



PrEP Learning Network:

PrEP Delivery in the Context of COVID-19

April 23, 2020



OPENING

PrEP IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

PrEP AND RELATED SRH-SERVICE DELIVERY DURING THE SOUTH AFRICAN COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

LESOTHO'S PrEP IMPLEMENTATION DURING THE COVID-19 EPIDEMIC: SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE USE AND CONTINUATION

PrEP CONTINUATION DURING COVID-19: RESPONSE OF BOTSWANA Epic PROJECT

WHAT'S NEXT WITH THE LEARNING NETWORK



Today's Speakers



Jenny Albertini, PEPFAR

Jenny Albertini is the Senior Technical Advisor for HIV Prevention and Maternal Health at the Office of the US Global AIDS Coordinator and Health Diplomacy (S/GAC - PEPFAR HQ). She has worked on PEPFAR programming since its inception in 2003 for CDC, USAID and the State Department while being based throughout Africa and in the US in a variety of technical and managerial positions.



Vusile Butler, Wits RHI, South Africa

Vusile Butler is a Senior Program Manager at Wits RHI. She is responsible for the implementation of a portfolio of technical assistance and implementation programs focused on improving HIV prevention, care, and treatment outcomes for adolescent girls and young women; gender-based violence prevention through community mobilisation and norms change; and strengthening child sexual assault prevention.



Today's Speakers



Tafadzwa Chakare, Jhpiego, Lesotho

Dr. Tafadzwa Chakare is a public health practitioner with 15 years of experience in HIV prevention and treatment in Southern Africa. He is currently the Technical Director for Jhpiego in Lesotho and is implementing VMMC and community-based PrEP.



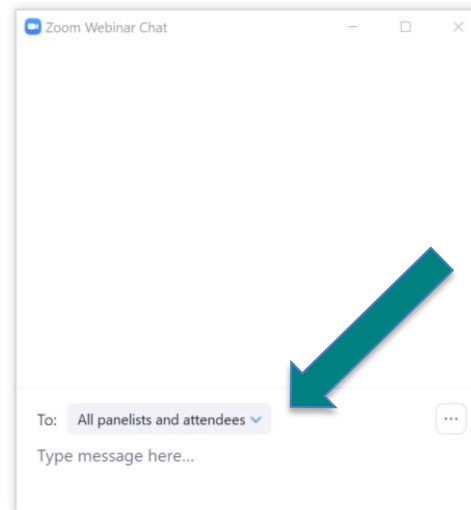
Wame Dikobe, FHI 360, Botswana

Dr. Wame Dikobe is the Project Director of EpiC Botswana, which focuses on providing HIV prevention, care, and treatment services, including PrEP, to key populations (men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, sex workers, and transgender people).

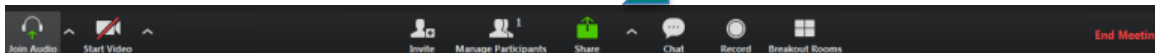


Use the “chat” feature to ask questions!

There will be dedicated time for Q&A after the presentations. Please feel free to type your questions into the chat box at any point during the presentations.



Make sure to share your chat with *all panelists and attendees*, not just the panelists.





PEPFAR

U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

PrEP in the time of COVID-19

Jennifer Albertini

Senior Technical Advisor HIV Prevention and Maternal Health
Office of the US Global AIDS Coordinator and Health Diplomacy

April 23, 2020

16 YEARS OF SAVING LIVES THROUGH AMERICAN GENEROSITY AND PARTNERSHIPS

Background

- 1. Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is a critical intervention in the HIV prevention cascade that PEPFAR supports.**
- 2. The COVID-19 pandemic, and the infection prevention measures being rolled out to flatten the curve of its impact, are affecting all other health services around the world. This includes PrEP and all HIV/AIDS programs.**
- 3. Within the allowable public health boundaries of this emergency response, PEPFAR (as part of the USG response) is issuing regularly updated technical guidance (FAQs) on how PEPFAR-funded activities should be operating during this time.**
- 4. On April 8th, a series of PrEP-specific recommendations were issued regarding MMD, M&E, demand creation, and virtual support within the PEPFAR FAQ.**
- 5. These documents will be continuously updated during the pandemic to reflect current programmatic realities and forthcoming evidence on COVID-19. Once we are out of this emergency response phase, we will look forward to supporting our country teams to continue to scale up PrEP.**

