

Date: Tuesday 8th June 2021

Time: 08.00 am – 09.30 am (EDT)

**“No Prevention, No End”
How Leadership for HIV prevention can turn an epidemic**

Co-hosted by the Global HIV Prevention Coalition Co-Chairs and members of the Global HIV Prevention Working Group: **UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF, UNAIDS, AVAC, Frontline AIDS, ATHENA Network, NSWP, BMGF, PEPFAR, The Global Fund, IPPF, Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp, NACC Kenya and NAC Zimbabwe**

Objectives

- Reinforce the urgent need for leadership to foster and drive decisive action to get back on-track to achieve the HIV prevention targets by 2030
- Show it can be done spotlighting examples where leadership on prevention has moved the needle in the HIV response
- Address resilience for HIV prevention programs building into and alongside the intersecting COVID 19 epidemic responses

Background

It has been 5 years since Member States signed the 2016 Political Declaration on Ending AIDS committing to reducing the annual number of new HIV infections to fewer than 500 000 by 2020. The UN Secretary-General’s report shows us that we have failed to reach this target.

In 2019 an estimated 1.7 million people were infected with HIV. Of these 280,000 were among adolescent girls and young women who account for 1 in 4 infections new infections in sub-Saharan Africa, while HIV infections among gay men and other men who have sex with men increased by 25 per cent between 2010 and 2019, and annual infections among sex workers, people who inject drugs and transgender people have barely changed. As a result, key populations and their sexual partners accounted for 62 per cent of all new HIV infections worldwide in 2019.

Despite having an excellent array of HIV prevention interventions at our fingertips, none of the recommended prevention packages got close to being delivered to half the people who need them.

Condom use by young women and young men declined in many countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the provision of PrEP although increasing remains largely inadequate. Combination prevention for all key population has not been prioritized in many settings, for example, harm reduction for people who use drugs is absent or insufficient in all but a handful of affected countries. Whilst an additional 15 million men and boys across 15 priority countries received voluntary medical circumcision since 2016, which is an achievement, the target was 25 million by 2020.

Alongside this context of missed HIV prevention targets, the COVID-19 pandemic brings further difficulties, shutting HIV prevention services and driving up human rights abuses, gender-based violence, poverty, and other drivers of HIV infection. Faced with these challenges, there is a pressing need to act more decisively to scale up HIV prevention provision and to rapidly eliminate persisting barriers to progress.

Building on the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General's report, this session will highlight the urgent need to build on the commitments made by political leaders and boost leadership for HIV prevention responses with the decisive actions needed to get on-track to achieve the 2030 HIV prevention targets.

The session will spotlight examples where leadership on prevention has made a major difference in key aspects of the response such as ensuring strong community engagement, enabling rights-based and multisectoral approaches and promoting the consistent use of data driven priority actions. The panel will also address persistent gaps and inequalities in scale of prevention programs, technical capacities, timely policy action and sufficient financing, including in relation to maintaining and protecting essential prevention for priority populations during the COVID -19 crisis, and how to prepare for the accelerated introduction of new prevention options.

Issues to advocate for

- 1) Showing political commitment for HIV prevention, translated into funding and adequately resourcing HIV prevention programs, removing and addressing legal, structural and policy obstacles that hold back more rapid progress, and investing in national stewardship and coordination support to keep prevention programs from fragmenting into piecemeal projects
- 2) Ensuring prioritization of the HIV and COVID-19 pandemics together and protecting essential HIV prevention services for priority populations amid COVID-19 restrictions. With the COVID-19 crisis requiring new resources, renewed energy, and strong leadership, it is essential to make sure resources for HIV prevention are not reduced as this would threaten the gains that have been made thus far.
- 3) Strengthening capacity to manage and coordinate effective sustainable nationally owned prevention programs, recognizing that fit for purpose prevention programs involve multisystem capacities within universal and primary healthcare systems and leveraging community systems.
- 4) Ensuring that countries are able generate and use data that are appropriate and up to date, so as to focus high-impact interventions on locations and populations with the highest risk of HIV infection and to monitor the coverage and outcomes of programs.
- 5) Harnessing the strengths of community-led organizations and networks to deliver people-centered services at scale, including through social contracting, through enhanced community-based data collection, and through monitoring of prevention interventions.
- 6) Strengthening links with other health and social development programs such as sexual and reproductive health, comprehensive sexuality education, prevention of gender-based violence, antenatal care, COVID-19, tuberculosis, and viral hepatitis

Q&A Panel

Natalia Kanem	Executive Director UNFPA, GPC Co-Convenor Opening remarks. Why Prevention Now? What does prevention leadership mean?
Neville Gertze	Permanent Representative of Namibia to UN, HLM co-Facilitator Leadership in global diplomacy
Mitchell Warren	Executive Director, AVAC, GPC Co-Chair elect Where we have come from and what have we achieved thus far What are the new challenges, Why we need a new HIV prevention road map
Nguyễn Thanh Long	Minister of Health, Vietnam. Leadership in Combination prevention for Key Populations
Dame Pauline Tallen	Minister of Women Affairs, Nigeria Women's rights and community led programming
Lord Norman Fowler	Former Lord Speaker, UK and UNAIDS Ambassador Decriminalization & Destigmatisation. Persistent barriers to HIV prevention
Peter Sands	Executive Director, the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Investment advantage of prioritizing HIV prevention
Pascal Grotenhuis	Director Social Development & Ambassador for Women's Rights & Gender Equality, the Netherlands. Investment in HIV prevention and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, the impact of COVID-19.
Khanya Mabuza	Executive Director, National Emergency Response Council on HIV/AIDS, eSwatini Leadership in creating sustainable national systems, moving from projects to programs
Simon Cazal	Director, SomosGay, Paraguay. Key Population-led combination Prevention
Joyce Ouma	Y+ Global Network. Representative of YPLHIV, Kenya Leveraging the leadership role of Young PLHIV in HIV Prevention
Sheila Tlou	Co-Chair of Global HIV Prevention Coalition Closing remarks

Invited Comments

- Darren Welch** Director of Global Health, FCDO, UK.
Long term program resilience & maintaining the central place of HIV prevention in the Global AIDS Strategy (2021-2026)
- Lillian Benjamin** ATHENA Network, Youth Advocate
Preparing for the introduction of new HIV prevention options for young women
- Happy Assan** Co-ordinator, Tanzanian Network of People who Use Drugs
Overcoming critical barriers to accessing harm reduction services in communities of people who inject drugs
- Fatma Iddi** National Coordinator, Feminists Initiative of South Sudan (FEMISS)
HIV prevention programs that have made a difference in my community, what remains to be done
- Alexa Dominich** Chair of Transvoice, Indonesia
The special considerations needed to make HIV prevention work for Transgender people
- Nittaya Pungpapong** Institute of HIV Research and Innovation in Bangkok
Thailand's Leadership in HIV Prevention among Key and Vulnerable Populations over the years
- Edwin Bernard** Executive Director, HIV Justice Network
Where law reform has had an impact on access to and outcomes of HIV prevention