

Meeting report of NAC managers and Ministry of Health HIV prevention leads on Operationalizing the 2025 Prevention Roadmap

10-12 October 2022 in Johannesburg, South Africa

Background

The targets of the 2021 Political Declaration on AIDS, the Global AIDS Strategy 2021 - 2026, the Fast-Track commitments, the 2025 Prevention roadmap, and the SDG target of ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 can only be achieved through focused country level action.

The 2025 Prevention Road Map needs to be urgently translated into country targets, operationalized, and translated into adjusted HIV prevention programmes. The new targets and Road Map imply a shift toward people-centered precision prevention, combining existing and new approaches towards scaled HIV prevention programmes that achieve equitable access to HIV prevention services among key and priority populations.

To that end, the Global Prevention Coalition in partnership with the National AIDS Council (NAC) Forum organized a meeting with an extended invitation to the Ministry of Health (MOH) Prevention leads to facilitate discussions on operationalizing of the Prevention Roadmap within countries.

The meeting was hosted by the Government of South Africa and convened by UNAIDS and UNFPA on behalf of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition; funded by the Gates Foundation.

26 Countries (Myanmar and Iran were unable to attend) were represented, and more than 200 delegates attended both virtually and in-person including Directors of NACs, MOH Prevention Leads, UN agencies, PEPFAR, the Global Fund, the Gates Foundation, Frontline AIDS, Civil society organizations such as AVAC and the Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp.

Meeting objectives

The meeting focused on **three objectives**

- Understand and define country needs relative to implementing the Road Map
- Discuss and develop critical steps required in countries to implement the Road Map, including country-specific milestones toward the 10 actions
- Identify strategic shifts in working as a Coalition, country support needs, and cross-country collaboration

Key Discussion Points

The meeting highlighted the importance of:

- Strong Political leadership as well as involvement of cultural and traditional leaders.
- Policy alignment to those already existent in countries to ensure that they are actionable.
- Strong Community engagement and collaboration with Civil society throughout the implementation of HIV Prevention Programmes in a bid to strengthen people centered approaches.
- Reliable, differentiated data to ensure evidence-based prevention programming.
- Systems strengthening to ensure implementation preparedness as well as easy access to services especially for those in hard-to-reach areas.

- Increase domestic financing for sustainability of prevention programs.
- Leveraging virtual platforms and the power of social media especially for youth prevention messaging.
- Linkages of HIV and SRHR while ensuring combination prevention is provided through integrated approaches.

How to address Gaps in implementation

Recognizing that there are gaps in implementation of HIV programmes as stated in the 2025 Roadmap, countries suggested the following to address those gaps:

<p>Limited Implementation at Scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data: Quality data is required to inform proper planning and strategies to scale prevention. This includes behavioral data. • Programme synergies: Strategic synergies between different sectors and programmes is required to extend the reach of the prevention programmes. This also includes coordination between implementing partners. • Innovation to enhance access: Need to leverage innovative strategies to provide services to hard-to-reach areas, for example mobile outreach and community drop-in centers. • Shared learning: Countries should be paired to share learnings and experiences and provide support to overcome challenges. 	<p>Limited Political Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate cost of in-action to political leadership. to show the value of investing in prevention as a priority. • Toolkit for political leadership to facilitate orientation of new political leaders: Develop a toolkit for political leaders to equip them with the right information to understand the importance of prevention and the commitments and support required. • Enhanced advocacy: Need to keep politicians focused on the need for ongoing support, there is fatigue when it comes to HIV, so strong advocacy is needed to keep it in focus. • Revise laws: Need to use data to drive the revision of laws and acts to align with and support the epidemic responsiveness.
<p>Limited HIV Prevention Financing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable financing: Need to develop domestic resource mobilization strategy; domestic financing is key to ensuring sustainability of programmes. • Multisectoral approaches: Need to leverage multisectoral funding from sources other than the Ministry of Health; Leverage on existing economic blocks for price negotiation for prevention products. leverage on existing regional economic blocks to champion and integrate the HIV prevention agenda. Regional meetings were proposed for target setting and alignment of countries to the 2025 global targets. • Private sector: Need to find innovative strategies to incorporate private sector funding into prevention programmes. • Efficiencies: Need to ensure allocative efficiencies, including balanced supply and demand for HIV prevention interventions. 	<p>Policy and Structural Obstacles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terminology and standardization of HIV language: Need to ensure that the language used for policies and other key documents is understandable for all stakeholders. • Dialogues: Need dialogues with policy influencers and policy leaders to resolve structural/policy/legal challenges • Decentralize: Need to decentralize HIV prevention response and structures. Countries should adapt global interventions to suit their local contexts and define for themselves specific actions for adapting new HIV prevention technologies including setting up the processes required to rollout these technologies. • Gate keepers: Identify key individuals who have the authority to influence change and implementation of strategies and policies. This needs to be done at all levels – political leaders, community leaders, traditional leaders, and religious leaders. Leverage existing