1: PrEP is a key HIV prevention tool for PEPFAR

- **At the end of FY19, PEPFAR was supporting 162,000 people on PrEP around the world.**
- **Since January 2019, we have convened an interagency Community of Practice (COOP) on PrEP Implementation. This allows us to keep PrEP highlighted as a key technical area within PEPFAR programming, and to ensure countries receive adequate technical support.**
- **PrEP is woven into key initiatives like DREAMS and programming for key populations, and we also focus attention on specific populations such as pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBFW) and discordant couples in highly endemic areas.**

2: The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

Primary Impact

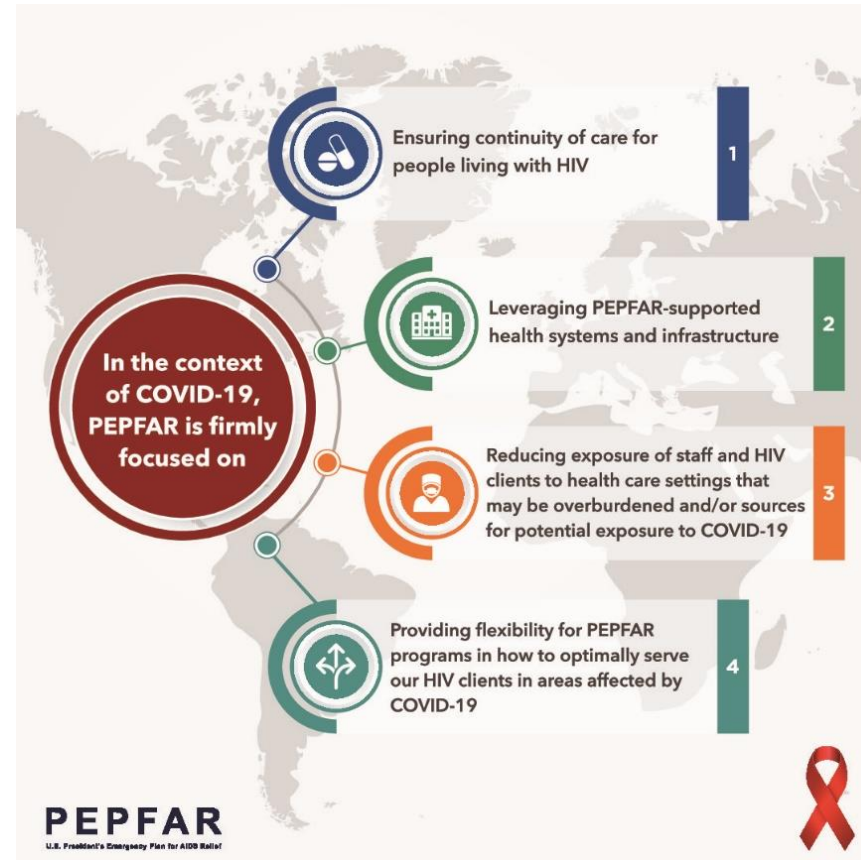
- Illness of patients
- HCW strain (lab technicians, pharmacists, doctors, nurses)
- HC system burden (emergency response, prioritization of select services)
- Supply chain disruptions (drugs, tests, borders closed, limited delivery options)

Secondary Impact

- Physical confinement measures are critical to contain the spread of COVID-19, but as these periods of confinement are extended, there is growing potential for increasing rates of sexual exposure for many people.
- Fewer options for clients to interact with peers or HCWs to learn about or obtain PrEP or other prevention tools

3: The PEPFAR response and support

- www.state.gov/pepfar/coronavirus/
- Technical guidance is distributed twice per week
 - The April 3rd update included specific comments on PrEP
- Supply chain emergency orders and planning have commenced
- M&E reporting deadlines have been pushed back
- Recommendations are in place for limiting some services during this period (VMMC, cervical cancer)
- Support is being provided for major staffing changes (evacuations, telework, etc.)



