

2025 YEAR IN
REVIEW

Welcome from
AVAC's Board
President &
Executive Director

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Our Vision
for the
Year Ahead

AVAC
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AVAC
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WELCOME FROM AVAC'S BOARD PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Blair Hanewall
Board President



Mitchell Warren
Executive Director

We led and supported a broad, coordinated response to defend HIV research. Through policy engagement, tracking new developments via *Global Health Watch* and high-visibility actions like the Save HIV Research marathon, AVAC mobilized advocates, researchers, policymakers and communities to make the case for science, helping to keep research funding and scientific integrity on the agenda at a critical moment.

Through it all, AVAC delivered the most trusted HIV prevention data, tools and analysis, from pipeline tracking and infographics to real-time monitoring of prevention access and rollout; advanced the conversations on prevention and

2025 underscored the vital role that AVAC plays in the global health ecosystem, and why our work and our partnerships have never been more essential.

Long-standing commitments to HIV and global health were rolled back; politics interfered in science and service delivery and misinformation and distrust were at an all-time high. Yet, prevention science persevered, offering real promise for the future through new prevention options and expanded choices to end the epidemic.

In this moment of crisis and possibility, AVAC did what it has done for 30 years: *We showed up, spoke out and worked with partners to push the field forward. This Year in Review captures how AVAC navigated 2025 and the impact of our work.*

When unconscionable cuts to foreign aid threatened global HIV prevention programs, AVAC was among the first to act—using every tool available, from litigation to data tracking to policy advocacy to fight the cuts. Together with partners, we helped protect hundreds of millions of dollars for HIV prevention.

rolled out an updated *People's Research Agenda*, grounded in the reality that science only matters if people support it, can access, choose and use it; and applied our core policy, advocacy and communications competencies in HIV prevention to expanded work on HIV cure research and sexually transmitted infections.

This year was also a pivotal one for injectable lenacapavir (LEN) for PrEP. Years of groundwork, rooted in our decades-long work on PrEP, ensured AVAC was there to help the field move faster and more equitably than ever before. We supported country and community leadership across Africa, engaged ministries of health and other key stakeholders and delivered clear, accessible information to keep LEN rollout momentum aligned with equity.

Throughout, AVAC's model of partnership and shared leadership remained central. Our work is powered by relationships with advocates, researchers, implementers and community leaders around the world. In a year when advocacy was more necessary (and harder) than ever, these partnerships were the bedrock of our actions.

This report highlights AVAC's role as a trusted voice, a translator of science and a catalyst for action and advocacy. It reflects an organization ready for the future: supporting African leadership, strengthening bridges from R&D to delivery and preparing for a new chapter as we move forward into our fourth decade as an organization.

None of this work happens without you. We are deeply grateful to our donors, partners and allies who continue to invest in AVAC and our shared goals. Your support makes it possible to respond rapidly in moments of crisis and to stay focused on what matters most.

As we look ahead, challenges remain, but so do opportunities. The science is strong, new options are in the pipeline, and with smart analysis, rigorous science, good policies and global partnership, progress is within reach.

Thank you for being part of this work, and for standing with AVAC in this defining year.

Onwards

*A special thanks to our **donors**, who make this critical work possible through their sustained support. To our **partners**, thank you for the constant solidarity and collaboration that makes our collective work matter.*

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

From accelerating HIV prevention breakthroughs to protecting global health investments, these numbers reflect our impact in action: how our evidence-based advocacy, research engagement, policy influence and partnerships translated into measurable progress across HIV, STI and global health priorities.

10,000 participants

reached globally through the **24-Hour Marathon to Save AIDS Research**, bringing critical attention to HIV research and the risk of funding cuts



90,000 visitors

to the **PrEPWatch website**, featuring the most comprehensive **global PrEP initiation dataset** and access to over 1,000 resources

PrEPWatch

12 ministries of health

in early lenacapavir (LEN) adopter countries supported in **planning for roll-out** and **7 civil society organizations** supported to **advance civil society engagement** in LEN roll-out, creating a multi-pronged approach for technical assistance that prioritized community needs, country leadership and equity

61 trial sites

launched recruitment for the **MK-8527 Phase 3 trials** of a monthly oral PrEP pill, backed by **AVAC's Good Participatory Practice guidelines** and community engagement, informed and guided by AVAC and partners, throughout the design and implementation process

\$2 billion

in frozen foreign aid funds **paid back to implementing partners** for completed work as part of **AVAC's lawsuit** against the US government

Judge orders Trump to pay USAID partners, rejects 'unbounded' power

\$400 million

in PEPFAR funds **saved from Congressional rescissions** through successful advocacy by global health advocates, including AVAC and partners



PEPFAR

6 LEN milestones

achieved in the first 15 months following efficacy results, **5 years faster than oral PrEP and 2 years faster than CAB**, facilitated by AVAC's work to produce evidence-based materials and coordinate stakeholder communication and joint decision-making

48 issues

of **Global Health Watch** published in 2025, serving as the field's go-to source for updates on US policy and its impact on global health and research

