

2025 INTEREST Conference

Re-Imagining PrEP Delivery Symposium: Summary Report

This report summarizes key highlights from the HIV Prevention Symposium convened during the INTEREST 2025 Conference. Titled "Re-Imagining PrEP Delivery", the session brought together Ministry of Health (MOH) officials, youth advocates, and global health leaders to share insights on the rollout and scale-up of new HIV prevention technologies amidst shifts in the funding landscape and a potential innovation pile-up in the near future. The symposium was co-hosted by AVAC and MOHs from South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Kenya.



Panelists at INTEREST Conference 2025 during the Re-imaging PrEP Symposium

Key Messages

- Maintain and strengthen political leadership to ensure prevention remains a national priority even amid funding challenges.
- Mobilize and allocate domestic resources to support scale-up of new products (e.g., LEN, DPP), reducing reliance on external donors.
- Engage regulatory authorities early to accelerate product approvals and prevent rollout delays.
- Design services that are user-centered, supporting real choice between oral, injectable, and ring-based PrEP.
- Integrate HIV prevention into existing platforms like MNCH and family planning for broader reach and sustainability.
- Scale up public education campaigns to increase awareness, especially among young women and marginalized populations.
- Expand community participation through advisory boards and monitoring to ensure culturally appropriate and accepted service delivery.
- Invest in country-specific implementation research to evaluate feasibility, acceptability, and adherence of new tools.

Key Highlights by Speaker/Country

Zambia has demonstrated strong leadership in HIV prevention by becoming the first country to integrate CAB-LA into its national HIV prevention program beyond research settings. Prof. Lloyd Mulenga emphasized the need for sustained government commitment in light of reduced external funding. Dr. Chimika Phiri outlined Zambia's preparation for new products (LEN and DPP), including revisions to national PrEP guidelines and implementation plans. Collaborative planning with regulatory agencies, civil society, and implementing partners has facilitated readiness. Zambia also allocated domestic funds to support LEN procurement, marking a significant move toward self-reliance. Plans include leveraging family planning channels for community-level distribution.

Kenya: Dr. Jonah Magare shared Kenya's experience in mitigating disruptions caused by the U.S. stop-work order, particularly in training and provider capacity. Kenya responded by drafting new policies to mobilize supplementary domestic resources and ensure PrEP access for all eligible populations. Integration into MNCH services and retooling of providers has supported continuity of services. The country's input into Global Fund Cycle 7 (GC7) funding has facilitated preparation for the introduction of long-acting injectables such as CAB and potentially LEN.

Zimbabwe has been a pioneer in introducing new PrEP products, registering DVR in 2021 and CAB in 2022. Getrude Ncube highlighted the role of in-country clinical trials/implementation studies and a responsive regulatory authority in enabling rapid product rollout. Zimbabwe's technical working groups, inclusive of donors, community members, and researchers, facilitated effective implementation. The CATALYST study revealed user preferences: 74% of women chose CAB and 4% chose DVR, underlining the importance of providing choice. Community advisory boards helped counter misinformation and promote uptake. Some challenges included injection-site discomfort with CAB and limitations in site-level performance, which were mitigated through quality improvement measures and cross-site support.

Youth/Community Perspective: Rhoda Msiska, AVAC Fellow with Copper Rose Zambia, shared a passionate and honest view from a young woman's perspective. While excited about new options, she expressed concern about stigmatizing attitudes from healthcare providers, misinformation in communities, and lack of product awareness. Rhoda highlighted that many young women remain unaware of the range of PrEP tools available. She emphasized the need for education, trust-building, and truly youth-friendly services that eliminate judgment and prioritize confidentiality. She called on governments and donors to continue investing in services that meet the unique needs of adolescent girls and young women.

Global Context: AVAC's Mitchell Warren spoke about the global disruption caused by U.S. policy shifts that curtailed access to PrEP services outside of PMTCT. He emphasized that this moment could still be a turning point, especially with the opportunity to scale up LEN. He urged MOHs, funders, and implementers to collaborate creatively to preserve momentum. Mitchell noted that LEN could serve as a gateway platform for future products including once-yearly injectables and long-acting oral PrEP. However, he cautioned that failing to act now could mean squandering one of the most significant prevention opportunities in decades.