

HIV Prevention Tools: What does the Community Say?

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Presentation Outline

- What we did
- Objectives of meetings
- Community perspectives
- Aha moments : what we learnt
- Conclusion
- Acknowledgements



Stakeholder engagement in Uganda

What, when and with who?

- The MU-JHU team conducted 10 community engagement meetings from Jun–Aug 2016
 - ✓ We reached over 550 community members
 - ✓ Community: municipal officials, village health teams, community leaders (religious, youth)
- Key stakeholder meeting July 2016
 - ✓ Close partnership with our IPM/MRC sisters
 - ✓ Policymakers: MoH Minister and senior officials, Uganda AIDS Commission, regulatory bodies, advocates and other key stakeholders
- *Opportunistic engagement – Aug 2016*





of the meetings

- To obtain participant's expectations
- To share current HIV prevention landscape
- To share ASPIRE and RING study results
- To share purpose of HOPE and DREAM OLE trials & AHA
- **Receive feedback from community and inform our future actions**



Participant expectations



Participant expectations

Learn about new HIV prevention methods for adolescents

We know the ring prevents pregnancy now you are telling us HIV

How far with research in young people?

To get positive news from research

I expect reduction in HIV infections in women

What are we doing for the young people?

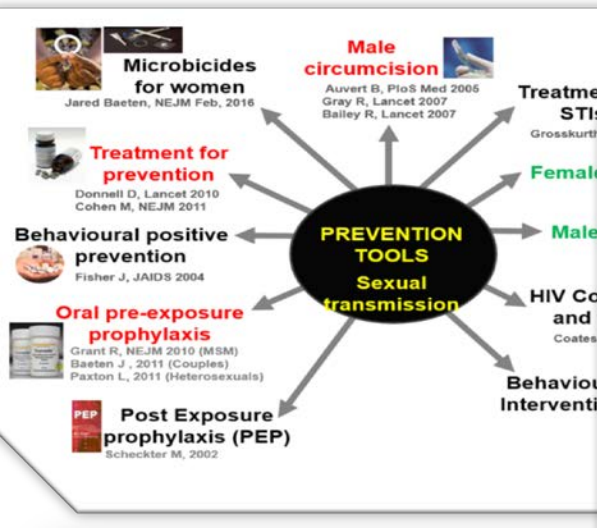
To learn new methods for HIV prevention

How do we support discordant couples?

Have we found a cure for HIV?



Snap shot of the presentations...



ASPIRE
A Study to Prevent Infection with a Ring for Extended Use

MTN-020/ASPIRE: A Phase III Trial of the Dapivirin Vaginal Ring for HIV Prevention in Women

MTN 032
Assessment of ASPIRE and HOPE Adherence
AHA

MTN-025/HOPE
HIV Open-Label Prevention Extension (HOPE/MTN-025)
Protocol Summary

MPTs in the Pipeline

- **“On-demand” products**
 - Gels
 - Barrier devices
- **Sustained-release products**
 - Vaginal rings
 - Long-acting injectables
- **Other options**
 - Implants, films, nanofibers, vaccines, non-hormonal contraceptives

What does the community say...

The Wows...



What does the community say...

The Wows...

The ring is the best thing that has happened to women



What does the community say...

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We like the fact that it is long acting... is it possible to have a 3 monthly ring?

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What does the community say...

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Do you have the ring now, we would like to go back with it?

What does the community say...

The Wows...

We like the fact that it is long acting... is it possible to have a 3 monthly ring?

The ring is the best thing that has happened to women



If the ring can prevent HIV & pregnancy, we will like it even more especially the young women

Do you have the ring now, we would like to go back with it?

What does the community say...

The Woes...

Side effects:
My Health

Side effects:
Health for my
baby

Practicalities of
use and HIV
protection

Access after
OLE studies



What does the community say...

The Woes...