Global Health Watch

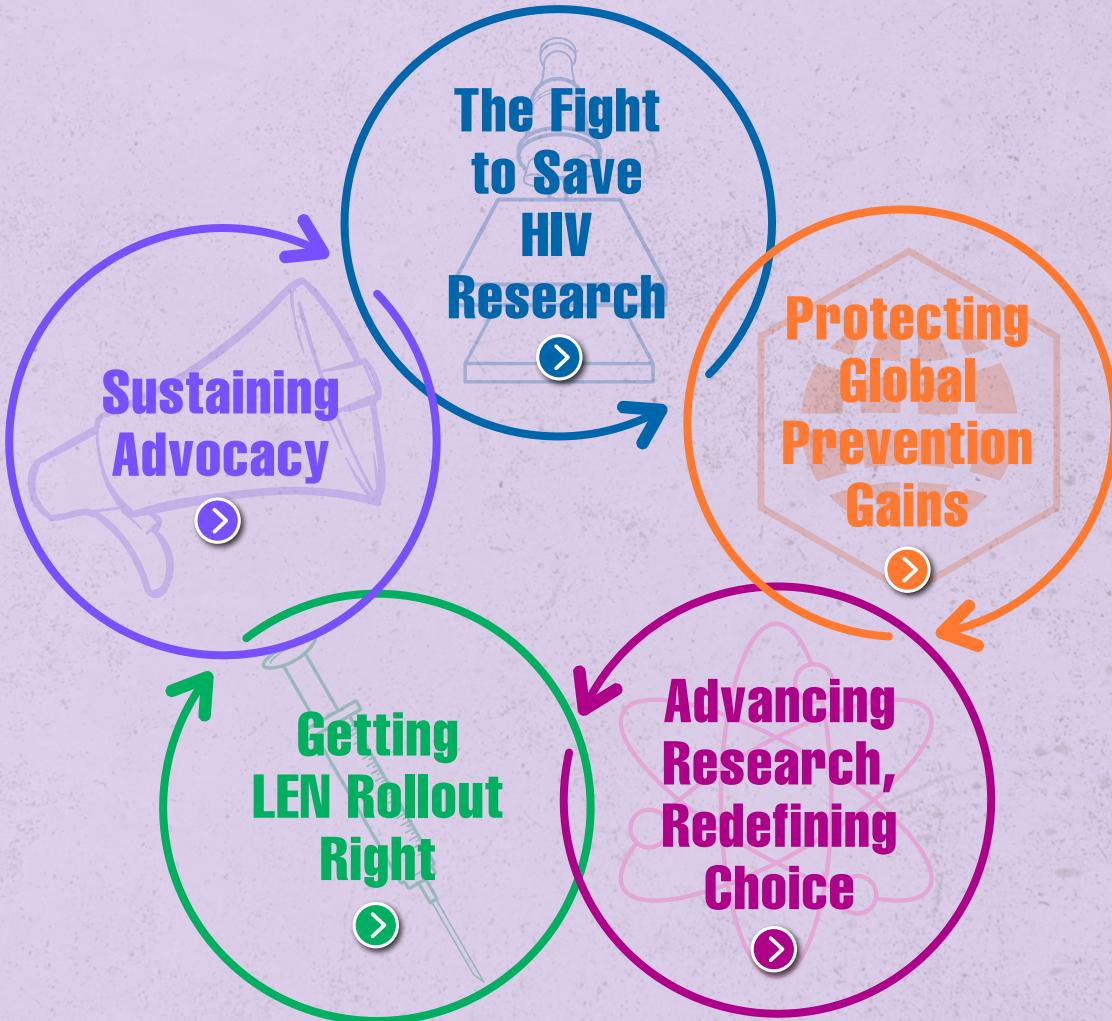
2,800 subscribers

To **The Choice Agenda**, a global forum for the latest HIV prevention news; TCA hosted 55 webinars since 2022, reaching thousands more



HIV prevention research - a new forum for advocacy on the latest

Throughout a tumultuous year, AVAC fought for science, research and equity—and secured important wins that helped advance HIV programs, biomedical research and global health generally. These five stories outline important achievements in the following areas:



Together, these demonstrate AVAC's unwavering commitment to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic and advancing global health equity and the collective impact of the organization and its partners.

The Fight to Save HIV Research



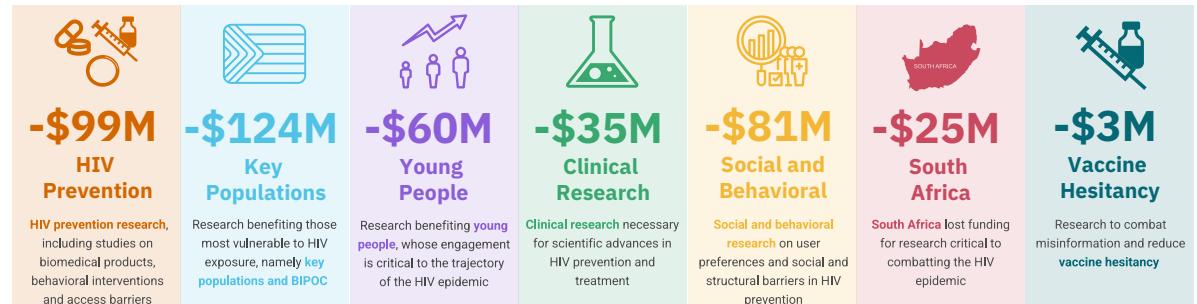
Dr. Gregg Gonsalves, a long-active activist and AIDS researcher at the Yale University School of Public Health, and co-creator with AVAC of the 24-hour Marathon to Save AIDS Research on the need to sustain HIV research

A new US Administration took office in January 2025 and immediately moved to dismantle public health infrastructure in the US and around the world, including massive cuts to HIV and other global infectious disease research and widespread misinformation campaigns to discredit and undermine scientific knowledge, evidence and vaccine confidence. Since day one, AVAC has served as a leader in standing up against this administration, bringing critical visibility to why investments in HIV services and research—and scientific research as a whole—matters.

AVAC worked with global civil society partners to mobilize leading voices in research; strengthen advocacy skills through **teach-ins, tools** and **resources**; **educate policy makers**; conduct direct advocacy with members of the administration; make public comments; and **disseminate timely and accurate information** to track the impact of US government cuts to HIV and STI research. AVAC's **Research Matters series**, in partnership with the Treatment Action Group (TAG) and the HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA), provided briefings for researchers and policymakers and a toolkit of messages and advocacy guides for action to save research funding. Initiatives with allies—Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC), FAPP Research Work Group, Save HIV Funding Campaign (SHF) and others—focused on pushing policymakers to preserve funding through legislative educational sessions.

THE COST OF CUTTING HIV RESEARCH

NIH terminated 191 HIV-specific grants in 2025, slashing over \$200 million from key HIV prevention research areas¹



¹Grants may cover more than one research area, therefore the total across categories shown here exceeds \$200 million in total funding lost

AVAC's analysis of the impact of NIH funding cuts across key areas of HIV prevention research.

“Trust has been broken. We did spend decades working in these communities and now all those myths and misconceptions about research will start resurfacing. The years and decades of work we’ve done to build trust, to build research literacy, have been undone in a matter of months.”

Dr. Nyaradzo Mgodi
of the University of Zimbabwe
Clinical Trials Research Centre and
AVAC Board Member, during the
Science in the Crosshairs teach-in

Together with a volunteer coalition of the **world’s leading HIV researchers and advocates**, AVAC helped conceptualize, organize and host the **24-Hour Marathon to Save AIDS Research**. This high-profile event brought together diverse members of the HIV research community to amplify global advocacy messages, counter misinformation and strategically advocate to protect decades of progress to end the epidemic.

The day-long broadcast featured 75 presenters representing major research institutions, public health organizations, civil society organizations and communities impacted by HIV worldwide, along with **42 endorsing organizations** and robust engagement from viewers throughout all 24 hours of the livestream. The marathon live-stream reached almost 10,000 advocates, researchers, stakeholders, policy makers, journalists and community members from 28 countries and 30 US states.

