

Dear Colleagues,

The [Global Prevention Coalition \(GPC\)](#) would like to share with you some of the exciting updates, engagements, and meetings across partners, countries, and agencies that have taken place to jointly accelerate the prevention agenda. For this edition, we will have a special country focus on Zambia.

Domestication of the 2025 prevention roadmap

Since the launch of the [2025 Roadmap](#) at AIDS 2022, Montreal, Canada, the Global HIV Prevention Coalition has been working with partners to domesticate the Roadmap within countries with support from the UNAIDS Technical support mechanism.

Four of the GPC countries have completed the development of their national HIV prevention roadmaps: Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, and South Africa; seven are currently developing theirs: Angola, Indonesia, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. All the Roadmaps are developed to their country-specific context and intended to ensure people-centered precision prevention responses with an aim of ensuring 370 000 new infections annually by 2025. The GPC participated in the consultation meeting on domesticating the GPC roadmap that took place on 22 November 2022 in Lilongwe, Malawi.



Global HIV Prevention secretariat participating in the domestication of the 2025 Prevention Roadmap consultation meeting in Malawi

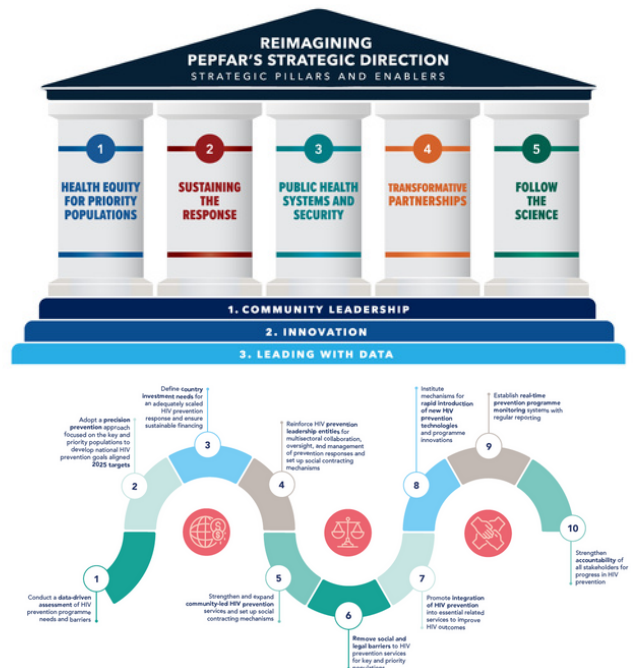
Tanzania launched the Education Plus Initiative

On 30 November 2022, Tanzania became the 13th Country in Sub-Saharan Africa to commit to the [Education Plus Initiative](#) in Lindi region, Tanzania. The Ceremony was presided over by the Minister of State for Policy, Coordination and Parliamentary Affairs, Mr George Simbachawene, alongside the Deputy Minister of Health Dr Godwin Mollel. In 2021, Tanzania had, approximately, 74% of new HIV infections among young people aged between 15 and 24 were among young women, showing the disproportionate impact HIV is having on young women and girls. This bold step is anticipated to accelerate HIV prevention among adolescent girls and young women by keeping them in school which aligns with the country's adolescent education, health and wellbeing agenda. You may read more [here](#).



Global HIV Prevention Coalition Webinar

On 26 January 2023, the GPC secretariat and Global fund participated in a webinar hosted by PEPFAR on leveraging the [2025 HIV Prevention Roadmap](#) with [PEPFAR strategic direction](#) for the Country Operational Planning (COP) 23 process. The GPC secretariat encouraged PEPFAR to use the Global HIV prevention Scorecards as a resource during COP discussions; Country teams could use them to inform the development of country Strategic Document Summaries (SDS). The GPC secretariat also shared the granular HIV prevention targets set out in the new [Global AIDS Strategy](#) for young people, adults, and Key populations and advised that these targets should be taken into consideration during the prioritization process and when developing HIV Prevention programs during the PEPFAR COP23 and Global Fund Grant Cycle 7.



Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) global workshop

The Gates foundation held a VMMC Strategy Development discussion in Seattle, United States; focusing on cost-effectiveness. Mr. John Stover from Avenir health conducted a recent analysis on VMMC on behalf of the Gates Foundation which showed how critical it is to focus on VMMC scale up in priority countries and sustainability of the attained high coverage. VMMC cost-effectiveness is very sensitive to the HIV incidence trends, HIV incidence is 30% - 80% lower today than at the start of VMMC programs around 2010 and is likely to continue to decline due to high viral suppression and aging, VMMC continues to be a good guarantee in all countries against declining support for ART and VMMC is cost-saving for Mozambique and South Africa; VMMC remains a good investment in Eswatini, Lesotho, Uganda, Malawi, Namibia, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and will be expensive in Botswana and Rwanda.

West and Central Africa (WCA) PrEP target setting and programming capacity strengthening workshop; 16–20 January 2023, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.



Delegates from 11 countries^[1] participated in the West and Central Africa regional capacity-building workshop on the [PrEP Implementation planning, monitoring, and evaluation Tool \(PrEP-it\)](#) convened by UNAIDS, in partnership with MOSAIC^[2]. Each country delegation planned for a PrEP target-setting exercise using the PrEP-It web-based software application for forecasting PrEP utilization, cost, outcomes, and impact. [Prevention Self-Assessment Tools \(PSATs\)](#) for estimating the size of key populations at substantial risk of acquiring HIV for PrEP target setting and population size estimates for Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) in different behaviour risk categories as well as updated WHO [Guidelines on long-acting injectable cabotegravir for HIV prevention](#), were also reviewed.

Launch of the Global Alliance to end AIDS among Children



1. Testing and optimized comprehensive, high quality treatment and care for infants, children, and adolescents living with HIV to achieve universal coverage of ART and viral suppression

On 1 February 2023, Ministers and representatives from the twelve inaugural countries^[3] convened in the United Republic of Tanzania to [commit](#) to the [Global Alliance to end AIDS in children](#). This was done by signing the [Dar es Salaam Declaration](#). The Global Alliance is a new 9-year-old strategic initiative that seeks to accelerate progress toward ending AIDS among children, by 2030. The alliance, which is a new partnership between UNICEF, WHO, UNAIDS, and other partners, aims to bring together governments, civil society, and the private sector to coordinate efforts and mobilize resources to address the barriers to HIV prevention, testing, and treatment among women, children, and adolescents.

2. Closing the treatment gap for pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV and optimizing continuity of treatment towards the goal of elimination of vertical transmission



3. Preventing new HIV infections among pregnant and breastfeeding adolescents and women

4. Addressing rights, gender equality, social / structural barriers that hinder access



The work of the Global Alliance is aligned to four pillars, of which, pillar 3: Preventing and detecting new HIV infections among pregnant and breastfeeding adolescent girls and women and pillar 4: addressing rights, gender equality and the social and structural barriers that hinder access to services are HIV Prevention focused and the first two pillars, treatment-related.

Pillars of the Global Alliance to end AIDS in children by 2030

1] Bénin, Burkina, Burundi, Cameroun, Sénégal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire, RDC, Ghana, Mali, Liberia

2. MOSAIC is a USAID funded project that stands for Maximizing Options to Advance Informed Choice for HIV Prevention

3. Angola, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

COUNTRY FOCUS: ZAMBIA



“Commitment and investment to ending HIV at the highest levels of political leadership is necessary if we are to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030”

To strengthen political leadership in the prevention response, Zambia’s Government established a National HIV Prevention Coalition, co-chaired by the Ministers of Health and Finance, with the First Lady as the Matron of the Coalition, Her Excellency Mrs. Mutinta Hichilema.

In this role, she has partnered with UNAIDS to launch a national HIV advocacy campaign at Intercontinental Hotel on 10 November 2022. The First Lady was joined by the Minister of Health, Hon. Silvia Masebo, the Mayor of Lusaka, her Worship Chilando Chitangala, prominent HIV activist and Member of Parliament, Hon. Princess Kasune Zulu, the Director General of the National AIDS Council Dr. Connie Osborne, as well as US Government representatives, the UN Resident Coordinator and UN heads of agencies, the media and press. The HIV advocacy luncheon provided a platform for dialogue between those who are living with and affected by HIV at the community levels and key gatekeepers and decision makers.

The purpose of this event was to have a common understanding of the national and global HIV situation, focusing on HIV prevention amongst young women and ending mother-to-child transmission. As part of the launch, Mrs. Hichilema invited over 60 young HIV+ persons and young mothers living with HIV from all districts to share their stories and have their voices heard.

In Zambia, HIV prevention is lagging in comparison to treatment.



