

PrEP Ring Consultations Uganda Detailed Summary

MOSAIC-led consultation: January 14-17, 2022



UGANDA WHO-LED CONSULTATION SUMMARY (MOH)

On April 26, 2022, the national prevention committee in Uganda endorsed the country's adoption of both the PrEP ring and CAB PrEP.

Given the endorsement, the Ugandan MOH decided not to move forward with a ring stakeholder consultation.

UGANDA IPM-LED CONSULTATION SUMMARY (IPM, MOH)

GUIDING QUESTION	SUMMARY
OVERALL REACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IPM reached out by email to the MOH.
RING PLANS & CONSIDERATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No information was discussed.
WITHDRAWAL EFFECT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No information was discussed.
PROCUREMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No information was discussed.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The MOH did not have any questions.

UGANDA MOSAIC-LED CONSULTATION SUMMARY (AGYW, FORMER RING TRIAL PARTICIPANTS, ORAL PrEP USERS, RESEARCHERS, ADVOCATES)

OVERALL REACTIONS

- The ring empowers young women to be in charge of their HIV prevention.
- Women need additional PrEP methods beyond oral PrEP.
- Former ring trial participants want to continue using the ring.
- Researchers and former ring trial participants believe that withholding the ring from former trial participants would discourage women from wanting to participate in future research.
- Women, especially AGYW, are more vulnerable to HIV infection without the ring.
- Uganda is struggling with high HIV incidence among AGYW and therefore needs different options that suit young people — products that are women-initiated, discreet, and empowering. The ring fits this description and is a possible game changer.

GUIDING QUESTION	SUMMARY
RING PLANS & CONSIDERATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethical implications: ring trial participants should be supported to continue with the ring if they choose to do so. • Uganda participated and is still participating in different ring trial studies. There is a need to listen to the testimonies/voices of former ring trial participants. • Researchers believe that the available data are sufficient to support ring introduction.
PERCEPTIONS OF THE RING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ring is a women-centered tool for HIV prevention and can be used discreetly, which reduces IPV. • AGYW mentioned Uganda's high rate of teenage pregnancy recorded during the COVID-19 pandemic, which indicates that AGYW are having unprotected sex. AGYW need more tools to help them have safer sex. • Oral PrEP users had not heard of ring before these consultations. Once they were informed about the ring, they wanted to know where they could access it.
WITHDRAWAL EFFECT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uganda's epidemic is very different from the US HIV epidemic, and PEPFAR's decision should be based on Uganda's context. • Former ring trial participants understand the reasons for IPM's withdrawal of the ring's NDA but still want to use the ring, knowing it works well for them and will work for other women too.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional information needs were not discussed.
CIVIL SOCIETY ROLE & REACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researchers feel the CS role is to keep engaging with national-level decision-makers so the ring is approved for use in Uganda. • CSOs should strategize to ensure that women and girls have choices in HIV prevention.

Verbatims from Uganda



“In Uganda, we mostly practice vaginal sex, and therefore the ring is for us. Let's focus on other positive endorsements that the ring got like the positive EMA opinion and WHO recommendation.” – AGYW representative