While the current US administration continues its push to dismantle, defund and undermine scientific research, AVAC and partners have achieved some policy wins, including restoration of funds for basic research and HIV research by Congress. Most importantly, a new, broad coalition of US and Africa-based partners—including civil society advocates, researchers, journalists and policymakers—has emerged to lead this fight, creating a strong, coordinated global network dedicated to saving HIV research.

GLOBAL HEALTH WATCH: 52 Weeks of Crisis, Context & Resources to Respond

JANUARY	AVAC launches Global Health Watch	AVAC & Global Health Council sue USG on foreign aid freeze	US District Court judge issues Temporary Restraining Order ordering government to reinstate foreign aid funding	US Supreme Court orders Administration to release up to \$2 billion in frozen foreign aid	Gates Foundation announces accelerated plan to spend \$200 billion and sunset operations by 2045	FDA approves LEN for PrEP	US District Court uphold Affordable Care Act's preventative services mandate	WHO recommends LEN for PrEP	Shooting at CDC headquarters in Atlanta	Gates Foundation & Unitaid accelerate generic LEN timelines and price reduction	US government shutdown begins	First doses of LEN for PrEP arrive	World AIDS Day goes unrecognized by US government
FEBRUARY	New administration takes office	Partial “waiver” granted for PEPFAR	CDC	HIV and STI information silently removed from CDC websites	Mass layoffs at HHS agencies: CDC, NIH, FDA	Gavi	CDC ACIP committee reconstructed with vaccine skeptics	WHO shifts away from basic science and clinical research	Supreme Court allows \$4 billion in foreign aid to expire	Marathon airs globally	NIH	First doses of LEN for PrEP administered in Brazil, Eswatini, South Africa, and Zambia.	
MARCH	Foreign assistance frozen	NIH cancels ~1,800 research grants	USAID	USAID dismantling begins							Jeanne Marrazzo fired as NIAID director		
APRIL	World Health Organization withdraws from WHO										CFI	Children's Investment Fund Foundation	
MAY												CIF cuts funding to all US-based NGOs	
JUNE													
JULY													
AUGUST													
SEPTEMBER													
OCTOBER													
NOVEMBER													
DECEMBER													

Global Health Watch is AVAC’s weekly newsletter breaking down critical updates on US policy and what it means for advocates. This timeline highlights key 2025 milestones covered by AVAC.

Protecting Global Prevention Gains



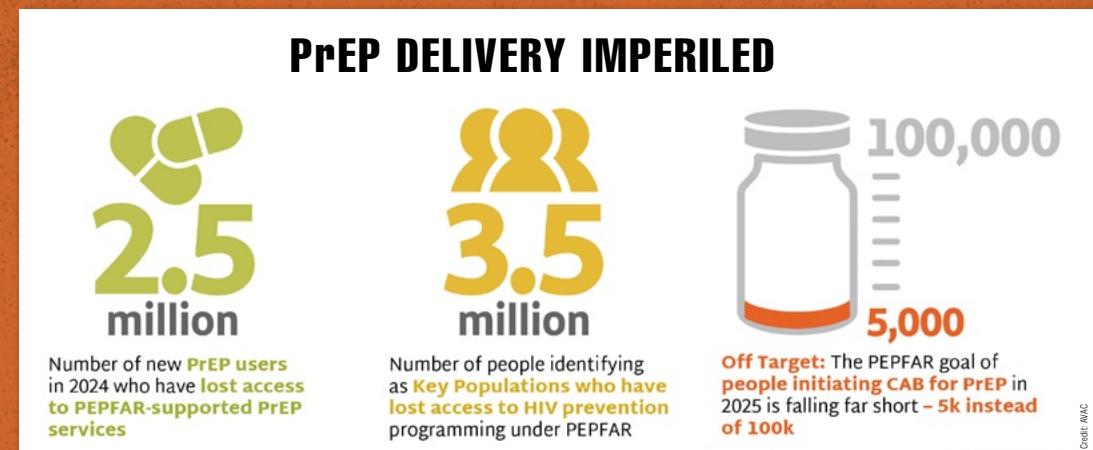
AVAC's **Mitchell Warren** speaks with CNN about the consequences of the US not commemorating World AIDS Day.



In 2025, AVAC was on the front lines of protecting global gains against the new administration's illegal and unconscionable cuts to US foreign assistance, including major HIV programs and USAID. On February 10, 2025, AVAC and the Journalism Development Network (JDN), represented by Public Citizen's Litigation Group, sued the President, the State Department, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and others, seeking emergency relief from an Executive Order that inhumanely froze all funding for foreign assistance.

The freeze halted the life-saving work of organizations across the globe, contributed to thousands of lives lost and cost thousands of American jobs and hundreds of thousands of jobs globally. The freeze forced AVAC to abruptly stop CASPR, a coalition of African civil society organizations that supports research on HIV prevention and provides resources for local communities. AVAC's lawyer at Public Citizen, Lauren Bateman, said, "The Trump administration's freeze on foreign assistance funding is dangerous and illegal. When programs are abruptly shuttered, the impacts are felt throughout the world—with the most vulnerable people bearing the deadliest impact."

AVAC and JDN, along with the Global Health Council and additional plaintiffs in a companion lawsuit, challenged both the suspension of funds as well as the legality of the termination of grants and funding. In court filings, the government argued that these decisions fell under the administration's foreign policy purview, and disregarded restraining orders and directives from the courts to reinstate funds. Following a



The devastating impacts of US foreign assistance cuts on global PrEP delivery.

series of decisions, appeals and stays, on March 5 the Supreme Court ruled in our favor that the Administration must release up to \$2 billion in frozen foreign assistance funding. This ruling was an important win and resulted in back payment to implementing partners and contractors for work completed prior to the freeze.

The additional issues at stake—the unlawful “blanket suspension”, cancellation of grants and contracts, and the executive branch “impounding” funds that Congress appropriated—continued to be reviewed by the courts. Critically, if appropriated foreign assistance funds were not spent by September 30, they would be lost. On September 26, the Supreme Court granted the administration’s request to stay a district court injunction in our case that required the administration to obligate \$4 billion of foreign assistance funds before they expire on September 30—as required by law—and allowing those life-saving funds to go unspent. The case is currently on hold, pending the outcome of other cases that may impact the ruling.

At the same time, as the field’s go-to source for tracking and analysis, AVAC rapidly turned to tracking the impact of the stop work orders on **HIV research**, **PrEP delivery** and **STI research and programming**, calling on the US Congress to protect and restore funding. As a result of advocacy leadership by AVAC and partners, along with coordinated messaging through the Save HIV Funding campaign, the US Senate amended the president’s proposed rescissions package to remove a \$400 million cut to already appropriated fiscal year 2025 funding for PEPFAR. The amendment, passed with bipartisan support, was an unexpected win amid escalating attacks on global health. Additionally, the US recommitted to rolling out lenacapavir (LEN) under PEPFAR (albeit without critical funding for LEN in South Africa), and restored funding for **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance**, was included in recent appropriations bills—reflecting moves by Congress to protect critical foreign assistance funding.

