

The experience of HIV-positive women in advocacy for existing HIV prevention tools in Kenya

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How HIV-positive women are involved

- Social mobilization and capacity building of HIV positive women to demand and use existing tools, eg. PMTCT, condoms
- Advocacy to influence policy and practice on the availability, affordability and accessibility of existing tools, eg. With NASCOP, NACC
- CORPS: Monitoring access to information and services on existing tools and advising on referrals and linkages

Successes

- Emergence of policies friendly to HIV-positive women- new PwP and PMTCT guidelines
- More HIV positive women demanding for existing HIV prevention tools, including female condom
- Empowered HIV-positive women negotiating condom use in their relationships
- Upscale in voluntary medical male circumcision

Challenges

- Inadequate supply of both male and female condoms
- Limited number of community advocates to cascade information about HIV prevention tools to grassroot communities
- Socio-cultural issues on prevention commodities, eg. breastfeeding
- Negative attitude of health care providers- especially when HIV-positive women seek prevention commodities

Next steps

- Advocating for increased access to treatment to improve quality of life and prolong life of women living with HIV
- Community sensitisation for the acceptance of HIV positive mothers
- Recognition for the need to expand HIV prevention strategies to include PwP guidelines, KNASP III
- Resource mobilisation for the implementation of Kenyan's HIV treatment and prevention strategies
- Broadened advocacy agenda by NEPHAK and its partners to incorporate access to existing tools and advocacy for microbicides, vaccines and other NPTs