very useful. They helped us **formalize a pathway** to be ready to begin PrEP. Using the tools, we created a checklist for ourselves including IEC materials, the PrEP drugs themselves, registration of PrEP. These are things that we hadn't thought out clearly yet. With the **checklist**, we were able to assign specific tasks to people, which facilitated **fast-tracking the process** to move along our timeline.*

Tanzania learning collaborative participant



The learning collaborative helped countries **integrate effective practices** into PrEP plans

4

*Between sessions, one of our PrEP implementing partners raised a challenge on retention. I suggested some possible interventions but also noted that I **would consult other PrEP implementing country representatives**. I actually did during the subsequent collaborative session and **received additional suggestions** from Kenya, Zimbabwe and South Africa. This was very helpful!*

Uganda learning collaborative participant



The learning collaborative helped **build confidence** and **accelerate** PrEP introduction

5

This has been very helpful in facilitating the whole country process of planning for the launch of the PrEP.

*It really helped us, because we're **learning from others** and we could avoid the mistakes that others made.*

*It **lifted our confidence**. We were more confident in moving forward based on the experiences of other countries.*

Tanzania learning collaborative participant



Based on these experiences, we are continuing with an ongoing Learning Network

- In 2019, participants from both rounds of the learning collaborative and other countries will be invited to join an **ongoing Plan 4 PrEP Learning Network**
- The Learning Network will continue virtual conversations with **monthly webinars and an annual regional face-to-face meeting**
- The webinars will provide an opportunity for participants to **continue to share experiences**, challenges, questions and lessons learned with one another as they simultaneously rollout PrEP



Thank you

Neeraja Bhavaraju
Director, FSG

neeraja.bhavaraju@gmail.com

This program is made possible by the generous assistance from the American people through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in partnership with PEPFAR under the terms of Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-A-15-00035. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

OPTIONS Consortium Partners



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



OPTIONS
OPTIMIZING PREVENTION TECHNOLOGY INTRODUCTION ON SCHEDULE