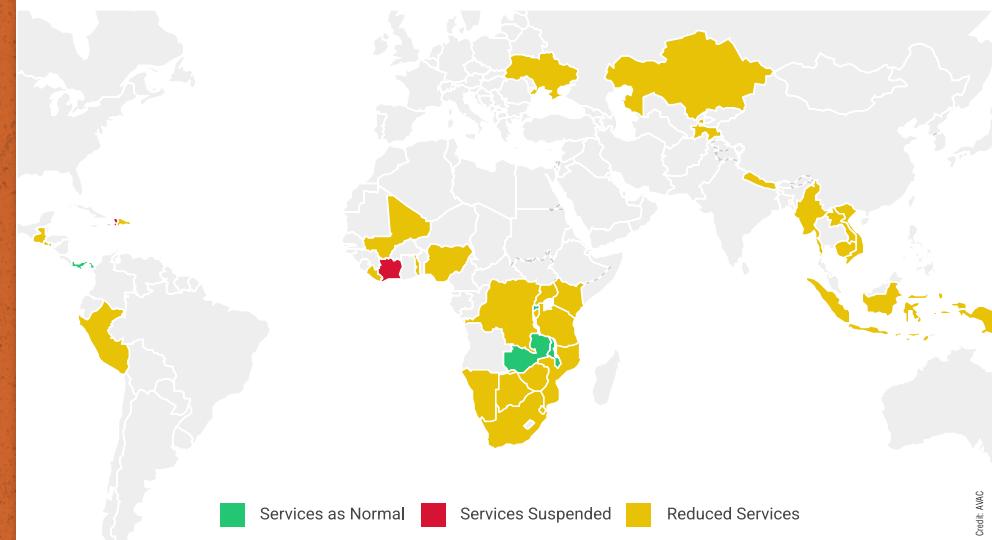


“The fight against HIV is a fight for humanity, and it must continue. Now more than ever, we must raise our voices to protect these vital resources and advocate for an HIV response that prioritizes health equity and social justice.”

John Meade Jr.

Senior Program Manager: Policy

GLOBAL PrEP SERVICE STATUS



A map showing the impact of PEPFAR stop work orders on global PrEP services, with the majority being reduced.

“We cannot cede ground gained against HIV and other global health threats out of fear or paralysis in the face of these reckless actions. It is imperative to hold this administration responsible. And it’s imperative to invest in global health and sustain the gains in HIV.”

Mitchell Warren

AVAC Executive Director

Advancing Research, Redefining Choice



“Thanks to the entire AVAC team for the platforms, the timely updates and the simplified messages that gave us a voice and kept us informed. Most importantly, thank you for continuously empowering the community with the knowledge and resources needed to contribute meaningfully, especially at this pivotal moment for HIV prevention.”

Adaobi Olisa

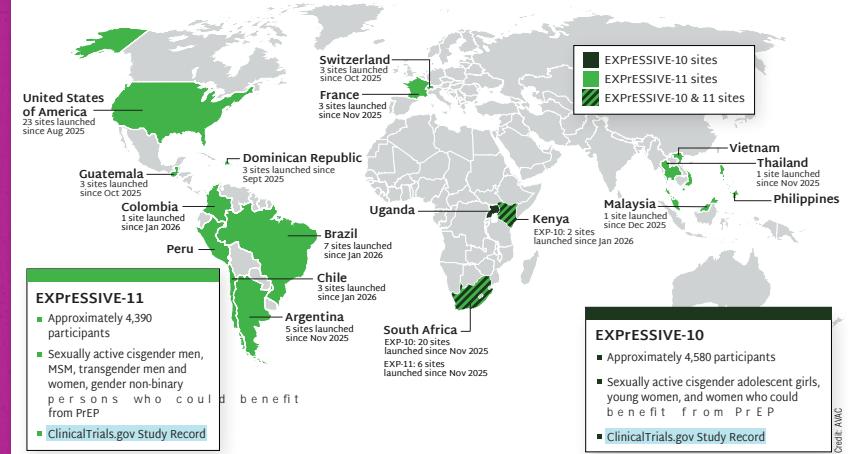
Root to Rise and AVAC Clinical Trial Design Academy member

Diminished funding for research and foreign assistance requires sharper priorities and smarter investments to develop and deliver a wide range of products that meet diverse needs. Given the new reality of the HIV response, AVAC and partners also recognize that the conversation around choice must be redefined, and research pipelines must be prioritized and optimized accordingly.

In 2025, AVAC released an updated *People’s Research Agenda* (PRA) to reflect this context. Created in 2024 with global advocates and communities, the PRA provides a people-centered framework for equitable and accelerated R&D and product introduction. Dr. Jeanne Marrazzo, then-Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID), endorsed the PRA at its 2024 launch, coining it a “manifesto for putting community voices front and center.” The 2025 PRA update reflects a critical review of the HIV prevention research pipeline, especially given shifting US political support, emphasizing a strict balance of R&D that is optimized for maximum impact on the epidemic. Its interactive features, including a dashboard for tracking and advocating for HIV prevention R&D, a real-time clinical trials tracker and an action agenda, make it a core tool for advocates, researchers and funders in the current landscape.

EXPrESSIVE PHASE 3 TRIAL COUNTRIES OF MK-8527

Seventeen countries in total are hosting sites for Merck’s Phase III program of the monthly PrEP pill, MK-8527. EXPrESSIVE-11 launched in August 2025; EXPrESSIVE-10 launched in November 2025.



A map of EXPrESSIVE trial sites—a phase 3 trial of MK-8527, Merck’s monthly PrEP pill.



"We have more HIV prevention tools than ever before in history, but we know that innovation alone does not create impact. We must continue to develop products that fill gaps and deliver them in a way that offers authentic choice."

