

Progress on biomedical HIV prevention interventions for young women in Southern Africa

Giving women choice and options

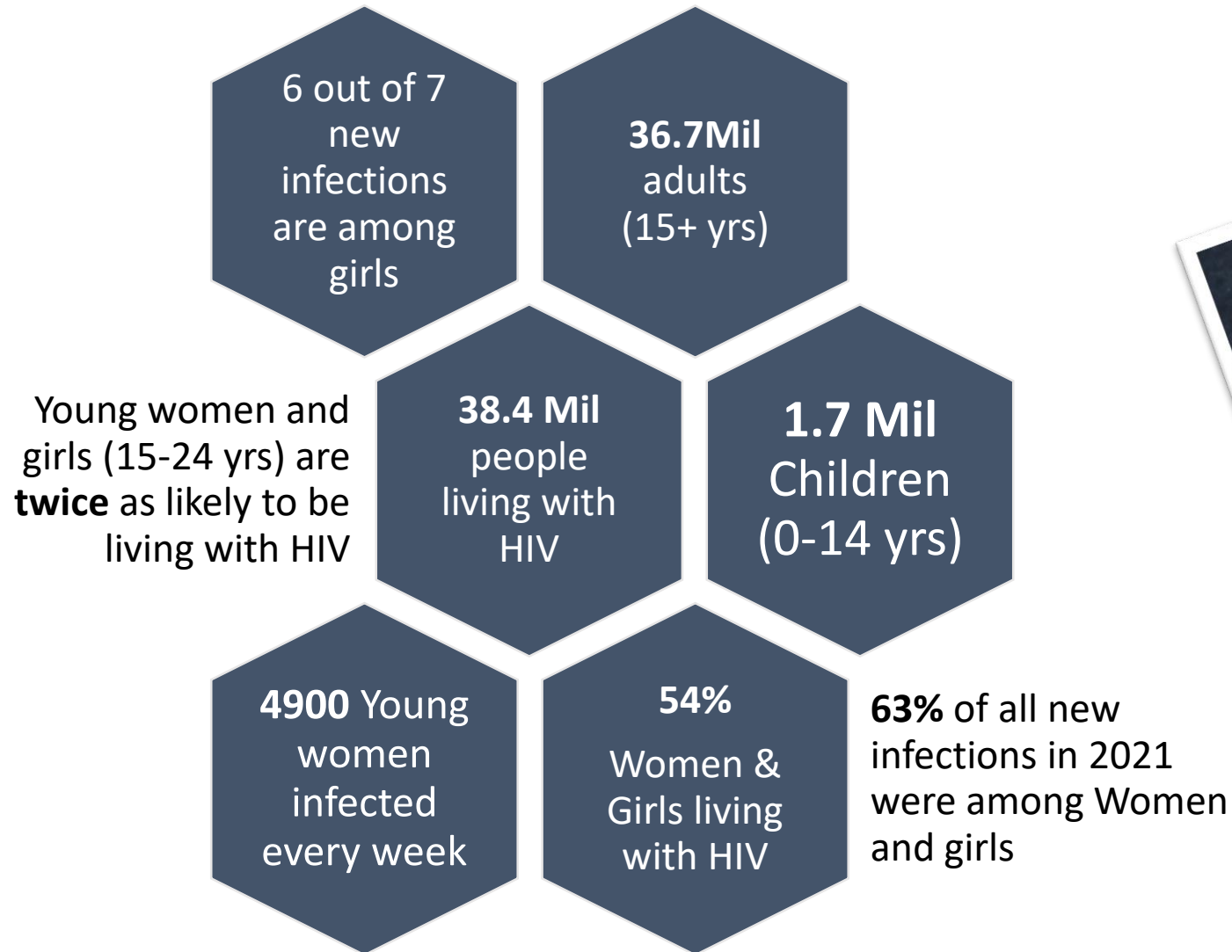
Presenter: Cleopatra Makura

Program officer

