

Delivering pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)

DREAMS Innovation Challenge partners accelerate PrEP and HIV self-testing rollout

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On May 4, Kenya’s Ministry of Health (MOH) launched its [pre-exposure prophylaxis \(PrEP\) implementation framework](#) and [HIV self-testing operational manual](#). Three DREAMS Innovation Challenge (DREAMS-IC) partners are accelerating rollout of both to adolescent girls and young women (AGYW): Bar Hostess Empowerment and Support Programme (BHESP), the University of Washington, and ATHENA.



Photo by Susan Onsongo

Mercy Wafula, BHESP Project Manager, displays PrEP information products during the launch of the guidelines.

- **BHESP** is accelerating rollout by building awareness of PrEP among 3,000 vulnerable AGYW through use of ‘safe spaces’, community outreach, and messaging via local radio stations and social media networks popular among youth. They expect to enroll 1,000 AGYW on PrEP.
- **University of Washington** is also accelerating rollout by integrating PrEP and HIV self-testing into maternal and child health and family planning services in 16 high-volume health facilities in Kisumu. Their goal is to reach 8,000 AGYW.
- **ATHENA** and their partner PIPE Kenya will mentor 100 AGYW to become advocates or champions for PrEP among vulnerable AGYW in their communities.

The launch of these guidelines makes Kenya a leader in East Africa. It is the second country in Africa to incorporate PrEP into its HIV prevention package. BHESP has already demonstrated that vulnerable AGYW are willing to be enrolled on PrEP, despite misconceptions and PrEP-associated stigma. As of June 30th, BHESP had screened 1,543 AGYW and enrolled 289 of the eligible young people, including five males, on PrEP. BHESP has established PrEP support groups to continuously monitor use and adherence and provide psychosocial support.

“We believe that it is only through community demand creation that PrEP will be effective in reducing HIV infections.”
- Mercy Wafula, BHESP Project Manager

Given limited experience with PrEP in Kenya, advocating for PrEP use, identifying and enrolling vulnerable AGYW, and monitoring adherence are particularly important. DREAMS-IC partners work closely with county governments and communities to increase PrEP uptake.