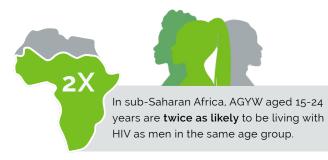
THE PROBLEM

Due to challenges in access and sustained adherence to existing HIV prevention products, such as condoms, voluntary medical male circumcision, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and treatment as prevention (TasP), **the current HIV prevention toolkit continues to fall short** in curbing HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) and female sex workers (FSWs) in sub-Saharan Africa.



LONG-ACTING ANTIRETROVIRAL-BASED TECHNOLOGIES

Long-acting (LA) antiretroviral-based technologies represent a **promising avenue for HIV prevention**. Recent results from the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) HPTN 083 study demonstrated LA injectable cabotegravir used as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to be highly effective in preventing HIV acquisition in women in sub-Saharan Africa. Future LA antibodybased technologies are also being explored.



Several innovative LA-PrEP technologies and products in early development are poised to incorporate UPTAKE study results to ensure they are designed, developed, and delivered with the fewest barriers to access and greatest potential for adherence and impact.

> All photos are courtesy of Images of Empowerment

UPTAKE

Empowering choice in HIV prevention technologies through behavioural science

OUR MISSION



To inform universally accessible long-acting sexual and reproductive health technologies for African girls, young women, and female sex workers through behavioural science.

WHY UPTAKE?

OUR APPROACH

THE CONSORTIUM

UPTAKE represents a unique multidisciplinary collaboration of five leading research institutions in Africa and Europe. Featuring global experts in socio-behavioral science, health economics, and HIV prevention research, UPTAKE also hosts four post-graduate students as a key part of capacity strengthening efforts.



Running from 2020-2022 with the generous support of EDCTP, UPTAKE seeks to accelerate access and facilitate adherence to effective and innovative long-acting (LA) technologies to prevent HIV and unintended pregnancy in adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) and female sex workers (FSWs) in sub-Saharan Africa using behavioural science.

EMPOWERING CHOICE

To optimize the impact of sexual and reproductive health technologies among AGYW and FSWs, we must consider **the needs**, **preferences**, **and behaviours** of end-users, policy makers, and health care providers in the early stages of their development. The findings from UPTAKE will be used to **inform**

formulation, device, delivery, and packaging decisions, helping pave the way to the licensure of better suited multipurpose technologies to prevent both HIV and unintended pregnancy.



INNOVATIVE APPROACH

UPTAKE follows an innovative behavioral research approach, including at-risk AGYW, FSWs, health care providers, and policy makers. This multi-staged study will **determine and test behavioral factors that facilitate adoption and use** of future LA-PrEP alone or in combination with marketed LA contraceptives in Kenya and Uganda. Researchers will also assess the costeffectiveness of these interventions using a **health economics model** developed collaboratively between Busara and LSTHM.

REAL-WORLD IMPACT

UPTAKE will impact health policy, healthcare services, and social behaviors through robust evidence that supports policy-influencing strategies to promote adoption and institutionalization of biomedical health products. Furthermore, UPTAKE will contribute to strengthened capacity for implementing socio-behavioral interventions and formative research in sub-Saharan Africa.





This project is part of the EDCTP2 programme supported by the European Union (grant number CSA2018HS-2525).