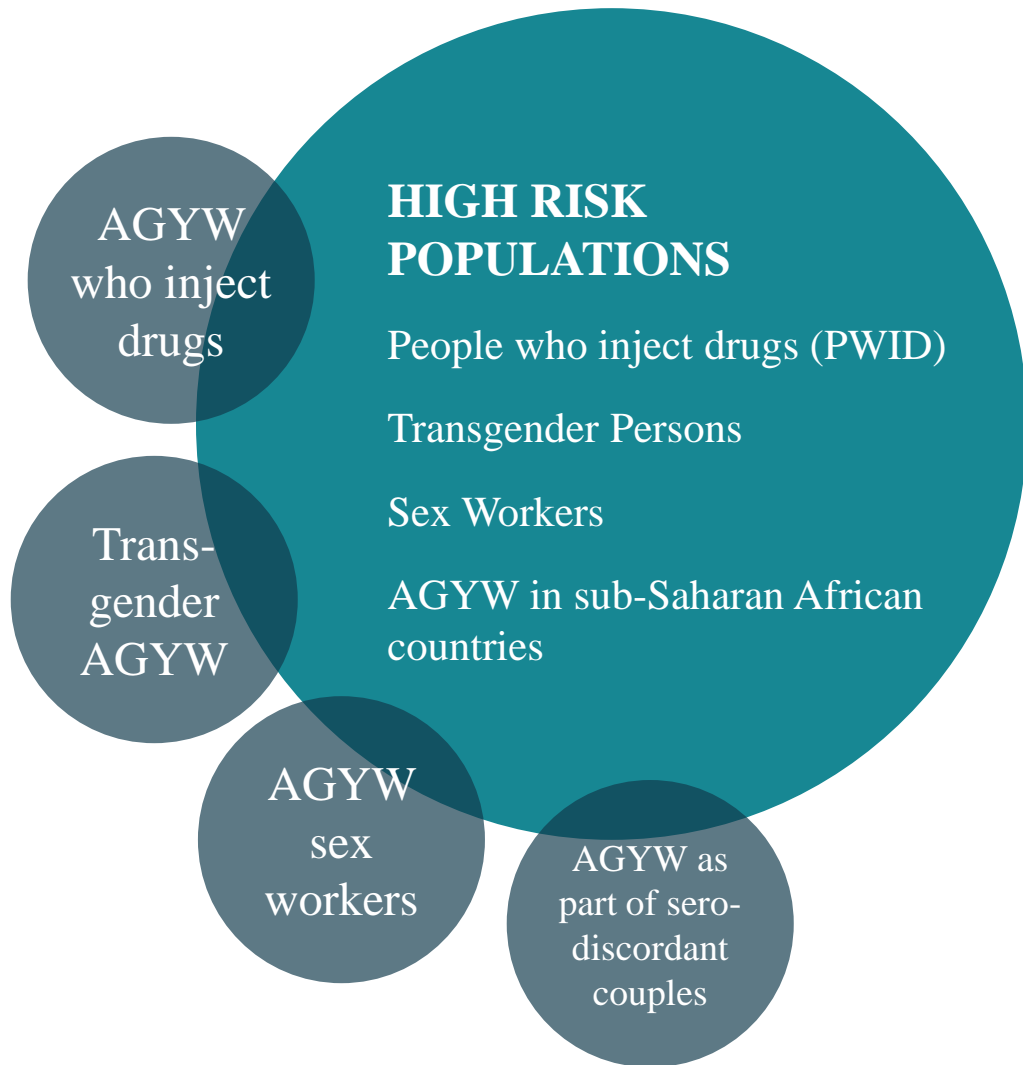
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HIV infections among AGYW in Sub-Saharan Africa



AGYW intersections with high-risk populations



AGYW may also be...

