

Organizational Capability Statement



Founded in 1995 to spur the development of preventive HIV vaccines, today AVAC is a leading and widely respected voice in the global response to HIV/AIDS. AVAC has established trusted, influential, and durable relationships with a wide spectrum of stakeholders—from policy makers to civil society advocates, industry to academics, product developers to program implementers, and beyond. AVAC has expanded its portfolio to include a wide range of HIV prevention options as well as related research areas, including SRHR, TB and COVID-19. AVAC’s approach continues to underscore the need for a comprehensive, integrated and sustained agenda to refine the pathway from product development to end user and, ultimately, to help end the epidemic.



AVAC partners gather in New York, October 2023

AVAC is an indispensable source of information and plays a vital role in translating complex science to advocates, communities, the media and decision-makers. And in parallel, AVAC elevates and amplifies community perspectives among scientists, industry leaders, policy makers and the media to ensure that innovative, user-centered prevention options are developed ethically and delivered expeditiously and equitably.

AVAC’s greatest strengths and assets lie in:

- Being a trusted and credible convener with a unique ability to forge connections between scientists, civil society, industry, communities, academics and policy makers alike.
- Building and supporting civil society coalitions to advocate for highly effective HIV prevention, particularly in African countries at the center of the epidemic.
- Accelerating the development, global delivery, equitable access and uptake of innovative products for HIV prevention among the populations and communities that need them most.
- Leveraging more than 25 years of expertise in HIV advocacy, research engagement and evidence translation to advance integrated solutions to other related issues focused on advancing global health equity, including sexual and reproductive health rights, STIs, tuberculosis, and pandemic preparedness and response.
- Responding rapidly to developments in HIV prevention and the broader global health landscape to promote global health equity and security.

AVAC’s Core Pillars:



Translate: Bridging science and community through communication. In the world of HIV and global health equity writ large, there is often a gap between science and product development and community perspectives and voices. Bridging “language” and communication among diverse stakeholder groups is essential to ensure that user needs inform research, product development and delivery systems, and that research findings and emerging evidence are shared with communities, advocates and implementers to enable effective use.



Advocate: Mobilizing for inclusive and impactful programs, products and policies. We advocate for a policy environment that supports and adequately finances equitable access to HIV prevention—research, services, interventions and products with communities at the center. AVAC supports and fortifies a robust network of bold and informed advocates and coalitions to advance inclusive, effective, people-centered policies and programs.



Catalyze: Cultivating and sustaining partnerships to spur advances in HIV prevention and nimbly apply those to emerging health needs and issues. Effective coordination and balanced partnerships are key to creating a policy environment, accelerating ethical product development and advocating for equitable access to emerging health solutions. We help to shape, uplift and leverage an ecosystem of diverse and committed partners and coalitions that collectively advance HIV prevention and global health equity.

AVAC's three strategic pillars work together to influence the life cycle of biomedical research from early-stage studies to large-scale rollout and eventual impact with a strong track record of success. This model is built on community-owned, rights-based, research-literate strategies implemented by a global network of informed and engaged health advocates. AVAC is committed to advocacy for people-centered research and works to remove biomedical, behavioral and structural barriers to the development, delivery and uptake of HIV treatment and prevention tools.

AVAC's partner network is at the forefront of global health advocacy

AVAC partners with a global movement of advocates whose effective advocacy strategies, supported by the latest evidence, bring community voices, sustained attention and greater accountability to science, policy, funding, media, health services and regulatory processes. This network of partners and their strategic advocacy ensure that prevention is on national and global agendas. AVAC translates clinical research and complex science into clear, accurate, actionable information and materials that can be used to strengthen evidence-based advocacy.