In Zambia, HIV prevention is lagging in comparison to treatment. The 2022 Zambia HIV Prevention Scorecard shows that voluntary medical male circumcision is performing well, while other programming pillars (including services for Key Populations, adolescents and young people, condom programming, and antiretroviral drug-based prevention) efforts, need to be strengthened. Efforts to substantially reduce new infections have been impacted by persistent inequalities and compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, economic challenges, and declines in donor funding, among others.

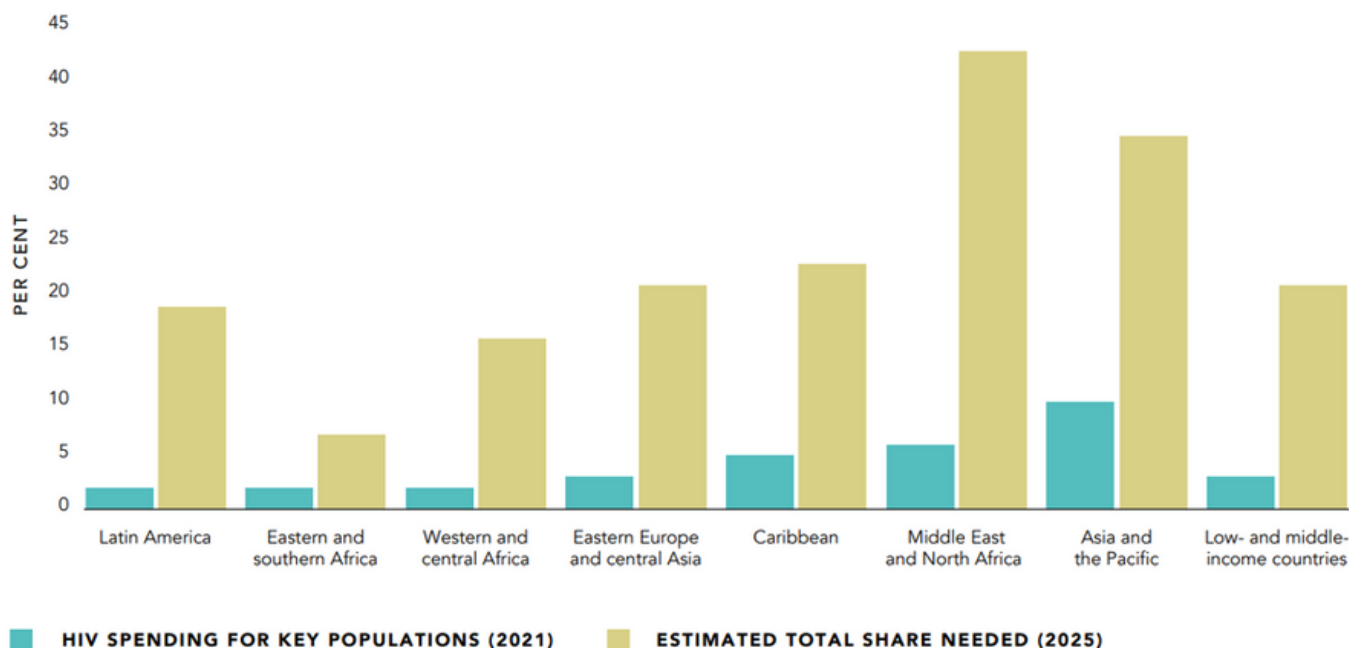
Women and girls in Zambia are disproportionately affected by structural and gender inequalities, as well as insufficient access to information or decision-making about their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Zambian women are twice as likely as males to be living with HIV, and young females between the ages of 15 and 24 account for more than 70 % of all new infections in Zambia. Currently, only 2 out of 3 children are accessing life-saving antiretroviral treatment, whilst this figure is significantly higher amongst adults – where 89% of people know their HIV status, 98% of those who know their status are on antiretroviral treatment, and 96% of those on treatment are virally suppressed.

National AIDS Commissions' Role in HIV financing, Quarterly meeting

The GPC supported the National AIDS Commission (NAC) directors' Forum to organise the first virtual quarterly meeting in 2023 entitled "NACs' role in HIV financing" held on 28 February 2023. The meeting facilitated discussions among NAC directors following country experiences shared by Mozambique: Domestic financing for condom programming; India: Domestic financing for Prevention Programmes and Kenya: Increased Domestic financing despite flatlined Global Fund and PEPFAR investments. Integration of HIV programmes with other health programmes such as sexual reproductive health services was highlighted as a possible approach to ensuring sustainability and sustainable financing for HIV Prevention programmes. You may watch the recording [here](#).