- Transgender Persons
- Multiple sexual partners
- People who have an STI
- Have partners who are HIV positive or have unknown HIV status
- Engaged in sex work

“AGYW are found throughout the high-risk groups – adding additional layers of vulnerability”

Factors to Consider

Risk Factors

- Poverty
- Peer pressure
- Sexual coercion
- Transactional sex
- Age-disparate relationships
- Barriers to using health services

Factors
contributing to
vulnerability

Protective factors

- Youth-friendly services
- Access to HIV prevention options





Challenges and barriers to HIV prevention access for Young Women

- Poor knowledge of available HIV prevention options
- Low health-seeking behaviors and lack of HIV prevention-related information by male partners
- Infrequent and less condom use
- Fear of intimate partner violence
- Societal beliefs that the use of HIV prevention among married young women reflects promiscuity and lack of partner trust



Issues relating to access

- Inconvenient clinic opening times
- Clinic location, distance from home and availability, and the need for money for transport
- Sitting in waiting rooms with adults, some of whom may know them
- The attitude of the staff – receptionists, clerks, and nurses – who may be rude and judgmental
- Nurses who may not give enough information or clarity; lack of confidentiality, privacy, and sufficient time
- The physical environment which looks intimidating, clinical, and unattractive
- Lack of accessible information developed to address the concerns, language, and level of young people, which is easy to read and relevant to their lives



Issues related to the quality of care

- Barriers relating to the quality of care may discourage youth from using the clinic or completing treatment, e.g., drug stock-outs, walking through a waiting room with a urine sample; etc.
- Anxiety about confidentiality and privacy
- Quality healthcare includes characteristics such as accessibility, affordability, acceptability, competency, timeliness, attentiveness, caring, responsiveness, accountability, accuracy, reliability, comprehensiveness, and equity.

The Role Of Prep As Part Of Combination HIV Prevention

Combination HIV Prevention recognizes that:

- Different people have different HIV prevention needs
- For a given individual, prevention needs can change over time.
- **No single prevention** intervention can **fully address** all prevention needs.

To achieve a sustained reduction in new infection, a combination of structural, behavioral, and biomedical interventions are used.

- Combining approaches result in synergies with greater impact than single interventions alone.
- Antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) are now used as additional tools in combination prevention.

“PrEP should be offered in combination with condoms, STI screening/ treatment, HIV testing, VMMC (for male clients) and contraceptives.”