4: PrEP in PEPFAR during COVID-19

- **HIV prevention activities, including PrEP, can and should continue, with necessary adjustments made to communication options and in-person visits.**
- **PEPFAR staff who have evacuated post continue to work from remote settings. Locally employed staff have varying levels of telework capability depending on the setting. Teams are determining on a country-by-country basis how to best provide USG oversight to implementing partners.**
- **Multi-month dispensing of PrEP can be done if the provider and client both agree that it will be practical. Follow-up visits can be conducted over the phone or outside of the clinic area.**

4: PrEP in PEPFAR during COVID-19

- **Demand creation activities based on larger social gatherings, or social mobilization, should be paused for the duration of COVID-19 or until social distancing requirements are relaxed in the specific community.**
- **However, other demand creation options based on no-contact or limited-contact platforms such as radio, printed materials, or virtual platforms (videos, internet banners, or podcasts) should continue. With increased attention on social platforms (WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram) to encourage community cohesion during physical isolation periods, community leaders and mentors can continue to encourage PrEP uptake safely from these settings.**

4: PrEP in PEPFAR during COVID-19

- **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- **Recognizing challenges with site-level access in countries across the world, the PEPFAR Quarter 2 reporting deadline has been moved to Friday, June 5th.**
- **Detailed guidance is forthcoming from SGAC_SI. We will closely monitor PEPFAR program implementation in the coming weeks and provide updated guidance as needed for Quarter 3 reporting. The SIMS FY20 Q2 import deadline is extended to May 29th.**

4: PrEP in PEPFAR During COVID-19

- **Key population programming during the COVID-19 pandemic:**
 - **Prioritize differentiated service delivery through community initiation and refill of PrEP and delivery of HIV testing, including self-testing via mobile clinics, drop-in centers (DICs), and other community platforms or alternative arrangements for pickup or delivery of services.**
 - **Ensure peer outreach workers have enough supply of commodities and/or there are also community distribution points for commodities like condoms, lubricants, and self-test kits.**
 - **Leverage virtual approaches: Use of social media, phone, SMS, and alternative methods of communication by health care and peer workers may ensure critical services are continued.**

5: Next steps

- **Support social distancing based on local guidelines in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19.**
- **Ensure that health care systems and workers can prioritize emergency responses now, and then re-engage with routine services again once the situation changes.**
- **Use what we learn during this period to improve how we facilitate and support behavior change and health seeking actions of clients later.**
- **Support PEPFAR teams and partners to be able to re-start and re-engage on the goal to bring PrEP to one million people next year**



Thank You!



PrEP and related SRH-service delivery

during the South African Covid19 lockdown

The Project PrEP story

23 April 2020

Vusile Butler
Saiqa Mullick
Melanie Pleaner
Elmari Briedenhann
Project PrEP Mobile Clinic staff
Bongai Mundeta

www.myprep.co.za



@myPrEPSouthAfrica



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Project PrEP Objectives

Increase accessibility of PrEP for eligible AGYW population (15-24) in project implementation areas

Demonstrate effective delivery models and appropriate use of PrEP amongst adolescents

Generate and disseminate evidence on the use of PrEP in real life settings

- Develop strategies to identify AGYW at highest risk
- Test various demand creation strategies
- Test different HIV screening/testing mechanisms

- Reach over 600 000 AGYW and initiate 6640
- Access AGYW through public facilities
- Offer, initiate and retain AGYW on PrEP

- Learn about how to deliver HIV prevention services, PrEP specifically, to AGYW
- Gather evidence on cost-effective and successful service delivery mechanisms and interventions
- Inform future scale up by NDoH of PrEP provision

Total Initiations to date:

7 234 (3 804 AGYW and 3430 Other)



