

Global Leaders Convene to Accelerate Access to Long-Acting HIV Prevention Technologies Amidst Funding Cuts

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The global response to HIV has reached a crucial juncture. Groundbreaking scientific advances, including the development of long-acting HIV prevention technologies like lenacapavir and cabotegravir, offer a transformative opportunity to curb the epidemic.

Long-acting injectables, which were hailed by Science magazine as one of the major breakthroughs in science in 2024, have shown exceptional efficacy, with lenacapavir demonstrating nearly 100% protection against HIV infection.

Despite these unprecedented advancements, the HIV response faces a dire threat from severe funding cuts. With more than 1.3 million new HIV infections annually, three times the target for 2025, financial constraints and a lack of sustained political will threaten to undo decades of progress. Global health experts warn that without urgent action to ensure continued investment, the ability to scale these life-saving technologies will be jeopardized, leaving millions at risk.

On the eve of the 78 World Health Assembly, global health leaders, government ministers, pharmaceutical companies, and civil society representatives gathered at UNAIDS headquarters in Geneva for the High-Level Multisectoral Leadership Dialogue on HIV Prevention. This high-level dialogue, organized by the Global HIV Prevention Coalition and co-hosted by UNAIDS in collaboration with UNFPA, WHO, and UNDP, the Federal Republic of Brazil, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, focused on accelerating access to long-acting HIV prevention technologies and advancing sustainable prevention systems.

Referring to the current funding crisis, Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of UNAIDS, warned that “If we continue down this path, we could see an additional 6 million HIV infections and 4 million AIDS-related deaths by 2029. Put simply, we will lose control of the AIDS pandemic. But we have an opportunity today. We have new, long-acting HIV prevention tools that could fundamentally reshape the HIV response, putting us back on the right path.”

Global leaders presented successful national models from Africa, Asia and Latin America, illustrating how innovative prevention strategies are being implemented despite financial challenges. Mariangela Simao, representing Brazil, said “PrEP in Brazil is now a reality. We initially set a target of reaching 50,000 people with PrEP by 2025, but we’ve already surpassed that milestone, with 122,000 people currently using it. Our next goal is to reach 300,000 users by next year. Data shows that HIV incidence is declining in cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants where PrEP coverage is higher.”

Global HIV Prevention Coalition co-chair and CEO of AVAC, Mitchell Warren called for choice in HIV prevention.

“Condoms work well for some people and situations. Oral PrEP is safe and effective for those who can adhere to daily pill taking. The monthly dapivirine vaginal ring is a preferred option for some women, as is voluntary medical male circumcision for many men, while harm reduction is highly effective for people who inject drugs. Now, long-acting injectables offer an additional option for the many people who struggle to protect themselves from HIV and want more convenient and discreet prevention options.”

Key panel discussions focused on the cost of inaction, the significance of equity in access, and the role of long-acting prevention in the future HIV prevention toolkit.

The event underscored the urgent need for a multisectoral approach to overcoming structural barriers to prevention, including regulatory, financial, and societal challenges. The discussions highlighted that global solidarity and sustained political will are essential to closing the prevention gap and achieving the UNAIDS 2030 targets of fewer than 200 000 new HIV infections annually.

Ambassador Paul Bekkers, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the UN, closed the dialogue with a powerful call to action: “Not acting now means leaving a larger HIV epidemic to the next generation. Or we can put the world on course to achieve HIV epidemic control and eventually the end of AIDS as a threat to public health. As members of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition, we can achieve this together.”

As part of this pivotal moment, UNAIDS and the Global HIV Prevention Coalition launched a new brochure titled [An HIV breakthrough in a moment of crisis: How can we seize this historic opportunity?](#)

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