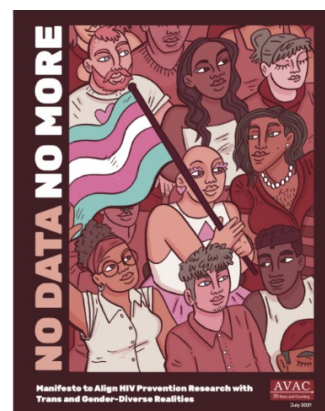
- The Coalition to Accelerate & Support Prevention Research (CASPR), designed by AVAC in collaboration with key partners and supported by USAID, is a set of partnerships and activities focused on accelerating biomedical HIV prevention research. The CASPR coalition is working together to change how HIV prevention is pursued and delivered. It leverages its expertise to contribute to a larger vision of integration—across HIV prevention, treatment, tuberculosis (TB), sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and global health R&D.
- The Coalition to build Momentum, Power, Activism, Strategy & Solidarity (COMPASS) Africa is a global civil society coalition that is changing the HIV response through high-impact advocacy campaigns led by civil society organizations representing communities most impacted by HIV. COMPASS uses data-informed, transnational activism to increase civil society's impact on HIV-related policies, budgets, programs and participatory engagement.
- The AVAC Advocacy Fellows Program fosters a network of deeply informed, skilled and confident advocates to strengthen and expand advocacy for HIV prevention locally, regionally and globally. It helps them hone their skills and strengthens their capacity to shape the agenda for HIV prevention research and influence both policy and programs. Since 2009, AVAC has provided technical and financial assistance to nearly 100 global advocates who have gone on to change policy, champion community perspectives, help strengthen healthcare systems, demystify HIV prevention research and insist on fairness and transparency locally, regionally and globally.



AVAC ensures that communities are at the center of global health responses

Communities' support for prevention must be earned. AVAC helps build trust among researchers, funders and communities to speed the ethical development and delivery of new prevention options.

- The [Good Participatory Practice \(GPP\)](#) Guidelines, developed by AVAC and UNAIDS and adapted for use beyond HIV, provide trial funders, sponsors and implementers with systematic guidance on how to effectively engage with all stakeholders in the design and conduct of biomedical research. GPP is a linchpin to the ethical conduct of clinical trials, global health equity and pandemic preparedness.
- AVAC's Prevention Market Manager project explored new strategies for understanding the needs of adolescent girls and young women through an approach known as [Human-Centered Design](#). AVAC works with partners in South Africa on a research project called Breaking the Cycle of Transmission, which involves extensive discussions with hundreds of girls and young women.
- AVAC helped found the Key Population-Transnational Collaboration (KP-TNC), a community of practice that strengthens KP-led and -focused advocacy through peer support and regional solidarity. AVAC provides advocacy trainings along with mentorship for developing strategic plans and establishing operational and governance structures.
- AVAC, with advocates from the transgender and gender non-binary community, has mapped existing research gaps and priorities to the [No Data No More Manifesto](#), which puts forth over two dozen recommendations for researchers and advocates to ensure the acceleration of trans inclusion in research.
- AVAC has spent years investing in significant capacity strengthening of partners; AVAC is working to shift leadership roles to Global South partners, including the co-creation of new Africa-led coalition governance structures and capacity strengthening support for management of sub-granting and secretariats.



AVAC spurs product innovation and availability

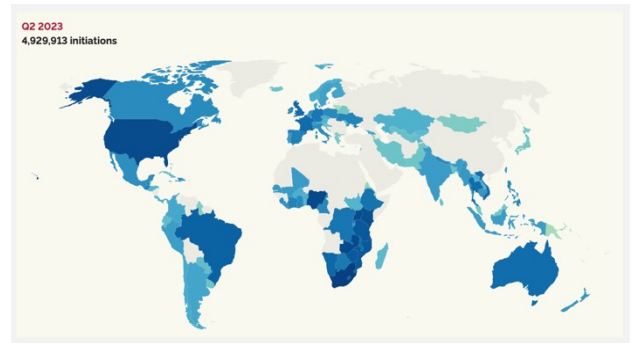
AVAC works to ensure that biomedical options are not just developed but actually delivered ethically, equitably and expeditiously. AVAC has always advocated for closing critical prevention gaps. With African and global partners, AVAC steps beyond advocacy to generate the knowledge and tools countries need to swiftly deliver new advances. AVAC engages directly with national decision-makers to identify and overcome delivery hurdles and examine end users' preferences and experiences.

