Dr Lillian Benjamin, Young Woman Advocate - ATHENA Network

Adolescent girls and young women remain highly at risk for new HIV infections in Subsaharan and Eastern Africa. For instance according to Tanzania HIV Impact Survey (2016/17), AGYW take up 32% of overall new HIV infections annually. For us to be able to deliver effective prevention interventions and therefore cater to the needs of young women, we need to strongly employ the use of Differentiated Service Delivery models in HIV prevention.

This strongly applies as we prepare for introduction of new prevention tools including the Dapivirine ring, having the community at the center of every intervention while expanding prevention options.

Introduction of new prevention tools must pay attention to the quality and comprehensiveness of HIV prevention packages we are providing, place and time they are being provided, who provides the services and how, all according to the needs of the targeted populations, giving room for desirable choices!

By doing so we’ll be able to provide services that are tailored to what communities want, hence increased uptake of services for even the most marginalized communities (policy environment check).

It’s also very vital to ensure that countries invest in community engagement and locally produced data to inform ideation, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the new tools and HIV prevention programs at large. “