HIV financing for Key Populations programmes webinar

The GPC in collaboration with the South to South Learning Network organized a webinar for the Key populations' community of practice entitled: [Financing and Sustaining Programmes](#).



Frontline AIDS accountability work

Frontline AIDS works with partners who developed coalitions of civil society, key populations, and youth movements in seven countries (India, Mozambique, Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and Malawi). The role of these coalitions is to support the development of national accountability frameworks and country-specific milestones. As of February 2023, all country civil society coalitions have developed their own draft milestones which reflect the priorities of communities and civil society, and are engaging their respective National AIDS Commissions to secure the endorsement and inclusion of these priorities in the national accountability frameworks and national strategic plans (NSPs). Some shared priorities across countries include updated data and Population size estimates; harmonizing data collection tools and indicators in countries; addressing structural and societal barriers and the expansion of community-led HIV prevention programs.

Pre- Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) meeting, 6-7 March 2023

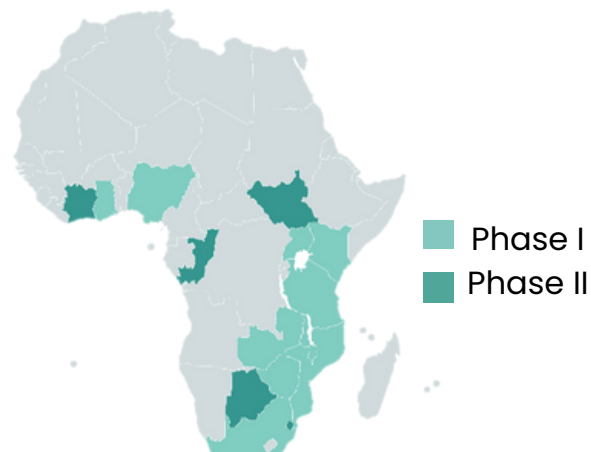
UNODC HIV/AIDS Section jointly with the International AIDS Society (IAS), International Network of People who use Drugs (INPUD), World Health Organization (WHO), and UNAIDS, organized the 3rd Pre-CND Consultative Meeting to examine the link between health and human rights, and the impact of structural inequalities on the HIV and hepatitis response among people who use drugs. Two-day virtual meeting continued to establish a dialogue between the academic community and the community of people who use drugs and gathered more than 50 participants. The 3rd edition of the pre-CND consultation highlighted good practices and strategies that need to be adopted to link science, policy, and clinical practice, as well as to ensure that people who use drugs are treated with dignity and respect. The meeting looked into four main topics: coverage of the harm reduction services to prevent HIV infection, compulsory treatment of people who use drugs, HIV and hepatitis response in closed settings, and policies and practices to enable access to HIV and viral hepatitis services among people who use drugs.

SSLN expansion

The South-South HIV Prevention Learning Network (SSLN) was established to support the Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC) to strengthen country HIV prevention programs through shared learning and problem-solving.

SSLN has now expanded to five more countries: Eswatini, Botswana, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, and South Sudan in addition to the initial ten countries. These countries have begun their journey on the SSLN kicking off 2023 with inception meetings and completing their prevention self-assessment tools.

Access the PSAT findings [here](#)



The launch of SSLN in the Republic of Congo between 16-17 January made the national news!

Read the article on [Le Breve Online](#) or watch the [video news reel](#).



"The PSAT tools help in knowing how to address the gaps and this is not a job for one organisation to do but rather everyone's responsibility." Robert Selato (Acting National Coordinator, National AIDS and Health Promotion Agency (NAHPA), Gaborone, Botswana.

Look out for these GPC-supported events in the coming months:

- The GPC World Health Assembly dinner event, 23 May 2023.
- South to South Learning Network Pan-Prevention meeting, 29-31 May 2023
- NAC Directors Quarterly meeting, 30 May 2023
- The Global Prevention working group meeting is 5 April and 7 June 2023
- AGYW Webinar: Sustainability and transition planning, 3 May 2023
- AGYW Meeting: Characterization of the male sex, 24 August 2023

For any comments or questions on the above, please contact us at hivpc@unaid.org.

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Kind regards,

The Global HIV Prevention Secretariat

Geneva, 31 March 2023