Combination prevention

Structural

- Policies
- Laws
- Regulatory environment
- Cash transfer

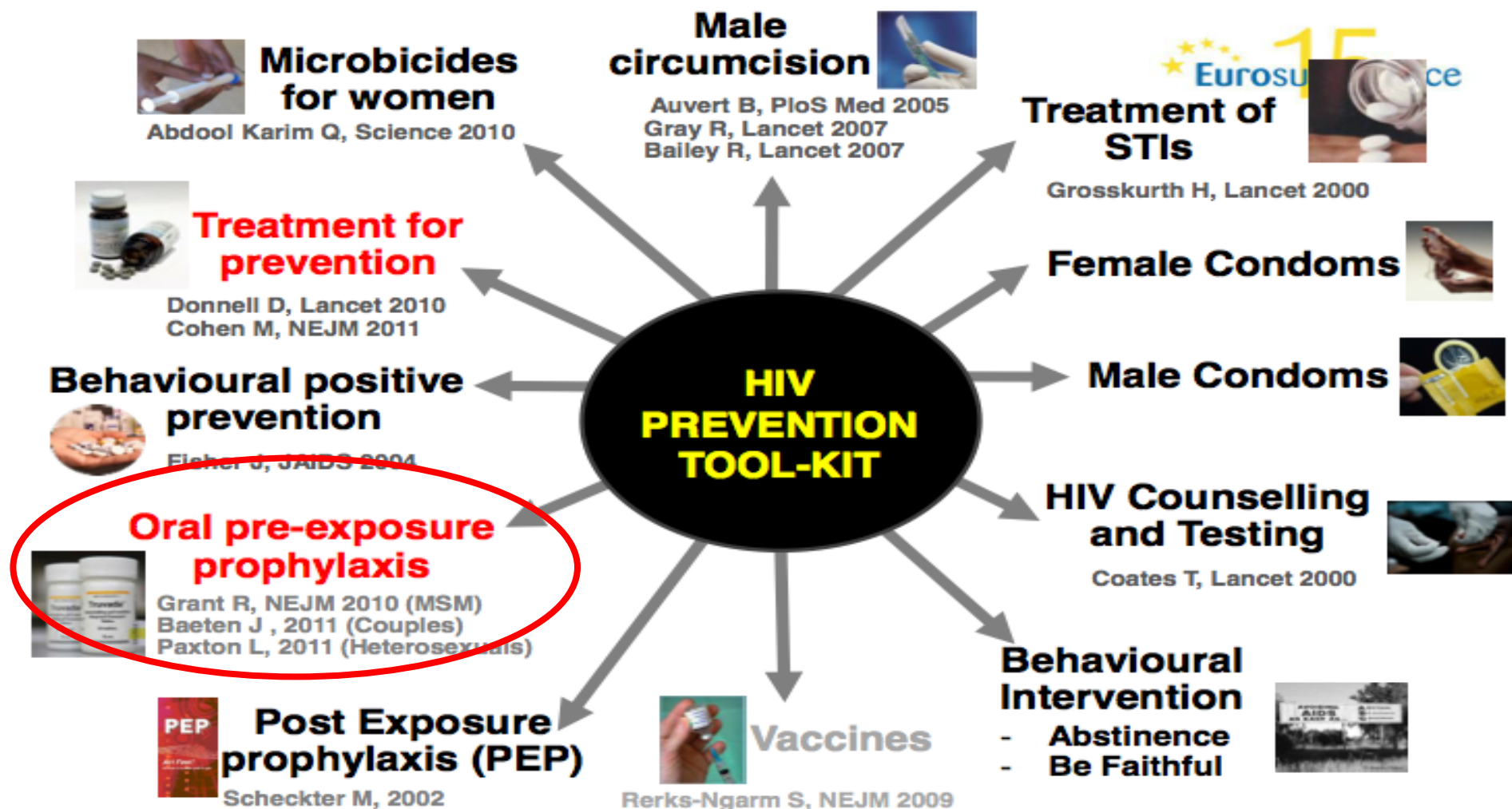
Behavioral

- Education
- Counselling
- Stigma reduction
- Harm reduction
- Adherence interventions

Biomedical

- HTS
- Condoms
- VMMC
- PMTCT
- STI treatment
- ART
- PrEP
- PEP

PrEP As Part Of The Combination Prevention Package



Note: PMTCT, Screening transfusions, Harm reduction, Universal precautions, etc. have not been included – this is focused on reducing sexual transmission

What is currently available in Southern Africa?



