Purpose
The Coalition to Accelerate Access to Long-Acting PrEP is a new initiative that brings together leading donors, agencies, and advocates to ensure an accelerated, equitable, sustainable and collaborative approach to making longer-acting PrEP options accessible as quickly and as equitably as possible. The Coalition is convened by Unitaid, WHO, UNAIDS, Global Fund and PEPFAR, with AVAC as the Secretariat.

The objective of this coalition is practical: to coordinate key stakeholder activities on PrEP access, including jointly developing strategies to identify and overcome access challenges for new PrEP options in the near- to medium-term (especially as relates to ViiV’s injectable CAB, including generics, and the dapivirine vaginal ring) and the medium- to longer-term (as relates to future PrEP products).

Rationale
More than 10 years ago, research showed oral PrEP was safe and effective in preventing HIV. In 2012, it was approved for use. But the field moved too slowly – and a decade later, only around 2.7 million people have initiated use of this option, far short of the 2020 target of three million – and a tiny fraction of the estimated number of people who need it and could benefit from it.

With new, longer-acting PrEP options reaching the market and with the new UNAIDS data showing the AIDS response is truly “in danger”, the world cannot afford to squander another decade navigating these challenges without bold actions, global urgency, and coordinated partnerships. Product developers, policy makers, normative agencies, donors, program implementers, researchers, generic manufacturers, civil society, advocates and communities each have critical roles to play in the coming months. Without concerted, strategic action, translating science into public health impact will be unnecessarily delayed.

The Coalition to Accelerate Access to Long-Acting PrEP will urgently apply lessons learned from oral PrEP, create plans to overcome the unique challenges for new prevention options, and ensure that new, longer-acting PrEP options including injectable CAB and the dapivirine vaginal ring will be available and equitably accessible to all who need them, more quickly than ever before.

How it will work
The Coalition will comprise four working groups co-led by different agencies:

1. Needs and Demand Assessment (co-leads: PEPFAR-WHO), which will establish mid- & long-term demand forecasts across the pipeline of products, aligned with defined procurement & roll out ambitions.
2. New Product Access Pathway (co-leads: Unitaid-CIFF), which will provide a roadmap for near-term (ViiV) & medium/long term access (generics), including costing and regulatory pathways.
3. Financing and Procurement (co-leads: Global Fund-PEPFAR), which will outline financing and procurement needs and opportunities for introduction and scale-up across prevention options.
4. Demand Creation & Policy Adoption (co-leads: AVAC-UNAIDS (demand creation)-WHO (policy)), which will plan for guidance for demand generation, implementation and policy development.
Each working group will include robust ministry of health and civil society representation to ensure key stakeholder voices are represented. The working groups are intended to embody an informal and pragmatic operating model for nimble, dynamic public-private engagement. The working groups are in the process of being established, will be formalized over the next two months, and will provide quarterly updates.

The global effort to ensure swift rollout of CAB extends beyond the Coalition. To ensure the greatest reach and impact of the Coalition’s work, it will strategically link to and influence efforts underway to:

- Accelerate voluntary generic licensing for CAB, led by the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) and ViiV.
- Coordinate implementation science projects led by WHO and AVAC by bringing together planners and funders, via the Biomedical Prevention Implementation Collaborative (BioPIC).
- Ensure civil society voices are heard and engaged in the rollout of CAB and other HIV prevention options, led by the African Women Community Prevention Accountability Board; AfroCAB; AVAC; the Coalition to Accelerate and Support Prevention Research (CASPR); Global Black Gay Men Connect (GBGMC); and the Key Population Advisory Group.

The Coalition is committed to transparency and will disseminate a quarterly update to chart progress overall and will periodically update the Plan for Accelerating Access and Introduction of Injectable CAB for PrEP with timelines and milestones. For more information and/or with questions for the Coalition co-convenors, contact LAPrEPcoalition@avac.org.