Grace Kumwenda

AVAC's Regional Program Manager for Research Engagement

HIV PREVENTION PIPELINE: PRODUCTS TO WATCH

PRECLINICAL	PHASE I	PHASE II	PHASE III	IMPLEMENTATION
Hundreds of...				
ARV-Based	3-Monthly DPV + LNG	Event-Driven FTC/TAF	Monthly MK-8527	Daily TDF/FTC
MPTs	On-Demand TAF + EVG	On-Demand TFV		Daily FTC/TAF
Vaccine candidates	Vaccine candidates	Combo bNAb candidates		2-Monthly CAB
bNAbs candidates	Combo bNAb candidates			6-Monthly LEN
BIO-EQUIVALENCE				
4-Monthly CAB 12-Monthly LEN 3-Monthly DPV Daily DPP				
<small>The US Govt's shut down of USAID ended six critical HIV research projects. With MATRIX, the field lost an important effort to develop diverse, on-demand, and multi-purpose products, especially for young women. The ADVANCE and BRILLIANT projects were researching a range of vaccine candidates while also building African-led research agendas.</small>				
Long-acting implants Multi-purpose vaginal ring Vaginal & mucosal inserts Vaginal film Vaccines				
KEY: ARV-based MPTs Vaccines bNAbs				
<small>bNAb: broadly-neutralizing antibodies; CAB: Cabotegravir; DPP: dual prevention pill; DPV: Dapivirine; EVG: Elvitegravir; F/TAF: emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide; LEN: Lenacapavir; LNG: Levonorgestrel; TAF: tenofovir alafenamide; TDF/FTC: tenofovir disoproxil fumarate-emtricitabine</small>				

The People's Research Agenda high-level look at the HIV prevention pipeline.

As a trusted ally to community and researchers alike, AVAC also played a leading role in advancing Good Participatory Practice (GPP) in the research program for developing monthly oral MK-8527 PrEP, with support from the Gates Foundation. AVAC engaged nearly 100 advocates from around the world through various engagement platforms and consultations to ensure that trial design, conduct and access plans were designed with community input. As the **efficacy program launched**, advocates **praised the program's commitment to community engagement** and the exciting opportunity MK-8527 offers for expanding choice.

Similarly, AVAC continued engagement and advocacy in the HIV cure research field. As the community engagement partner to three Martin Delaney Collaboratories and the African HIV Cure Consortium, AVAC drove engagement at local, national and global levels. Through partnerships with African-based civil society groups, cure research was prioritized in country strategic plans in both Malawi and Uganda—a significant win, given the increased need for country commitments to national HIV responses in the face of diminished US support. AVAC also expanded a global network of cure advocates by replicating the African-focused Cure Advocacy Academies (implemented in partnership with IAS) in the US with the first ever US Cure Advocacy Academy.

Throughout 2025, AVAC continued to be a critical resource for the field, disseminating **infographics**, quarterly **Px Wire** updates and **tools** to help partners stay abreast of the evolving research pipeline and introduction status of oral PrEP, the DVR, CAB and LEN. From international conferences to community meetings, AVAC resources were cited widely, affirming AVAC as a go-to source for accurate HIV prevention information and a catalyst for strong advocacy.

Getting LEN Rollout Right



“Experience in HIV prevention shows that products succeed when countries lead. African leadership is essential for turning lenacapavir from a scientific breakthrough into a real public health breakthrough. This leadership ensures that innovation translates into meaningful and equitable impact for the communities who need it most.”

Wawira Nyagah

AVAC Director of Product Introduction and Access and incoming Executive Director of the Kenya-based **Health Market Access Bridge**

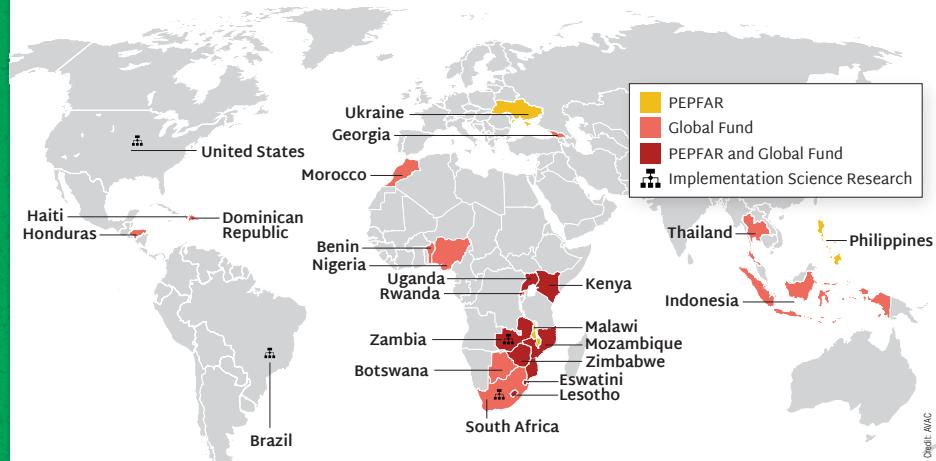
In June 2025, the US Food & Drug Administration’s approval of injectable lenacapavir (LEN) provided a much-needed boost for HIV prevention, particularly given the strength of the science and the simultaneous global disruption of HIV research and programs by the US government.

Drawing on three decades of experience and expertise from earlier PrEP rollouts, AVAC served as a leading voice for access and equity, **demanding that** “scientific progress only matters if innovation actually reaches people. LEN for PrEP is poised to re-shape the HIV response, but only if approval is accompanied by bold, strategic, effective and equitable rollout that reaches the populations that need access.”

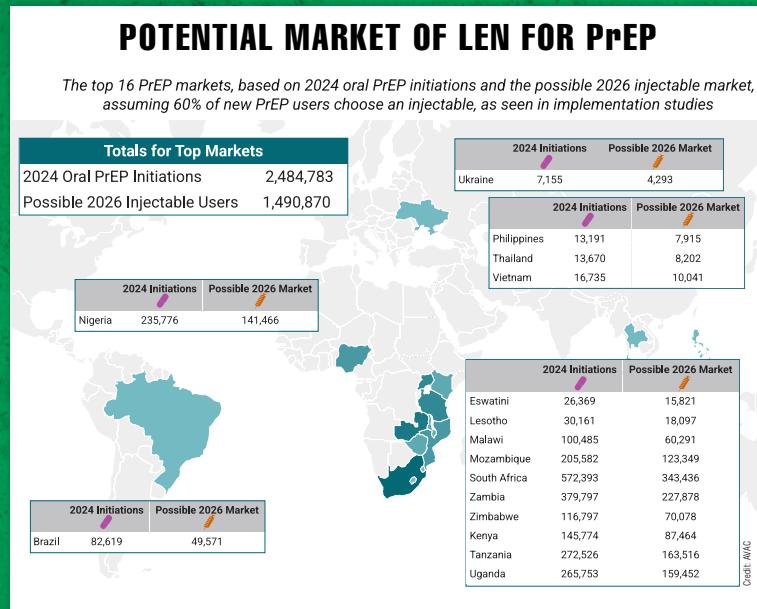
AVAC’s efforts helped lay the groundwork for LEN to move faster and more equitably through the pipeline and into roll-out. In 2025, AVAC strengthened the partnerships, coordination and evidence base needed for rapid and inclusive LEN scale-up. **Six key LEN milestones** were achieved in record