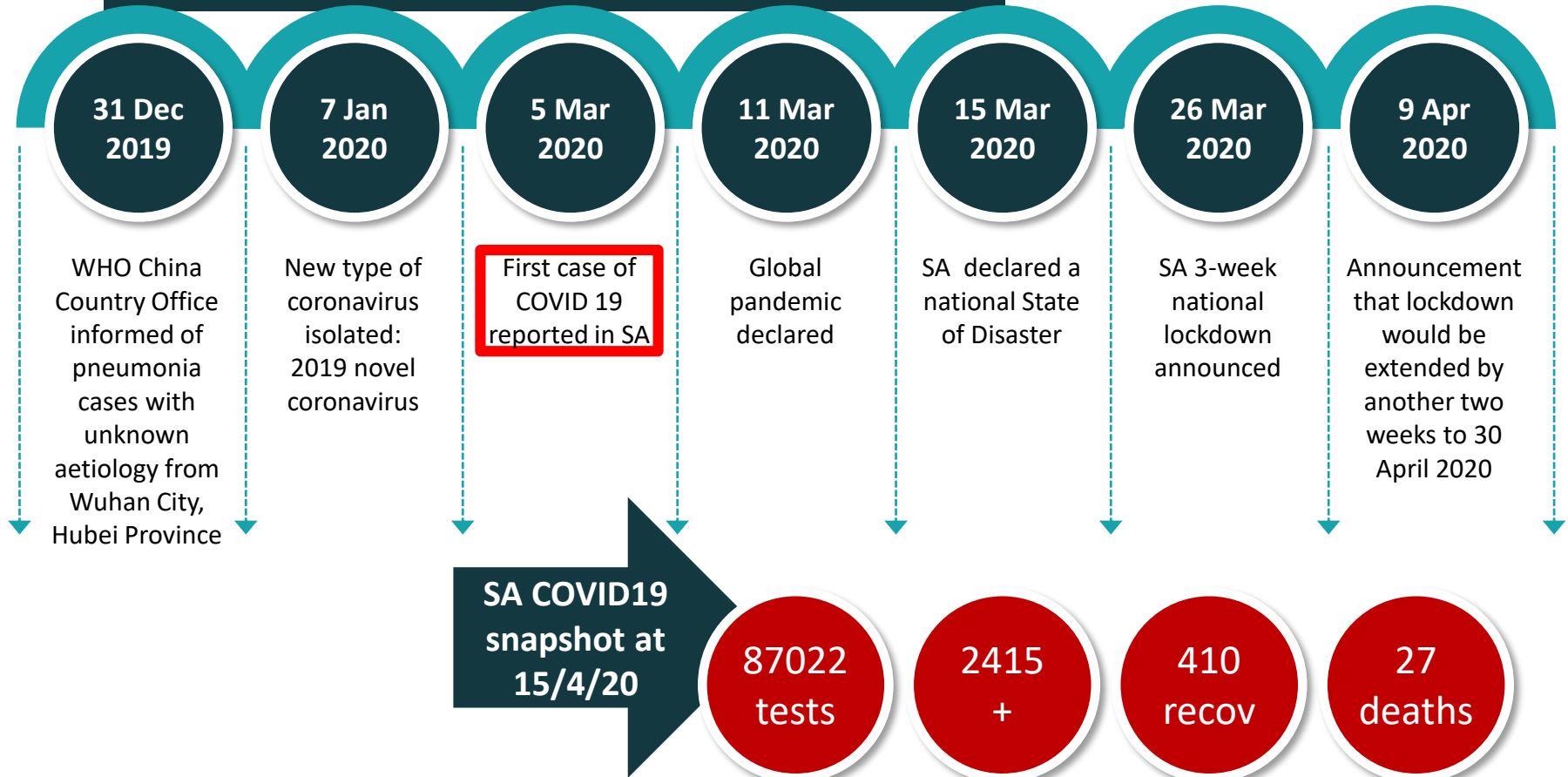
health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



