

Raising awareness for microbicides and Multipurpose Prevention Technologies in Kenya



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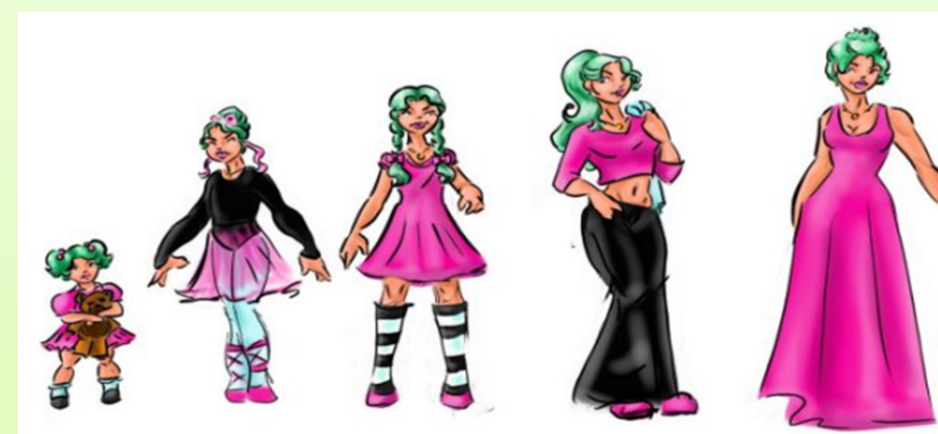


Introduction:

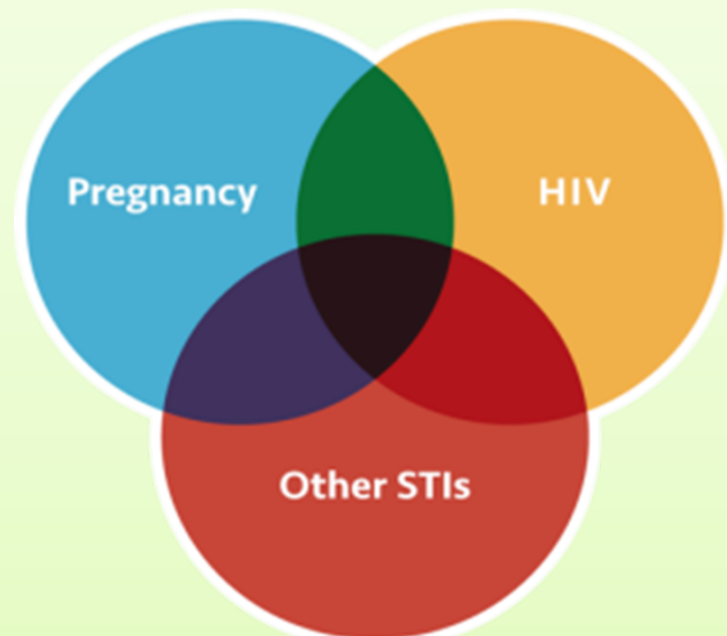
- The general HIV prevalence in Kenya is 5.6 %; (among women aged 15-64 is 6.9% and 4.4% in men)
- Women are disproportionately affected by HIV due to physiological/biological and socio-cultural reasons
- Have inadequate access to modern contraceptives especially in areas with high rates of HIV
- Available dual prevention products: Male & Female Condom not realistic for most women
- New prevention technologies that simultaneously address multiple reproductive health risks: MPTs and Microbicides

MPTs: A single product, configured for at least two SRH prevention indications:

- Contraception
- Protection against HIV & other STIs



Women's Health Matters!



Adapted from CAMI

Microbicides: Microbicides are products that can be applied to the vaginal or rectal mucosa with the intent of preventing or significantly reducing the risk of acquiring STIs including HIV



Objectives

- Conducting desk review on microbicide acceptability studies conducted in Kenya
- Increasing civil society involvement in research of HIV prevention choices for women in Kenya
- Sensitizing regulators on microbicides and MPTs in Kenya

Target Groups

The target groups engaged included:

1. Community members;
2. Sex workers and young women;
3. Policy makers
4. Discordant couples
5. Research regulators

The groups were engaged through discussion forums

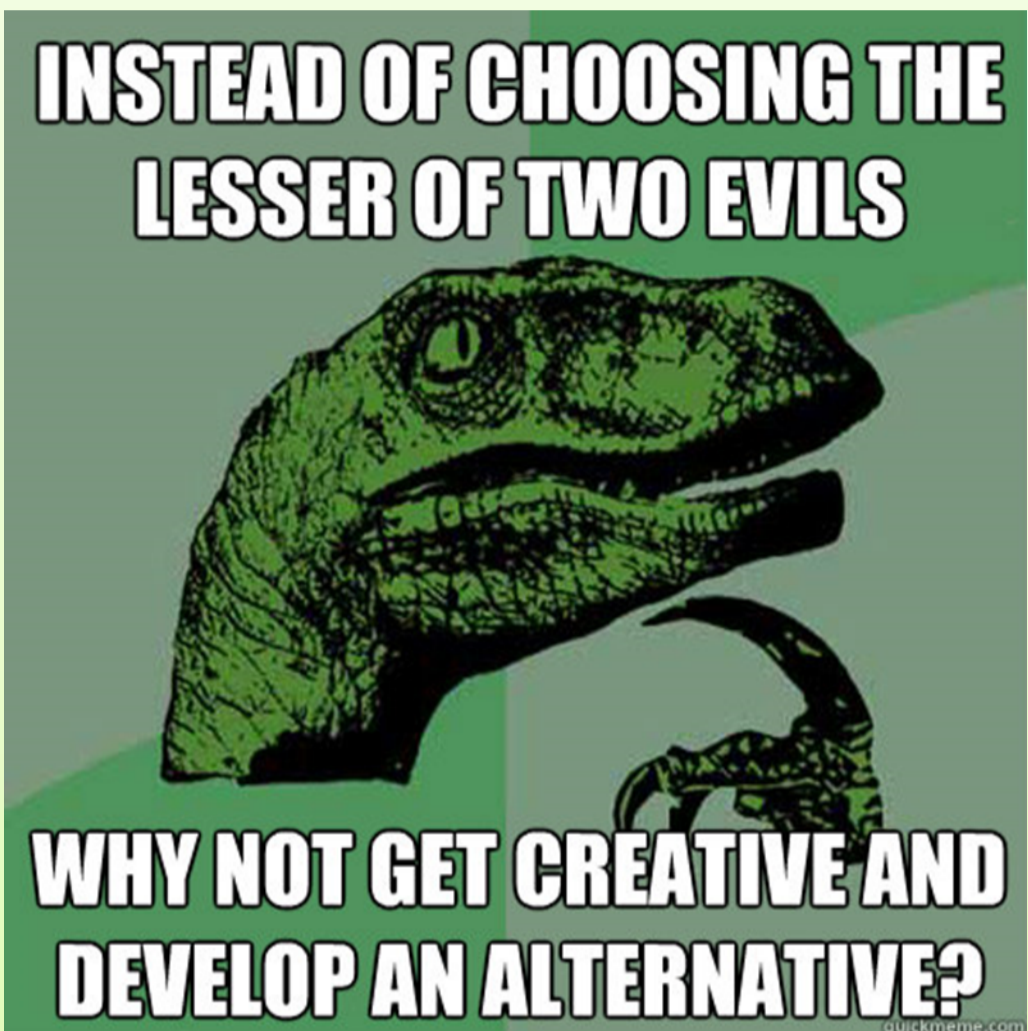
Key accomplishments

1. Increased knowledge on MPTs among stake holders
2. Engaging with policy makers at county level on HIV prevention among women
3. Identified influential champion to move forward the microbicide and MPT agenda at county level. Continued mentorship is still ongoing
4. Participated in the development of KASF: PrEP and Microbicides included as intervention for HIV prevention among women and adolescents

Lessons Learned

1. The need to introduce new products to stakeholders as an additional option to what already exists and not as a stand-alone
2. Developing different communication strategies and messages for different target audiences
3. Advocacy is a process; there is need for continued engagement with stakeholder
4. Be prepared to be out of your comfort zone, be willing to learn

Women do not want to chose the lesser evil. We want alternatives!



Women want Microbicides and MPTs

Nairobi County

“This research on microbicides and MPTs should be completed soon. If I had a gel I would use it only when it is needed. Or I could wear a ring for several days without worrying about getting infected with HIV” – *woman in a discordant relationship*

Homabay County:

“...MPTs would be the solution for my friend’s daughter and other young girls. She could use such a product to prevent pregnancy and at the same time prevent HIV infection” - *Young woman referring to her friend’s daughter who is still in school and already has two children*

Advocacy Tips:

1. It helps getting introduced to target audience especially policy makers, if possible by someone influential
2. The impact of your advocacy engagement may not always be visible immediately, It takes a while.
3. Consult, former Fellows are a walking resource centre!
4. Have fun!