SOURCE OF LENACAPAVIR FOR PrEP SUPPLY TO EARLY ADOPTER COUNTRIES

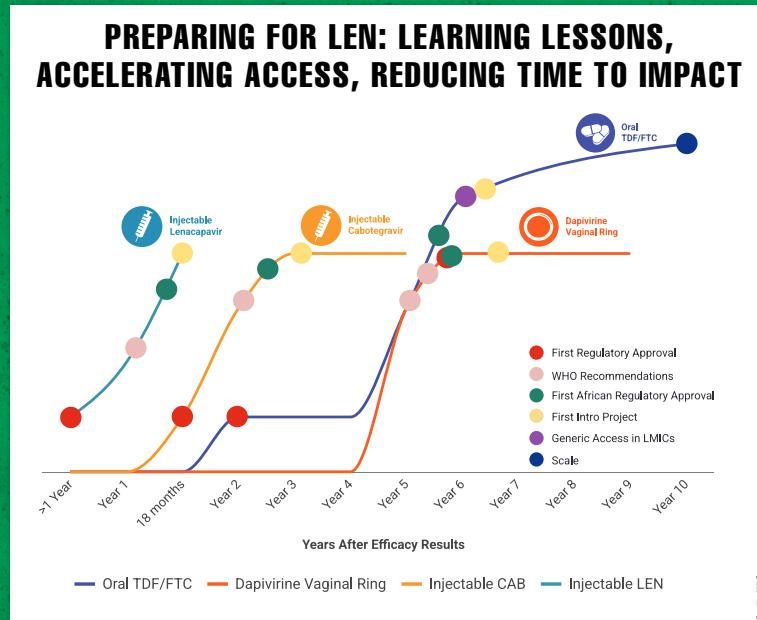
PEPFAR and Global Fund are supporting 22 countries with early access to programmatic supply of LEN, with some supply already arriving in country in Q4 2025 and the rest expected to arrive by end of Q1 2026; Unitaid, the Gates Foundation and Gilead are supporting 10 implementation science projects in 4 countries.



Map showing sources of LEN for PrEP supply across early adopter countries.



Top 16 countries with the largest projected markets for long-acting injectable PrEP



Comparison of LEN milestones after efficacy results, with oral PrEP, DVR and CAB

time; what took more than five years for oral PrEP and two years for injectable CAB following the publication of efficacy results, took just a year for LEN—including multiple **regulatory approvals**, WHO recommendation and pre-qualification, and initial **product launch**.

Over the years, AVAC has served as a translator, catalyst and advocate for the field, accelerating PrEP product development and introduction. AVAC's online **PrEPWatch** clearinghouse tracks global progress, challenges and accountability across PrEP research, access and rollout; AVAC convenes stakeholders to advance global conversations on product development and delivery, and to ensure community advocates have a central voice in decision-making spaces. AVAC's LEN resources were among the most sought-after and referenced documents in the field—among advocates, Ministries of Health, researchers and implementers—providing evidence and analysis for fieldwide decision-making during LEN rollout planning.

AVAC's leadership resulted in the creation of sustainable models for collaboration, including the **Coalition to Accelerate Access to Long-Acting PrEP**, among normative agencies, funders, civil society, ministries of health and implementers, fostering early national action plans, stronger donor alignment and inclusive strategies for faster LEN rollout. Working closely with country-level stakeholders, AVAC established a Community of Practice for ministries of health as a space for regional learning, donor dialogue and problem-solving. AVAC supported civil society partners in early adopter countries, centering civil society's leadership, providing a structured foundation for national stakeholder meetings and ensuring accountability and swifter action toward LEN introduction at the country level.

AVAC served as the global source for evidence-based materials to support LEN introduction, including infographics, analysis and guides covering regulatory approvals, procurement and pricing updates, and providing key advocacy messages to accelerate scale-up. By producing and sharing timely, accessible information, this work ensured field-wide coordination and enabled more intentional, informed civil society engagement in planning for LEN rollout.

Sustaining Advocacy

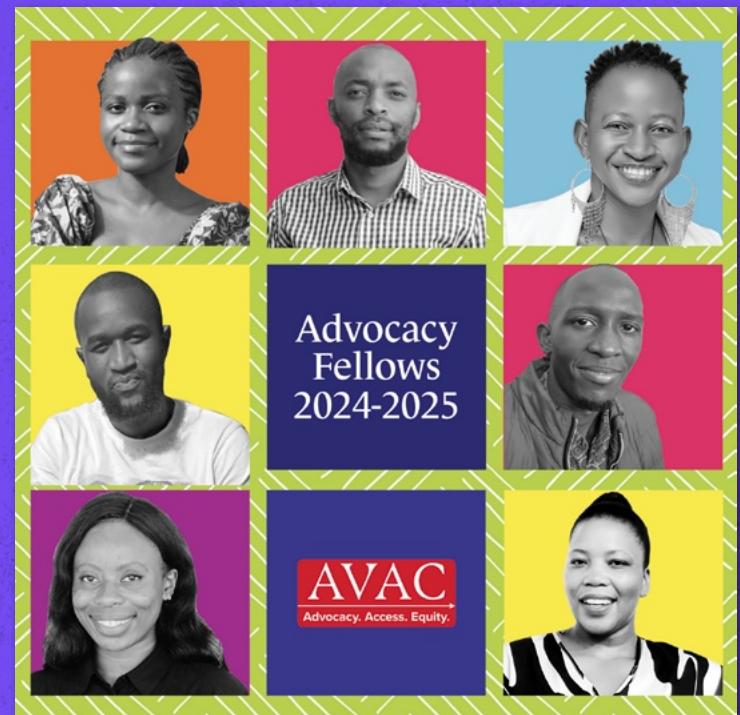


Yvette Raphael, Executive Director of APHA, speaking at the World Health Summit highlighting the importance of community-led responses in effective HIV prevention advocacy.

The power of partnership is the heart of HIV advocacy. For decades, AVAC has built partnerships based on a shared vision of African-led advocacy for global health to ensure critical research continues, products move more quickly through the pipeline and access is more equitable across communities. In 2025, AVAC's work with partners reflected that vision, advancing the field in critical ways through collaborative efforts.

AVAC has worked to re-center advocacy leadership in Africa through decades of global collaboration and investment: the **AVAC Advocacy Fellows** program mentored nearly 100 Fellows over 18 years, achieved powerful advocacy wins and built a new generation of civil society advocates. In 2025, the **latest group of Fellows** advanced HIV cure research, scaled up U=U, expanded access to prevention products and services, and strengthened pandemic prevention efforts. As **civil society** organizations carry mentorship work into 2026 and beyond, the future of leadership in HIV research and prevention advocacy is stronger, more sustainable and closely aligned with community needs.