From far away in China, to state of disaster, to South African lockdown

Background - State of disaster: Key Dates



The need to swing into action: our response

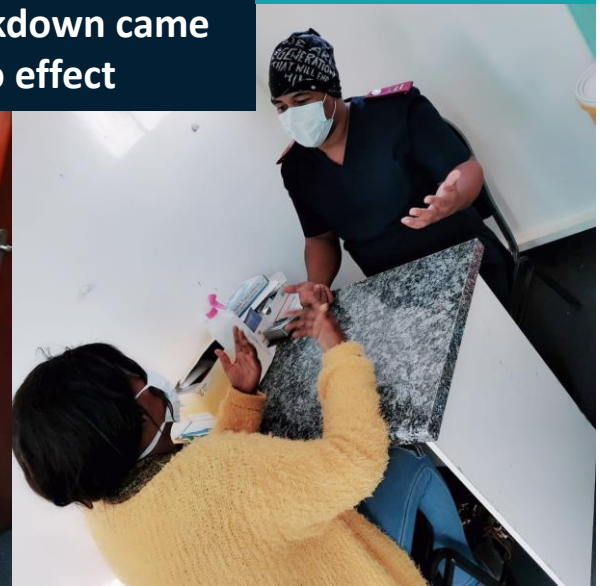
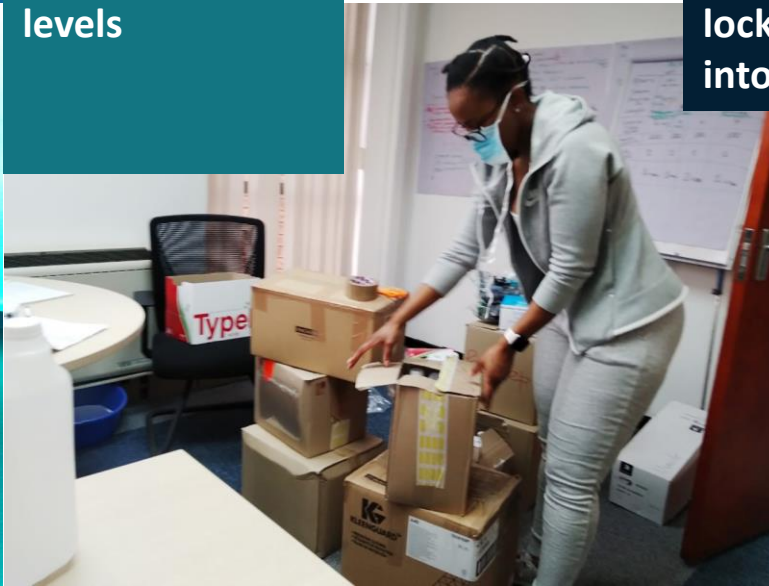
Determined
who was
essential and
non-essential
staff

Trained
staff/ensure
COVID-19
readiness

PPE
procurement
and distribution

Set up
communication
systems at all
levels

Strengthened
Infection control
measures before
lockdown came
into effect



NDOH guidance on PrEP provision during COVID-19

National DOH guidelines – providing PrEP during lockdown (released 27 March 2020) - Department of Health guidelines in relation to PrEP provision during COVID 19 lockdown



Training expanded to include SRH, provided to all management staff across IS projects (7 April 2020), also cascaded into all other projects providing PrEP and other SRH services

Key elements of guidelines:

Two-pronged approach:

- Ensure continuation for those on ART;
- Ensure access to HIV prevention, including HIV testing & PrEP

Pivoting our strategies in light of COVID19

Demand creation

- Small group discussions and focus on 1-to-1 interactions that lead to HIV testing, PrEP initiations and SRH needs
- Demand creation officer job aid to assist in sharing integrated PrEP and COVID19 messaging

Initiation + continuation + service delivery + structural changes

- Sustain PrEP and SRH services and retain existing clients
- Multi-month dispensing of PrEP (2 month supply) – telephonically/WhatsApp to record continuation + need for support
- Reinforcing infection control, social distancing, PPE and universal precautions measure for staff
- Decant clinics of those clients requiring HIV prevention and SRH services
- Additional PPE for staff and once-off PPE for frontline DOH staff in clinics designated for COVID19 testing

Provision of comp services + integration

- Heightened awareness about COVID19, TB screening and prevention measures
- SRH services are important but easily forgotten – sustain services – for new and existing clients

