

PrEP Ring Consultations Kenya Detailed Summary

WHO-led consultation: March 2, 2022

IPM-led consultation: December 6, 2021

MOSAIC-led consultations: January 17 – February 4, 2022



KENYA WHO-LED CONSULTATION SUMMARY (MOH)**OVERALL REACTIONS**

- The challenge in introducing the ring will be the procurement of the product.
- LVCT Health has been engaging with potential clients to hear their views on the acceptability of the product, and findings show that women want an additional prevention choice.
- Women in the community are asking when they will be able to start using the ring.
- Kenya would like support in the next steps to scaling up the ring.
- There is interest in having implementation projects in counties with higher HIV incidence. This will help the MOH understand if women want the ring and accept it, and how to implement the product.

GUIDING QUESTION	SUMMARY
RING PLANS AND CONSIDERATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenya kept the ring in the country's HIV guidelines.
PERCEPTIONS OF THE RING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women want an additional HIV prevention option.
WITHDRAWAL AFFECT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Kenya, the HIV prevalence is higher than in the United States, with most new infections among women. Kenya has a need for the ring that the US does not.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MOH is asking what is the best next step with scaling up the ring.
PROCUREMENT/ FUNDING NEEDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LVCT Health is seeking funding for the ring. • Kenya included the ring in its COP 22 funding. • Procuring the ring is the challenge.

KENYA IPM-LED CONSULTATION SUMMARY (IPM, MOH, AND CIVIL SOCIETY)

GUIDING QUESTION	SUMMARY
OVERALL REACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The epidemic in US has slowed down, but not so in Kenya. Options like the ring are still very much needed.
RING PLANS & CONSIDERATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None discussed.
WITHDRAWAL AFFECT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The MOH expressed that Kenya could go ahead with the ring without US FDA approval.
PROCUREMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PEPFAR support will be important.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More information is needed on the reasons for withdrawal of the NDA.• Questions remain about PEPFAR support.
CIVIL SOCIETY ROLE & REACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong support for the ring must continue. The US has a different epidemic.• CS representatives will work with South African advocates to develop a statement.

KENYA MOSAIC-LED CONSULTATION SUMMARY (AGYW, YOUTH ADVOCATES, CSOs)**OVERALL REACTIONS**

- Civil society representatives expressed disappointment with IPM's withdrawal of the PrEP ring's NDA to the US FDA but are still excited about the ring.
- The PrEP ring is a good product for women who cannot adhere to oral PrEP, do not have access to oral PrEP, and/or need a discreet PrEP method.
- The PrEP ring will help reduce the stigma of PrEP that is associated with pill-taking and oral PrEP.
- Young advocates are excited about the ring and hope they will be fully engaged in future studies and demand creation.

GUIDING QUESTION	SUMMARY
RING PLANS & CONSIDERATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HIV epidemic in the US is different from Kenya's. Options like the ring are still very much needed in Kenya. • The Kenyan government should hit the ground running with messaging about the ring's benefits, efficacy, and safety.
PERCEPTIONS OF THE RING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ring gives women the power to protect themselves from HIV, especially among sex workers, young married women who are unable to negotiate for safer sex, and AGYW who experience IPV. • The ring is the only discreet PrEP product and is needed among AGYW and FSWs across Kenya.
WITHDRAWAL AFFECT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing partners are concerned with how the ring will be perceived in Kenya. If the ring will not be implemented for women in the US or the EU, how will having a product only for African women appear to users?
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The withdrawal of NDA for the ring could lead to misconceptions about its safety and efficacy, as in Kenya's experience with the rollout of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. • Implementation studies will be important for understanding the ring in the real world.
CIVIL SOCIETY ROLE & REACTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil society representatives proposed developing an advocacy agenda focused on pushing for re-opening the application, so women have an opportunity to access the ring. • It will be crucial for CSOs and advocates to encourage use of the ring once it is available in Kenya.

*While implementing partners expressed concern about *messaging* for the ring as a product only for African women, all stakeholders aligned around the need for the product.

Verbatims from Kenya



“As a country that aims to eradicate AIDS by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals, we should grab all the available HIV prevention methods. Without this, it will be a mere dream.” – CSO representative



“Epidemic in US has slowed down, but not so in Kenya. Options like ring still very much needed. Supportive.” – MOH representative