

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.



In sub-Saharan Africa, AGYW aged 15-24 years are **twice as likely** to be living with HIV as men in the same age group.

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 antibody-based 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 multi-purpose 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 cost-effectiveness of these interventions using a **health economics model** developed collaboratively between Busara and LSHTM.

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.

Learn more at www.UPTAKEstudy.org



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