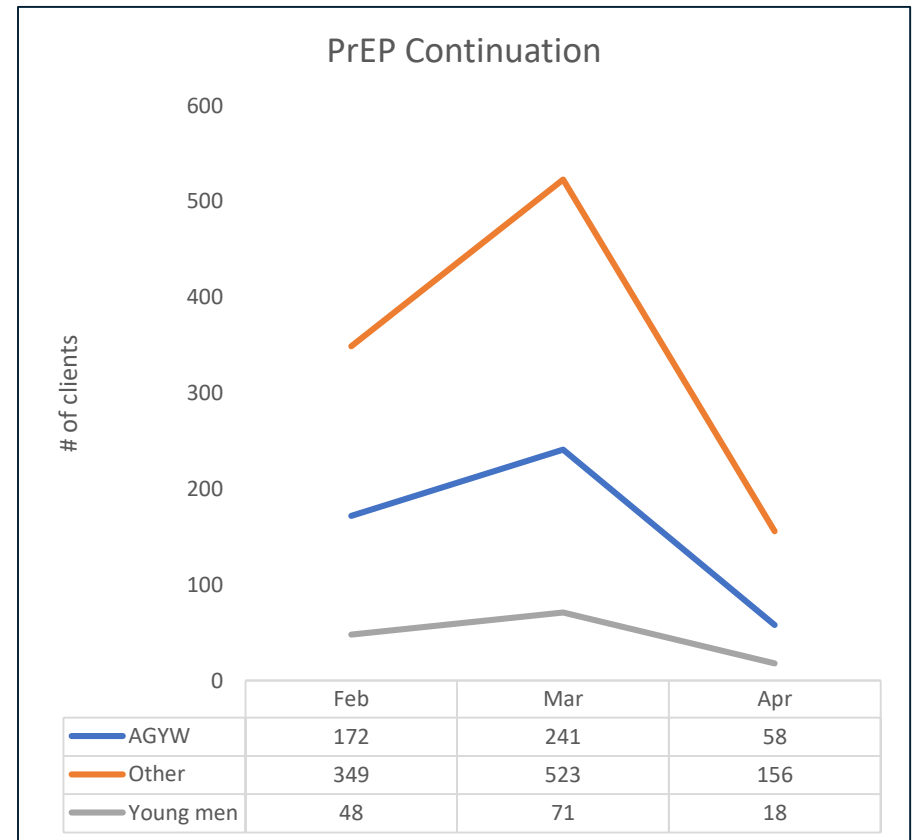
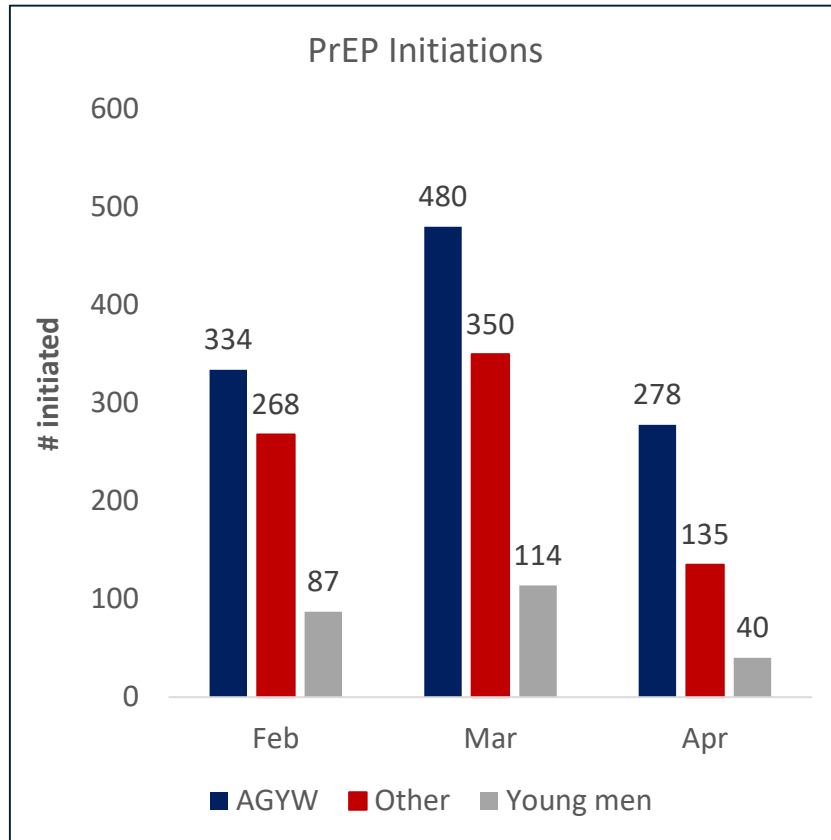
Follow up and client support

