



Looking for Answers: The REACH Study

Nelly Mugo, MBChB, MPH

Kenya Medical Research Institute

Kenneth Ngunjiri, PhD

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology

**Meeting the HIV Prevention Needs of
Adolescent Girls and Young Women**

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Why REACH?

... Because adolescent girls and young women both need and deserve to be protected against HIV



Reversing the Epidemic in Africa with Choices in HIV Prevention

Why REACH?

“Available” Now



Oral PrEP

Available 2019-20?



Vaginal ring

Results 2022?



Injectable

Results 2021?



Vaccine

We know PrEP and the ring can protect against HIV

We need to see that PrEP and the ring can work for and be made available to adolescent girls and young women... How?

- By understanding how to help young women use these better
- By collecting more safety information on PrEP and the ring so that drug regulatory authorities can consider expanding approval for girls under 18

REACH at a Glance



- Designed to answer these and other questions:
 - Are PrEP and the ring safe and acceptable in girls and young women?
 - Are they willing to use these products?
 - Which one do they prefer?
- Will enroll 300 girls and young women at 5 trial sites in **Kenya**, Uganda, South Africa and Zimbabwe
 - 100 girls ages 16-17
 - 200 young women ages 18-21



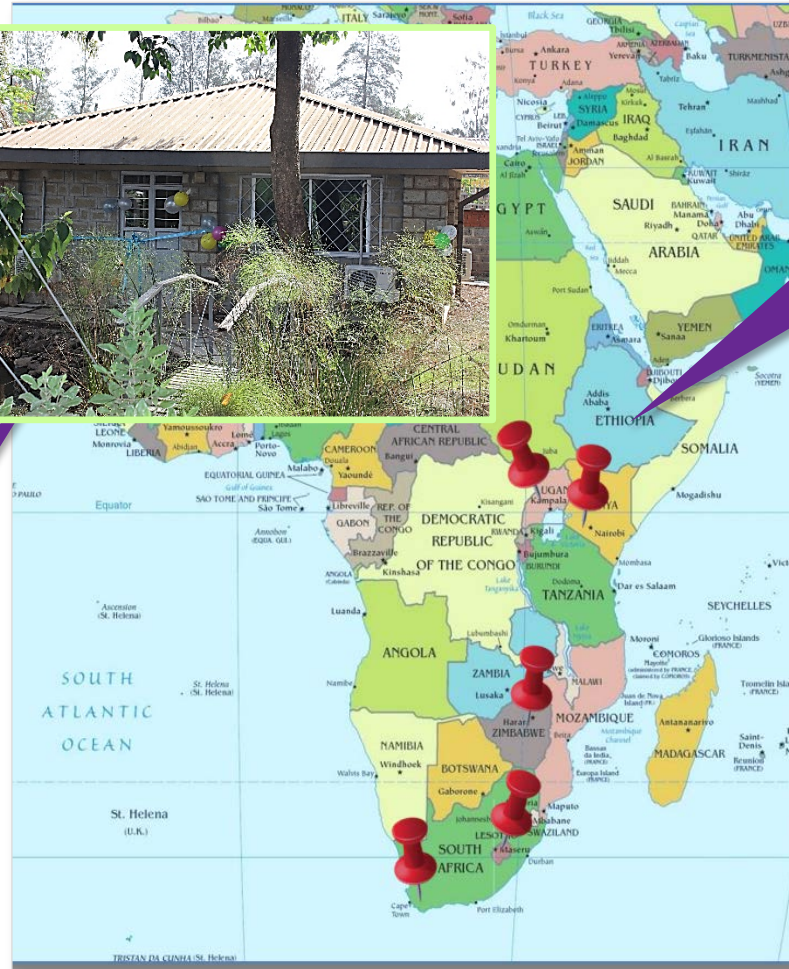
REACH in Kenya



REACH



REACH will be conducted at a brand new clinic at KEMRI



Try each, then choose

6 months
once a month



6 months
once a day



→ 6 months



or



→ 6 months



once a day
6 months



once a month
6 months

Product Use Support and Counseling



- Counseling is provided at each monthly visit
- Can also choose from a “menu” of adherence support
- Tests showing product use will be shared in non-judgemental way
 - To help bring about open discussion regarding challenges and difficulties



Some thoughts about...

REACH



- Must have had sex, and for those under age 18, must have a parent's permission to enroll
 - Some girls may not be able to admit they are having sex
- Be willing to try each product and to use them as best they can
 - And be open and honest if unable to do so
- Be willing to come to the study clinic every month for 18 months for medical tests and exams
- Be on effective contraception for at least 2 months before and throughout the study



Summary

- REACH is a small but important study...
 - That will answer key questions about adherence and safety of PrEP and the ring in young women, including under age 18
- With PrEP being made available and the possibility that the ring will be approved...
 - We want to ensure these products can work for and be made available to **all girls and young women – regardless of age**
- Ultimately, REACH is about empowering young women...
 - By putting HIV prevention in their hands, and ensuring they have different options from which to choose

Questions and Discussion