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costing: Conduct country Specific unit costs for prevention programmes. • Digital tools: Need online platforms to enter data and track spending and outcomes. This should be available for national, sub-national, and community level. 	<p>structures for engagement with key stakeholders, such as engaging parliamentarians through the coalition of African parliamentarians, which included current and former leaders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lift restrictions on policies: Some policies are restrictive and prevent the implementation of prevention programmes (i.e. condoms not allowed in prisons and schools), need to identify key players who can address them and work closely to lift restrictions. This also includes removing social and legal barriers to providing/accessing HIV prevention services. • Approval: A limitation for implanting new prevention tools is approval of the product. Need assistance in preparing approvals and leveraging relationships and political will to fast track approvals.
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Country Support needs to implement the 2025 Roadmap

To implement the 2025 Roadmap, Countries requested the GPC to support them in the following areas:

Country	Support Needs
Angola	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TA to support Prevention Assessment. - Strengthen political engagement; mobilize other ministries in the HIV response for now it is only MOH.
Cameroon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong technical implementation groups for prevention, including all sectors including CBOs.
Eswatini and Ivory Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TA to support a cost-benefit analysis to show how prevention is needed especially for condoms.
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TA to strengthen the Community Care Coalition - Communities collect resources and they provide care and support on their own areas. - TA to develop Condom Implementation plan.
Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable dedicated prevention teams to ensure ongoing development.
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TA to support national AIDS program in set-up HIV prevention targets to 2025 - TA to support the identification of national policies that become barriers to HIV prevention at national and sub-national levels.
Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online system to facilitate financial reporting as well as guide in mobilization of funds for Prevention. - TA to come up targets at national and subnational level for specific populations (across different sectors) while applying an inequality lens
Lesotho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop Strategy to engage with traditional, religious, and cultural leaders regarding HIV prevention.

	- TA to support with national AIDS expenditure assessment will assist with investment case and establishing AIDS fund.
Malawi	- TA to develop an investment case and unit cost analysis.
Pakistan	- Advocate for Integrated reporting across sectors.
South Africa	- TA to support Integration of HIV prevention into family planning programs. - TA to develop granular data on prevention intervention campaigns, understand what is effective
Tanzania	- Continued sensitization of political leaders regarding HIV prevention, so that they have a clear understanding and continue to support.
Zambia	- Strong advocacy plan for domestic focused funding basket at national and sub-national levels.
Zimbabwe	- TA for Prioritization support at national and subnational levels. MOH and NAC clearly defined roles to facilitate implementation of HIV prevention.

The GPC will support the countries to strengthen accountability, review and deliberate on the support needs and Prepare for the High-level Ministerial meeting.

Game Changing Commitments

Overall countries highlighted the following as their game changing commitments to implementing the roadmap:

- Establishing working forums with the Ministry of Finance for sustained funding of HIV prevention.
- Develop a resource mobilization strategy and/or plan for the financing and implementation of the national roadmap (seize the opportunity of COP23 and NFM4).
- Establishing working forums with the Ministry of Justice for addressing human rights, policy, and legal barriers to HIV prevention.
- Social marketing for HIV prevention services/products
- Continue to advocate for sex work decriminalization
- Continue investment in the development of the HIV vaccine
- Integrated national and provincial Prevention Investment case by end of 2023
- Generate granularized Prevention Cascades for each pillar by population and Geography by 2023 as well as Provincial Prevention score cards for 2023
- Increase funding for prevention agenda in the next MTSF
- Implementation Science projects for the DVR (and CAB-LA: once approved) to inform scale up by 2023
- Ensure Block negotiation to influence price reduction
- Implement Community Led Monitoring for prevention (condoms, testing, SBCC, STI screening)

Agreed Next steps

1. UNAIDS will update the HIV prevention scorecards and support the data for the country posters based on 2021 Global AIDS Monitoring (GAM) and consider how to reflect linkages to HIV treatment, human rights and SRHR.
2. Shared learning to strengthen country leadership and quality of HIV prevention programmes; continued engagement within the Community of Practice of NAC Managers that will facilitate south-south learning and exchange including an email exchange group and potentially regional and global follow up meetings.
3. Countries will accelerate work on the 10 Roadmap actions ahead of the Ministerial Session early next year.
4. Countries in collaboration with UNAIDS will increase countries' preparedness for the next round of Global Fund applications, including completing financial gap analysis for HIV prevention.
5. Countries agreed to strengthen accountability through meaningful civil society and youth engagement in prevention strategy development, program implementation, budget planning and accountability systems.