

HIV Prevention Ambassador Training

OPTIONS CONSORTIUM



Adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) are highly vulnerable to HIV in many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, but oral PrEP uptake and continuation have been lower than expected. The OPTIONS Consortium developed the **HIV Prevention Ambassador Training Package for Adolescent Girls and Young Women** to empower and support AGYW with the skills and information they need to become agents of change for HIV prevention, and specifically PrEP implementation and uptake, in their communities. This tool has been endorsed by PEPFAR in the 2020 Country Operational Plan Guidance. The training package is also being adapted for use with other PrEP priority populations, as well as for the dapivirine ring (pending positive opinion from the European Medicines Agency).

Global

441 downloads from PrEPWatch from July 2019 to May 2020 from **31** countries

3 countries (Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe) used the training package. In all countries, pre- and post-tests showed improvements in knowledge and attitudes.

Kenya

1 training conducted

3 subcounties engaged

30 ambassadors trained

After the training, ambassadors held PrEP talks at universities, organized HIV prevention walks on World AIDS Day, shared action plans and engaged in PrEP discussions with county and subcounty health officials, supported PrEP rollout to health facilities, and met with health facility staff to discuss youth-friendly service delivery.

"You know when we walk in our communities, they ask you for information, but deep down inside you know you know nothing. Now I feel confident knowing I actually have content."

— University peer educator

Zimbabwe

2 trainings conducted

2 districts engaged

37 ambassadors trained

After the training, ambassadors supported the development of the **GarawaPrEPa campaign** and participated in launch activities.

"When I give them the book and fliers to read, they actually come back to me and get PrEP."

— Mazowe ambassador

South Africa

5 trainings conducted

8 organizations engaged

107 ambassadors trained

After the training, ambassadors set up HIV prevention ambassador groups in their communities and trained an additional 30 peers. Ambassadors also participated in data-for-advocacy training and launched a social media campaign for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence on Facebook and WhatsApp.

<https://www.prepwatch.org/resource/ambassador-training-package/>
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