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## Pioneering HIV prevention options for women

IPM South Africa

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# PIONEERING HIV PREVENTION OPTIONS FOR WOMEN

## ABOUT IPM SOUTH AFRICA, NPC (AN AFFILIATE OF THE POPULATION COUNCIL)

*Over twenty years ago, the International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM) entered the HIV prevention field with a promise and a clear vision to create products that women in developing countries could use themselves to prevent HIV, and protect their sexual and reproductive health. Every step we have taken since then has brought that vision into sharper focus. In 2022, the Population Council acquired IPM. Today, we are as optimistic about our mission as we have ever been.*

## CONTINUED CHALLENGES OF THE HIV EPIDEMIC

The HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to disproportionately affect women in developing countries due to biological factors, gender inequality, social and economic status, healthcare access and needs that vary according to different stages of life. There will be no single solution to ending the epidemic - stopping HIV will require a variety of options. Research from the family planning field has shown that when more options are available, women are able to choose what best fits their circumstance and life stage. This means that there is an urgent need to expand the number of available options for HIV prevention from which women can choose.

## OUR PROGRESS

The Population Council has leveraged public, philanthropic and private sector resources to accelerate the development of safe and effective life-saving technologies for women. Our key achievements include:



### Developing the dapivirine vaginal ring

IPM led the development and testing of the dapivirine vaginal ring, the first long-acting HIV prevention method shown to offer protection against HIV under a woman's control.



### Negotiate licenses to acquire ARVs

IPM has negotiated royalty-free licenses and an exclusive worldwide rights agreements from **5** pharmaceutical companies to develop promising ARVs as microbicides and ensure affordability of future products.



### Conduct rigorous research

IPM has worked in **11** countries in Africa, Europe, and North America to conduct more than **45** clinical trials to date on a variety of products as well as **13** incidence studies and **2** acceptability studies.









### Strengthening medical research capacity in Africa

IPM has collaborated to strengthen capacity at more than **15** research centers across sub-Saharan Africa, and has trained more than **600** research center clinical staff to conduct high-quality HIV clinical trials.

# NEXT GENERATION DAPIVIRINE PRODUCTS

The Population Council is leveraging its innovative ring technology to develop a range of next-generation prevention products that advance the science of HIV prevention. These include a three-month dapivirine-only vaginal ring as well as combination rings that leverage the potency of different ARVs.

	PRODUCT	INDICATION	PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT	LEARN MORE
	Dapivirine vaginal ring	Reduced HIV risk for 1-month	Marketed, available in 11 countries	
	3-month dapivirine vaginal ring	Reduced HIV risk for 3-months	Phase 2	
	Dapivirine-Levonorgestrel Vaginal Ring	Combined HIV protection and contraception	Phase 1	

## FROM PROMISE TO PRODUCT

As women remain disproportionately affected by HIV, the Population Council has remained true to its vision by pioneering critically needed microbicide research and development to fill a gap in women's HIV prevention needs.

The Population Council extends its deepest thanks to our partners around the world and to our generous donors, all of whom amplify our efforts to improve women's health. Realizing the life-saving potential of new products for women is within our reach. But only by continuing to unite scientific discovery with political will and financial commitment, will we meet women's urgent sexual and reproductive health needs globally.