

AVAC COMMITMENT

Narrative:

Founded 26 years ago, AVAC is an international non-profit organization that has grown to become a leading voice in the global response to HIV/AIDS. Over time, AVAC has expanded its approach to include accelerating the development and introduction of a wide range of HIV prevention options as well as related areas including SRH, TB and COVID-19.



AVAC spearheads efforts to translate, advocate and catalyze action -- bridging science and community through communication; mobilizing for inclusive and impactful programs, products and policies; and cultivating and sustaining partnerships to spur advances in HIV prevention and SRH.

Integration of HIV and SRH, with women at the forefront of these efforts, is key to reducing unmet need for family planning especially among young women and to reducing HIV incidence. Making it easier for women and girls to access quality, comprehensive HIV/SRH services where and when they feel comfortable and removing multiple barriers in health systems that inhibit HIV and SRH integration is critical. Greater investment in the development of multipurpose prevention technologies (MPTs) is another important avenue to more effectively address women's multiple SRH needs with a single product. To fulfill this vision, we commit to:

- Building an African civil society movement centered on choice that utilizes lessons learned from the contraceptive field. AVAC and partners have created an informed, action-oriented global advocacy network pushing for the equitable development and introduction of women-controlled products. This includes supporting literacy and advocacy around the MPT research pipeline, starting with the advanced development of the DPP and a combined vaginal ring in the short-term, paving the way for accelerated introduction of new products that will benefit from multilayered service delivery, as well as future MPTs. AVAC and its partners will convene and participate in advisory mechanisms to ensure the development and delivery of products are user-centered and address the needs of women and girls. Through the Coalition to Accelerate and Support Prevention Research (CASPR) and Coalition to build Momentum, Power, Activism, Strategy & Solidarity (COMPASS) Africa projects, AVAC will work alongside SRH and youth advocates to advance SRH advocacy priorities in national policies and programs, including setting targets on integration to hold governments accountable to commitments.
- Supporting country-led efforts to advance integration of HIV prevention and SRH. To date, AVAC has collaborated with the Ministry of Health in Kenya and the Ministry of Health and Child Care and Pangaea Zimbabwe AIDS Trust (PZAT) in Zimbabwe to conduct country assessments of HIV/SRH integration and supported implementation of recommendations from the findings. By 2022, AVAC will support dissemination of findings from integration pilots in Kenya and Zimbabwe. Over the next five years, AVAC and partners across projects will support the delivery of oral PrEP, the dapivirine vaginal ring and other products within integrated settings to improve access for women. AVAC will convene global, regional and country HIV and SRH stakeholders to ensure learnings from the introduction of contraceptive methods are applied to new HIV prevention products, such as long-acting cabotegravir injectable (CAB-LA), and MPTs, including the DPP.

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- Leading introduction planning for the Dual Prevention Pill (DPP), a daily oral pill that simultaneously protects against HIV and unplanned pregnancy - the first MPT available since male and female condoms. AVAC serves as Secretariat of the DPP Consortium,, including product developers, NGOs and donors, working together to bring the DPP to market in three countries by 2024 if approved. Guided by a committee of both SRH and HIV experts, and in collaboration with project partners and country-level stakeholders, AVAC will lead the implementation of the Market Preparation and Introduction Strategy for the DPP and document and disseminate lessons learned to inform the introduction of future MPTs.
- Leveraging global platforms to collectively strengthen collaboration in support of comprehensive SRH. AVAC will co-convene sessions at international family planning and HIV/AIDS conferences to amplify progress on HIV/SRH integration and development of MPTs. AVAC and FP2030 will work together to ensure that SRH stakeholders are engaged in MPT introduction planning, and will conceptualize the next phase of an existing Community of Practice on SRH Integration to promote cross-country and cross-program learning. AVAC and FP2030 will maintain a Communications Working Group on hormonal contraception and HIV (HC-HIV) to coordinate communications and messaging around key SRH issues.

Outcomes:

- Expanded network and partnerships focused on SRH and youth, particularly at country level, in key AVAC projects.
- SRH and HIV stakeholders jointly convened at two global conferences per year, amplifying advocate and youth voices in particular, to further the conversation on integration and socialize progress on MPT development.
- If approved, DPP introduced in at least three countries with close collaboration across SRH and HIV stakeholders.
- Lessons learned from HIV and SRH integration disseminated particularly in the context of introduction of new HIV prevention products and “programming for choice”. ● Increased access to HIV prevention options in FP settings.