- Face to face at mobile; Telephone/WhatsApp for follow-up
- Job descriptions of non-essential staff adjusted to include client follow-up - rights-based approach

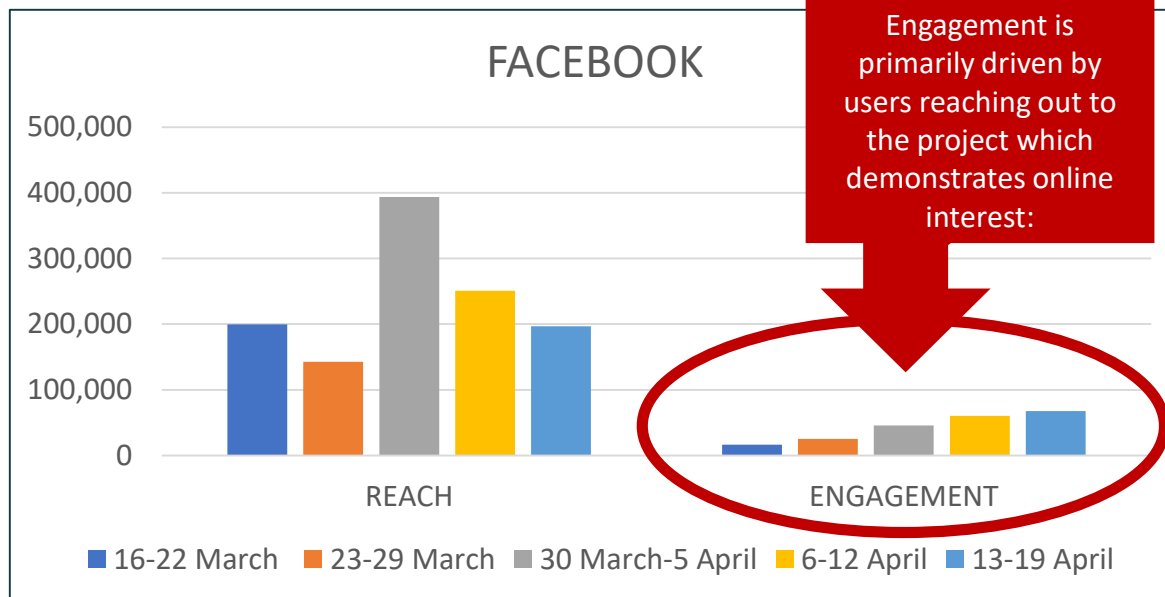
Team support

- WhatsApp and zoom meetings – allowing dynamic interaction

PrEP is still in demand during the lockdown (data as at 14th March)



Social media to create demand and provide information on service delivery



- ### Top Facebook Messages received (30-60 conversations per day)
- What is PrEP?
 - Where can I get PrEP?
 - Where can I test for corona?
 - Do you test for corona?
 - Is HIV test free?
 - Which services does mobile clinic offer?
 - Can I still get my PrEP and ARVs during lockdown?
 - What are the symptoms of COVID19?
 - What am I able to do during the lockdown?
 - How can I protect myself from COVID19?
 - Can your mobile van come to our area?

My PrEP
Published by Nikita Roma Sheobalak (7) · 22 March at 11:23 ·

The Corona virus is a reality and it is very important that you take control and conquer! If you are on ARV treatment, keep taking it. If you are on PrEP, keep taking it. Also remember to practice safe sex by using condoms and use a contraceptive method that will protect you from unplanned pregnancy. Get access to sexual and reproductive health services including PrEP at selected clinics across South Africa. To find out where you can get PrEP, visit <https://www.myprep.co.za/locations> and simply type in your address and the clinics will pop up on the map. #Continue2Conquer

22,980 People Reached

538 Reactions, comments & shares

436 Like On post 0 On shares

67 Love On post 0 On shares

10 Haha On post 0 On shares

1 Wow On post 0 On shares

1 Angry On post 0 On shares

22 Comments On Post 0 On Shares

1 Shares On Post 0 On Shares

533 Post Clicks

163 Post views 52 Link clicks 318 Other Clicks

22,980 reach
538 reactions

My PrEP
Published by Elmari Briedenmann (7) · 16 March at 13:19 ·

We love you! Take care of yourself and know your power!

