

# MPii

## Microbicide Product Introduction Initiative

Microbicide Stakeholder Update  
Winter 2016, Issue 1

The Microbicide Product Introduction Initiative (MPii) includes five cooperative agreements within the Annual Program Statement for Microbicide Research, Development, and Introduction. These five-year awards continue and expand USAID's support, in partnership with PEPFAR, for microbicide introduction and access with advances in biomedical technologies and new approaches for HIV prevention. This quarterly update highlights the accomplishments for the five awards: OPTIONS, POWER, EMOTION, CHARISMA, and GEMS.

## OPTIONS

**Optimizing Prevention Technology Introduction On Schedule** The *OPTIONS Consortium* provides targeted support to expedite and sustain access to ARV-based HIV prevention products in countries and among populations where most needed.

### Supporting introduction of oral PrEP at the country level:

OPTIONS is developing situation analyses along the value chain for Kenya, Zimbabwe and South Africa, which are based on existing documents and country plans, published data, and stakeholder interviews.

The team has nearly completed a communications landscape analysis for South Africa with a focus on adolescent girls, female sex workers, and health care providers. Existing end-user data were culled from clinical trials, behavioral studies, demonstration projects, social scientists, leading publications/news sites, proprietary McCann Global brand studies, and the McCann Health marketing office in South Africa.

Summaries of the value chain situation analyses and communications landscape analysis are expected in February and will inform country-level work planning, investment cases, and the market-shaping strategy.

The modeling team synthesized existing PrEP modeling work and shared it with USAID, WHO, and other MPii projects. The team is working with country partners and other PrEP modelers (within MPii projects and beyond) to identify needs and gaps in Kenya, South Africa and Zimbabwe. This will inform the project's modeling priorities.

### Communications and dissemination:

The communications team is creating an "International Programs" section on [PrEPWatch.org](http://PrEPWatch.org) that will highlight efforts and share tools from all five MPii projects to support HIV prevention product

introduction. Existing South Africa, Kenya, and Zimbabwe pages will be built out with policies, guidance, and country-specific materials.

OPTIONS, along with USAID, PEPFAR, and WHO, hosted "Adapting WHO guidelines on oral PrEP: What will it take?" at the November 2015 ICASA meeting in Zimbabwe, which was attended by approximately 130 people.

The team is collaborating with WHO and other MPii projects on several workshop proposals for the AIDS 2016 conference in Durban.



Dr. Rachel Baggaley (WHO), Owen Mugurungi (AIDS & TB Zimbabwe), and Manju Chatani (AVAC) speak at the ICASA 2015 session hosted by OPTIONS, USAID, PEPFAR, and WHO.



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**Prevention Options for Women Evaluation Research** POWER develops cost-effective and scalable models for implementation of ARV-based HIV prevention products for women.

POWER is preparing to launch the formative work, which includes in-depth interviews with young women and men, as well as key informant interviews with healthcare providers.

All sites—DTHF in Cape Town (South Africa), Wits RHI in Johannesburg (South Africa), and KEMRI in Kisumu (Kenya)—are in the final stages of receiving regulatory approvals, recruiting/hiring interviewers and finalizing standard operating procedures (SOPs).

Sites will begin training the interviewing teams in February and data collection will follow soon thereafter.



**Enhancing Microbicide Uptake in High-Risk End Users** EMOTION increases uptake and correct and consistent use of ARV-based HIV prevention products by women at high risk of HIV infection using an end-user centered strategy.

EMOTION had teleconferences with other PrEP product developers (IPM, ViiV, Gilead) to understand design space for their respective products and lay out the qualitative data-gathering process.

The team finalized the research plan and prepared product and design packaging prototypes to take to the field for Project Kalahari (Human Centered Design Study of End Users in Africa).



**Community Health Clinic Model for Agency in Relationships and Safer Microbicide Adherence** CHARISMA supports women's agency to safely use ARV-based HIV prevention products and reduce vulnerability to intimate partner violence (IPV).

#### Social benefits-harms tool and intervention development:

CHARISMA is working on a landscape analysis of grey and scientific literature on promising practices for IPV prevention, screening, referral, and support, focusing on IPV studies conducted in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Uganda, and Malawi. This will identify the context-specific risk factors for IPV and violence against women.