In 2025, the **Coalition to Build Momentum, Power, Activism, Strategy and Solidarity (COMPASS)-Africa**, a global coalition



2024–2025 Advocacy Fellows cohort (from top, left): **Bahati Thomas Haule, Mokone Rantsoeleba, Elina Mwasinga, Samuel Anyula Gorigo, Ezra Meme, Rhoda Msiska, and Pamela Fuzile**

focused on influencing HIV policy decisions, programs and funding, completed the first year of leadership under an African-led Secretariat—Pangaea Zimbabwe. This **transition from AVAC to Pangaea**, based on a foundational commitment from AVAC to power-sharing and a multi-year transition plan with coordination and buy-in from across the coalition, carries forward the coalition's vision of regional leadership and sustainability of advocacy movements. Similarly, over nine years of impactful collaboration and advocacy before it was halted in February 2025 during the foreign assistance freeze, the **Coalition to Accelerate and Support Prevention Research (CASPR)**—an African-led advocacy coalition focused on advancing biomedical HIV prevention research and access—contributed to increased community engagement in research and strengthened African advocacy leadership in the HIV response.

AVAC and partners, built on the foundational work of the Fellows program, COMPASS and CASPR, continue to advance and realize this shared vision of partnership and the future of African-led advocacy. A coalition of partners began to jointly establish a framework for this future, focusing on building an **advocacy institute** to sustain HIV prevention advocacy leadership in Africa. In 2026, this coalition will focus on building out this model, identifying the most effective ways to collaborate and advance a shared vision for African-led advocacy for global health.



“Investing in African-led advocacy has never been more important. HIV prevention advocates came together to create an institute that meets the moment—ensuring advocates build a new global health architecture with communities at the center, and that breakthroughs like LEN turn into real-world impact for communities who need them most.”

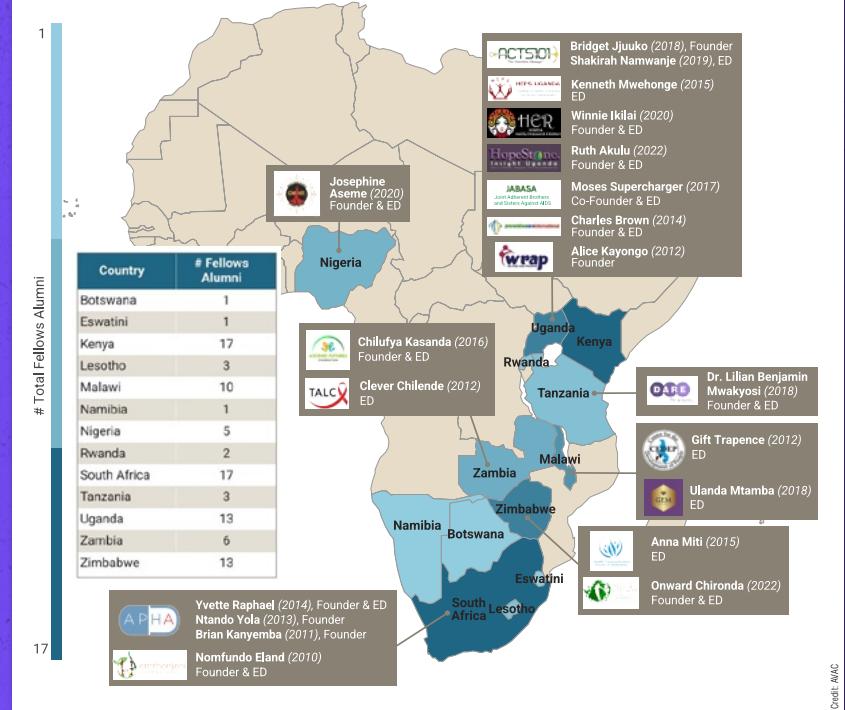
Navita Jain

AVAC Senior Program Manager



AVAC FELLOWS ALUMNI LEADERSHIP IN AFRICA

The AVAC Advocacy Fellows Program has supported **92 Fellows** from Africa since 2009. Twenty Fellows Alumni have since founded or are currently leading an organization that partners with AVAC to impact public health



Yvette Raphael (2014), Founder & ED
Ntando Yola (2013), Founder
Brian Kanyemba (2011), Founder
Nomfundo Eland (2010), Founder & ED

Chilufya Kasanda (2016), Founder & ED
Clever Chilende (2012), ED

Bridget Jjuuko (2018), Founder
Shakirah Namwanje (2019), ED
Kenneth Mwehonge (2015), ED
Winnie Ikilai (2020), Founder & ED
Ruth Akulu (2022), Founder & ED
Moses Supercharger (2017), Co-Founder & ED
Charles Brown (2014), Founder & ED
Alice Kayongo (2012), Founder

Dr. Lilian Benjamin Mwakyosi (2018), Founder & ED
Gift Trapence (2012), ED
Ulanda Mtamba (2018), ED
Anna Miti (2015), ED
Onward Chironda (2022), Founder & ED

→ OUR VISION FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

With immense challenges and historic opportunities ahead, we recommit to advancing our collective work in the months to come.

2026 will be marked by AVAC's commitment to:

1 Rethink and rebuild an architecture for global health that acknowledges the changing landscape and insists on equity while centering advocacy and communities.

3 Accelerate speed, scale and equity in access to existing long-acting PrEP options.

5 Monitor, analyze and document the impact of policies, programs and investments to inform decision-making and field-wide strategies.



2 Amplify and drive the call for effective and equitable research & development to advance a pipeline that is optimized for maximum impact toward an ultimate end to HIV.

4 Champion science, evidence-based policies and investments in HIV, Cure and STI research.

6 Empower the field with real-time updates that track and translate the research pipeline, from basic science to product rollout.

Working together, we can meet the moment with a bold agenda to bring HIV prevention and equity in global health to everyone who needs it.

AVAC IN THE NEWS

Throughout the year, AVAC staff were featured across global media platforms. From interviews to opinion pieces, AVAC's expertise helped shape public dialogue and conversations around HIV prevention, foreign assistance, and much more.