Condoms



Oral PrEP



Counselling



**Post-exposure
prophylaxis**



**Healthy
lifestyles**



**Treatment
for STIs**

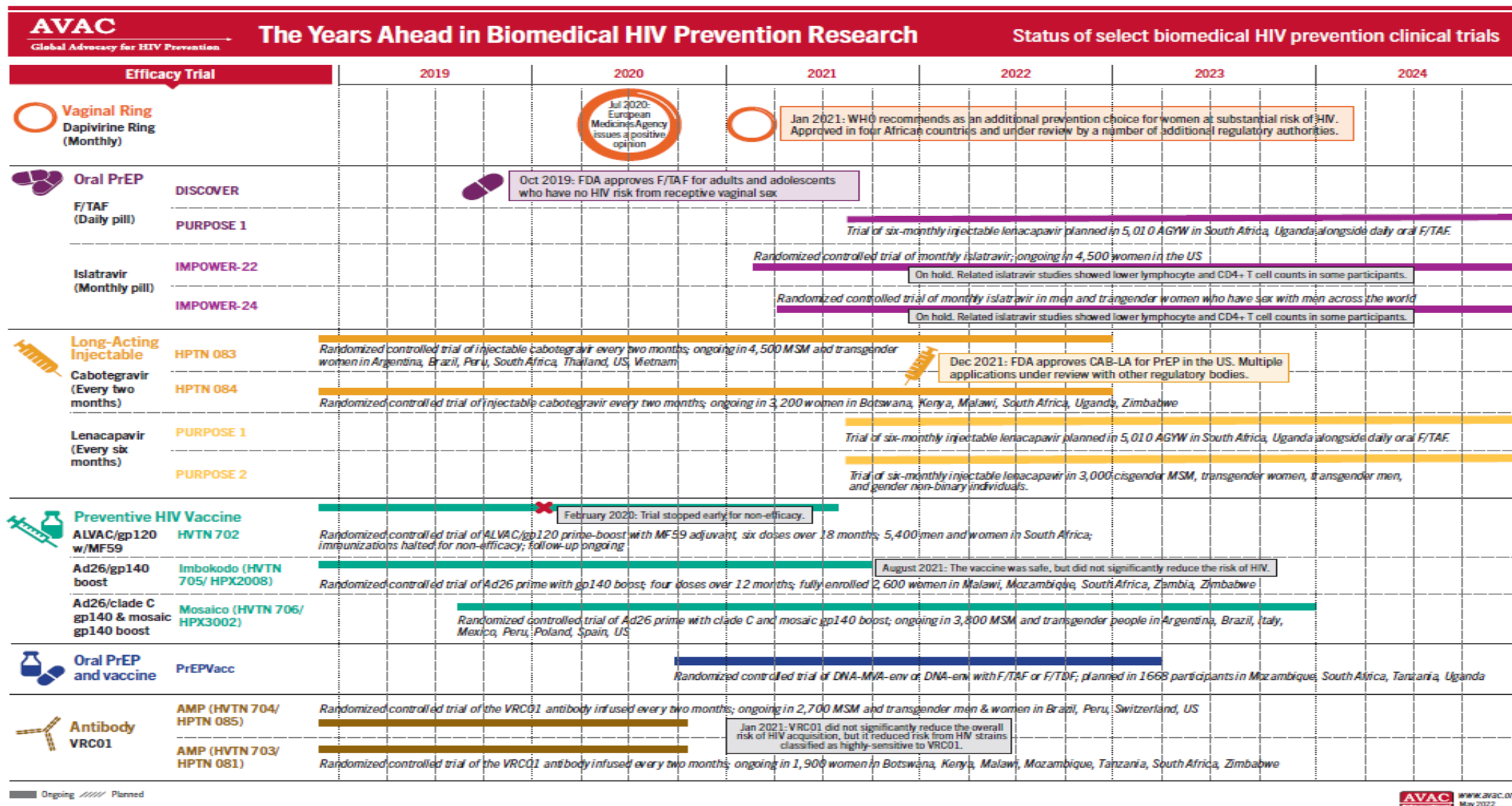


**Male Medical
circumcision**

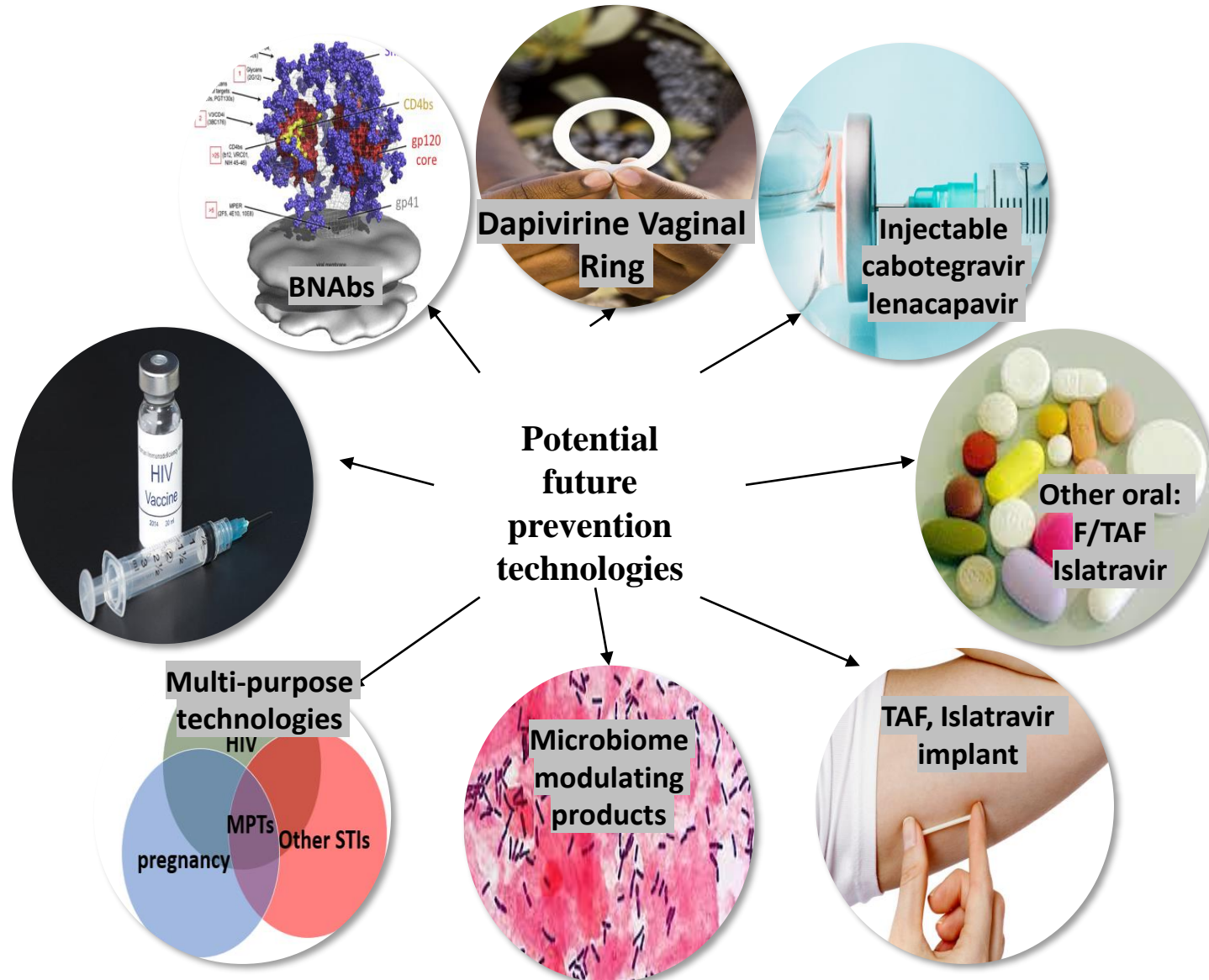


**ART for partners
living with HIV**

What is in the pipeline?



What is in the pipeline?



Let us talk about our lived realities

What has been your
experiences in accessing HIV
prevention services as a
young woman?



**What should be done to
bring the HIV prevention
products to young
women?**





Trial participants explaining why the ring works for them and their need for future access to this HIV prevention method.

- <https://youtu.be/WBThQVN6OWw-> Zimbabwe



Trial participants explaining why the ring works for them and their need for future access to this HIV prevention method.

- https://youtu.be/tCIQm5_EljY- South Africa



Acknowledgements

- Coalition to Accelerate and Support HIV Prevention Research (CASPR)
- AVAC
- Ministry of Health and Child Care in Zimbabwe
- Pangaea Zimbabwe AIDS Trust
- HIV prevention champions from seven tertiary institutions in Zimbabwe

A scenic landscape featuring a calm body of water in the foreground. The middle ground is filled with a dense line of trees, including several prominent weeping willows with golden-brown foliage. The background shows a distant shoreline with more trees and a small building. The sky is filled with dramatic, layered clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and grey, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. A flock of birds is visible in flight on the right side of the image.

Thank you