Side effects: My health

- ✓ Does the ring affect libido?
- ✓ Is there any effect at the spot where ring sits?
- ✓ Won't the ring cause cancer?
- ✓ Won't the ring cause infertility?
- ✓ Are there any safety concerns if one uses the ring beyond 28 days?

Side effects:
Health for my
baby

after
studies

protection

What does the community say...



The Woes...

Side effects: M

- ✓ Does the ri
- ✓ Is there an
- where ring si
- ✓ Won't the ri
- ✓ Won't th

protection

Side effects:

Health for my baby

- ✓ Are there any effects to the unborn baby if a woman continues to use ring during pregnancy ?

What does the community say...

The Woes...

Practicalities of use and HIV protection

- ✓ Can the ring be used during menses?
- ✓ Can the ring come out during sex?
- ✓ In case of rape with ring in, should PEP be used?
- ✓ Can the ring protect from other ways of HIV acquisition? (oral, anal sex...)
- ✓ Is HIV drug resistance a concern?

Side effects:
...y



What does the community say...

The Wees

Access after OLE studies

- ✓ We also need choices including oral PrEP
- ✓ When will it be available ?
- ✓ How will it be distributed, like condoms?
- ✓ What's the cost?



What men think about the ring...

I would want my woman to use it because if she is protected then I will also benefit

Women need the ring

Won't the ring lead to promiscuity in women?

Why always women, when men?

Very good method, but would women want to use it?

What are the side effects to men?

Is there a ring for us?
We are tired of condoms!!
Is there a long acting method for us?



How can men support ring use in women?

What we heard:

- ✓ Help men appreciate the ring through sensitization
- ✓ Religious and cultural sensitivities do exist and they do need to be addressed appropriately
- ✓ Involve men +++ during roll out of the ring
- ✓ Show how men benefit from their partners using the ring



What do policy makers and other stakeholders say...

- In support of new HIV prevention tools +++
 - Saw the dire need for female controlled prevention
 - Similar themes to those from community consultations
- Appreciated the Dapivirine ring results
 - Including chance to discuss their complexity (esp. < 21)
- MoH shared that oral PrEP guidelines underway
 - Aim to launch oral PrEP in Dec 2016
- NDA/IRBs pledges
 - Fast-track review process for HOPE and DREAM protocols



Opportunistic engagement : Prominent Visitors... in Aug 2016



Opportunistic engagement : Visit by Dr Francis Collins

On site at MU-JHU:

The NIH Director – **Dr. Francis Collins** shared that hearing from study participants “was the highlight of his trip” and he was “deeply moved by these inspiring young women” sharing their stories and passion.



Dissemination beyond borders

Sharing DPV VR results from a participant's perspective....



*“When the woman is safe, the world is safe”
Aspire Participant*

Aha moments - What we learnt

- Community & stakeholder meetings were successful
 - Beneficial and eye opening +++
 - Feasible to engage key stakeholders
 - Great partnership with IPM/MRC colleagues
- The ring results were embraced, however
 - Results among young women are concerning and more needs to be done for youth
 - Concerns, myths and misconceptions require ongoing multi-faceted efforts to address (at all levels)



Aha moments - What we learnt

- Looking beyond HOPE and DREAM :
 - Urgency to have access to oral PrEP
 - We need to start thinking ahead about integrating the ring in the prevention toolbox (cost/delivery model etc)
 - Interest in other HIV prevention methods
 - especially MPTs and long acting methods for men



Conclusion

The journey of HIV prevention tools **begins in the community** and **ends in the community**

Obtaining continued community feedback from potential end users about research products informs better research and future **successful product uptake**



There's need to **fast track** successful results and product **licensure** towards large scale implementation

Early and ongoing engagement with senior **policy makers** and **decision makers** is also essential



The HOPE and the DREAM shared by our ambassador (ASPIRE participant)

Uganda MOH Policy integrating the Ring as part of combination prevention by 2019



Available to all women who choose it as their HIV prevention method.



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Acknowledgements

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- MUJHU site leadership

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