- AVAC leads new and bold approaches to spur product development and introduction that links product developers, civil society, implementers and policy makers through BioPIC, [CASPR](#), the [Dual Prevention Pill Consortium \(DPP\)](#), the [OPTIONS and PROMISE Consortia](#) and the [COVID Advocates Advisory Board](#).
- The [Biomedical Prevention Implementation Collaborative \(BioPIC\)](#) is working with partners and stakeholders to support the rapid, successful introduction of cabotegravir long-acting PrEP (CAB-LA) and other emerging HIV prevention products. BioPIC's work with CAB-LA is focused on identifying implications for potential users, health systems and payers.
- AVAC advocates for a policy environment that supports and adequately finances equitable access to services, tools and products with communities at the center. AVAC pays particular consideration to ensuring marginalized groups are mainstreamed within coalitions and partner networks. AVAC amplifies partners' advocacy actions related to pandemic preparedness and access, and connects health advocates with well-known experts for discussion, education and engagement.

AVAC tracks and translates the field to arm advocates with information to hold leaders accountable

AVAC works with partners to maintain the field's focus and press for continued research into vaccines, other new prevention options, HIV cure and more. AVAC and its partner network generate data and hold global leaders accountable for results—demanding the resources, policies and evidence-based plans needed to deliver all of today's prevention options to the people who need them, and planning for the rapid rollout of new options as they emerge.

- AVAC's [PrEP Watch](#) is a dynamic, regularly updated clearinghouse to monitor PrEP research and rollout, explore trends in oral PrEP uptake and provide a centralized global hub for implementation resources. It includes a comprehensive database of national programs delivering oral PrEP, country guidelines and targets, and drug registration status.
- AVAC is working to understand, track and influence the complex and rapidly evolving landscape of [pandemic preparedness and response](#), including structure, funding, programs and community input.
- [Tracking investment](#) in HIV R&D provides the field with vital information to chart the course forward. Monitoring funding trends allows the identification of promising areas where investment is needed, prioritization of research, analysis of the effects public policies have on funding trends and fact-based advocacy to support future investment in research. For 17 years, AVAC has been a part of various resource-tracking efforts—tracking funding for HIV across the research agenda.
- AVAC launched [STI Watch](#), the first online portal for information on vaccine and diagnostic development for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), which contains up-to-date information on the research and funding pipelines to support STI prevention awareness and advocacy.



Data from PrEP Watch: Q2 2023 Cumulative PrEP Initiations

AVAC builds capacity for monitoring, evaluation and learning for global health advocacy

AVAC has developed and implemented an innovative Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) model for global health advocacy. AVAC has deep experience and field-tested MEL training modules and tools that can be adapted for use in a wide array of global health topics. AVAC works with local partners to build skills, tools and systems to incorporate MEL within their advocacy work.

- AVAC has developed collaborative, partner-centered approaches to providing MEL support, including designing an Africa-based MEL hub model for the COMPASS and CASPR projects that embeds its team members in the coalition and develops essential tools tailored to ongoing work.
- In collaboration with MEL partners, AVAC has built new MEL tools and systems that meet advocates' needs for tracking their work's impact, including tools to quantitatively assess advocacy wins and the SPARC method—a collaborative approach to outcome harvesting used to document and share impact stories.
- AVAC has funded the development of a MEL for advocacy handbook that centers on guiding advocates through the development and implementation of MEL systems in a user-friendly format.

To stay updated on the state of the HIV prevention field and on AVAC programs, [sign up for our e-mail newsletters](#), follow AVAC on Twitter [@HIVpxresearch](#) and find more at [www.avac.org](#).