The New York Times

February 8, 2025

With Aid Cutoff, Trump Halts Agency's Legacy of 'Acting With Humanity'

 CLICK TO READ FULL ARTICLE

The New York Times

February 11, 2025

Two Nonprofits Sue Over Trump's Freeze on Foreign Aid

 CLICK TO READ FULL ARTICLE

devex

Do Good. Do It Well.™

February 26, 2025

Nearly 10,000 Awards Cut from USAID, State Department

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Do Good. Do It Well.™

March 5, 2025

Supreme Court Hands USAID Partners A Win

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TheBody

April 7, 2025

US HIV Researchers Reel at Widespread Cancellations to Domestic Funding

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Do Good. Do It Well.™

May 29, 2025

Opinion: The US Legacy in HIV is Unraveling

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The New York Times

June 18, 2025

Regulators Approve A Twice-Yearly Shot to Prevent H.I.V. Infection

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THE NEW YORKER 100

June 24, 2025

The Drug That Could Revolutionize The Fight Against H.I.V.

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spotlight

In-depth, public interest health journalism

July 25, 2025

IAS2025: Findings Give Hope For Monthly HIV Prevention Pill

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TheBodyPro

September 2, 2025

The Real-World Impact of Defunding STI Research

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POZ

September 15, 2025

Watch "24 Hours to Save AIDS Research," An Online Marathon to Highlight HIV Research Advances

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gay city news

September 16, 2025

'HIV Unwrapped' Combines Science and Style for New York Fashion Week

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BMJ Journals

Sexually Transmitted Infections

October 2025

'Self-testing' Versus 'Self-collection': The Critical Role of Consistent Language in the Field Of STI Diagnostics

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HEALTHBEAT

October 2, 2025

Deal to Lower Price for New HIV Prevention Shot is 'Huge Moment of Hope' in Global Health

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npr

November 18, 2025

A 'Breakthrough' Drug to Prevent HIV, An 'Unprecedented' Rollout

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The Washington Post

November 18, 2025

Trump HIV Prevention Plan Shuts Out South Africa—The Nation Most Affected

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Vox

November 21, 2025

The US is fast-tracking this important HIV drug—for everyone except South Africa

 CLICK TO READ FULL ARTICLE

thebmj

November 27, 2025

"Miraculous" HIV Drug To Be Rolled Out After Overcoming AID Cuts Threat

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ThinkGlobalHealth

December 1, 2025

Lenacapavir Can Transform HIV Prevention—if Countries Support Access

 CLICK TO READ FULL ARTICLE

FDA

December 11, 2025

From Promise to Programs—How to Ensure PrEP Science is Translated Into Global Impact

 CLICK TO READ FULL ARTICLE

Throughout the year, AVAC was a leading, public voice in fighting the administration and promoting the need for HIV prevention research and access.



February 27, 2025 — ABC NEWS

HEAD OF AIDS ADVOCACY PROGRAM ON SUIT AGAINST TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

ABC News' Phil Lipe spoke with Mitchell Warren about the organization's lawsuit against the Trump administration over the funding freeze.



March 26, 2025 — DEMOCRACY NOW!

“LIFT THE FREEZE”: HIV/AIDS ADVOCATES WIN SUPREME COURT VICTORY IN FIGHT OVER TRUMP FOREIGN ASSISTANCE CUTS

Mitchell Warren and Public Citizen Litigation Group's Nicolas Sansone spoke with Amy Goodman in a televised interview about the foreign assistance freeze case and the impact of the new administration's orders on global health.



July 1, 2025 — PBS NEWS

HOW A NEW TWICE-YEARLY DRUG IS PROMPTING HOPES OF CURBING HIV CASES

The FDA has approved a breakthrough preventative treatment for HIV that could change the course of the AIDS epidemic. William Brangham and Mitchell Warren discussed the promise of the newly approved LEN for PrEP at changing the course of the AIDS epidemic.



December 1, 2025 — ABC NEWS

PRESIDENTIAL HIV COUNCIL WARNS PROPOSED CUTS COULD REVERSE DECADES OF PROGRESS

Mitchell Warren discussed the potential impact of the Trump administration's proposed cuts.

AVAC trackers, newsletters, graphics and other tools were critical assets for stakeholders advancing HIV prevention, cure and STI initiatives. This snapshot features AVAC resources produced this year, and how they were used to strengthen the HIV prevention ecosystem. AVAC's full repository of resources can be found on our website, on PrEPWatch, and on STIWatch.



The Choice Agenda

A global forum for advocacy on the latest in HIV prevention research



PrEPWatch

An initiative of AVAC

[Back to Injectable Lenacapavir for PrEP](#)

Injectable Lenacapavir for PrEP

The field's go to source for information on LEN rollout



Getting PrEP Rollout Right This Time:

Lessons from the Field

Getting PrEP Rollout Right This Time

A synthesis of lessons from early PrEP rollout that is informing LEN scale-up



HIV Prevention Pipeline Tracker

This continuously updated database tracks HIV prevention products and clinical trials to watch



Wawira Nyagah, AVAC and Health Market Access Bridge, leads **ICASA 2025** satellite "Innovating to Scale PrEP in a New Reality."



Dr. Jeanne Marrazzo, CEO of IDSA, uses AVAC infographics at the closing lecture of the **STI & HIV 2025 World Congress meeting**.



An "Innovation Pile Up" in Next Gen PrEP

One of AVAC's newest infographics, forecasting the future of PrEP



Where We Are Now with LEN for PrEP



Impact Trackers

Real-time tracking of the cuts to research, global health and HIV commitments



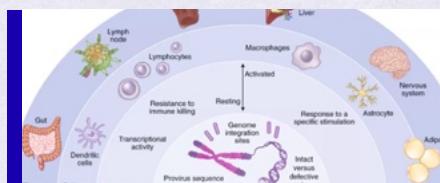
STIWatch Newsletter

AVAC's STIWatch Newsletter is a curated resource on the latest in STI vaccines, diagnostics, and other



STIWatch Quarterly Newsletter

A curated quarterly roundup of key developments in STI prevention



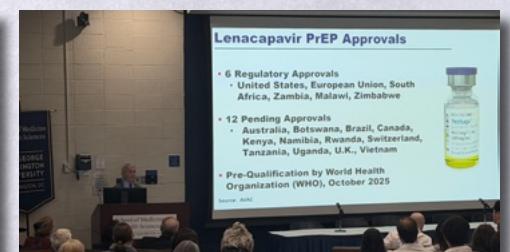
Cure in the Spotlight

Highlighting the impact of AVAC supported HIV cure champions



Lenacapavir PrEP Approvals

- 6 Regulatory Approvals
 - United States, European Union, South Africa, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe
- 12 Pending Approvals
 - Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, Switzerland, Tanzania, Uganda, U.K., Vietnam
- Pre-Qualification by World Health Organization (WHO), October 2025



Dr. Anthony Fauci highlighted AVAC during a NASTAD-GWU School of Medicine and Health Sciences summit on how clinicians can help end the HIV epidemic.