The team received IRB exemption to conduct secondary data analyses for VOICE, VOICE C, VOICE D, ASPIRE, MTN 015, and MTN 016. These analyses will examine how women reporting social harms (SH)/IPV experiences differed from other participants regarding adherence, relationship type, and other demographic variables. The team is preparing a concept to review, analyze, and report on male partner engagement in CAPRISA 008 and ASPIRE.

The research team is awaiting ethics approval to conduct interviews with former ASPIRE participants, focus groups with providers, and surveys with women.



#### Stakeholder engagement and scientific advisory group:

CHARISMA identified key stakeholders globally and in South Africa and shared its list with OPTIONS.

The team formed a scientific advisory group of gender, HIV, and gender-based violence experts.



**Global Evaluation of Microbicide Sensitivity** GEMS informs policies and defines programmatic considerations related to use of ARV-based HIV prevention products and risk of resistance.

GEMS organized project teams, activated stakeholders and partners, and set up communications.

The lab team requested PrEP trials' samples for assay development work.

The modeling team is adapting the current individual-based HIV Synthesis Transmission model for the project.

The policy team has identified potential members for its Policy and Implementation Steering Committee, which will convene in the coming months.

The roll-out team is researching novel blood collection methods to measure resistance in individuals who seroconvert while on PrEP.

OPTIONS members Manju Chatani, Elizabeth Gardiner and Camille Saade attend the DREAMS Initiative Reception in November 2015.



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# COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

## SOUTH AFRICA

OPTIONS has provided technical leadership and support for the PrEP Technical Working Group (TWG), which is developing policy and guidelines for oral PrEP implementation in South Africa. POWER and CHARISMA have participated in TWG meetings and provided input to the draft guidelines as well.

EMOTION partnered with Instant Grass, an advocacy, marketing, and strategy group to conduct in-depth qualitative interviews with end users and key stakeholders including: young urban women and men; young rural women and men; and female sex workers and health care providers in urban, public, and private settings.

## KENYA

OPTIONS met with the National AIDS & STI Control Programme (NASCOP) and other stakeholders to gather information for the value chain situation analysis and will meet with the USAID mission in February.

## ZIMBABWE

OPTIONS will meet with the USAID mission in February to discuss PrEP implementation.

Want to know more about the MPii projects? Contact Martha Larson at [mlarson@fhi360.org](mailto:mlarson@fhi360.org).

## MEDIA COVERAGE & PUBLICATIONS

### OPTIONS

“Want a healthy world? Let the HIV response lead the way.”  
*Huffington Post*  
25 Nov 2015  
<http://huff.to/1LCrjoe>

“Approval of Truvada a game changer in anti-HIV/AIDS effort.”  
*The East African*  
9 Jan 2016  
<http://bit.ly/1OmVHal>

### POWER

“How a drug can help prevent 5000 girls being infected with HIV every week.”  
*The Conversation*  
21 Dec 2015  
<http://bit.ly/1kfgXYa>

“Tenofvir-based oral preexposure prophylaxis prevents HIV infection among women.”  
*Current Opinion in HIV & AIDS*  
Jan 2016  
<http://bit.ly/1S2ogga>

“Safety of oral tenofvir disoproxil fumarate-based pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention.”  
*Expert Opinion on Drug Safety*  
Dec 2015  
<http://bit.ly/1P3Fo4k>

### GEMS

“Pittsburgh team monitors drug resistance of HIV prevention drugs during rollout.”  
*NPR/WESA FM*  
10 Aug 2015  
<http://bit.ly/1JPflog>

“Should we fear resistance from tenofvir / emtricitabine preexposure prophylaxis?”  
*Current Opinion in HIV & AIDS*  
Jan 2016  
<http://bit.ly/1SmTGPL>

### OPTIONS & POWER

“South Africa has excelled in treating HIV – prevention remains a disaster.”  
*The Conversation*  
30 Nov 2015  
<http://bit.ly/1QLbyUo>

“Planning for HIV preexposure prophylaxis introduction: lessons learned from contraception.”  
*Current Opinion in HIV & AIDS*  
Jan 2016  
<http://bit.ly/1PeSn53>

The new “Product Introduction Activities” web page on [PrEPWatch](#) highlights all five MPii projects and will be part of the “International Programs” section.



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