Coronavirus Information: What you should know

How can I try to stay well?

Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser

Use a tissue when you cough or sneeze

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands

If you don't have tissue use your sleeve

44 889 reach
779 reactions

Performance for your post

44,889 People Reached

779 Reactions, comments & shares

425 Like On post	380 On post	45 On shares
168 Love On post	160 On post	8 On shares
4 Haha On post	4 On post	0 On shares
54 Wow On post	54 On post	0 On shares
10 Sad On post	10 On post	0 On shares
11 Comments	9 On Post	2 On Shares
	103 On Post	4 On Shares

Key learnings and challenges

Rapid pivot is possible – we have been able to demonstrate program adaptability

Challenge: Strained supply chain: PPE and other commodities



Challenge: Transport under lockdown and travel permits required for all essential staff

Communication is key when pivoting rapidly. Ensures that people keep coming in

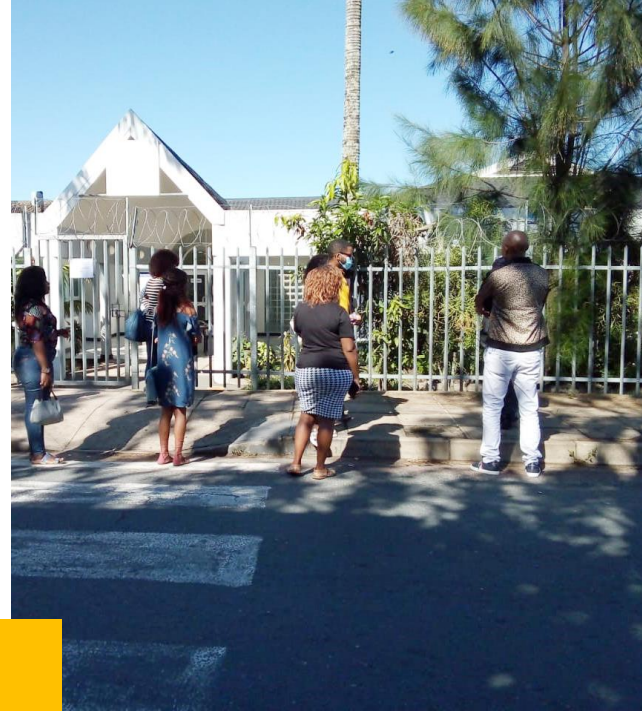
Challenge: Messaging ambiguity - around masks wearing, isolation vs quarantine etc.



The guidelines provided by NDoH were very empowering and enabling

Slowdown of continuation rates due to curtailed community outreach and hotspot visits

GBV on increase - referrals and services under lockdown.



Thank you!



Lesotho PrEP Implementation During COVID 19 Epidemic

Supporting effective use and
continuation

23 April 2020

Johns Hopkins University Affiliate



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

jhpiego
Saving lives. Improving health.
Transforming futures.

Background

- Lesotho has 2.2 million population, adult HIV prevalence of 25% and incidence of 1.5%
- Jhpiego is responsible for community based PrEP primarily targeted at AGYW, FSW and MSM
- No reported COVID 19 cases in Lesotho
- Intimate neighbour South Africa has reported over 2,400 confirmed cases
- Nationwide lockdown since 29 March 2020
 - › ‘Non-essential’ health activities ceased



Approach

- Stop face to face community-based demand creation activities
- Continue social media advertisements and messaging
- Stop mobile tent based community service provision
- Implement early community refills for all clients due for visits during lockdown period
 - › Continue providing one month supplies as prescribed by MOH
 - › Early HIV testing for clients due for test at next scheduled visit
- Continue services at four fixed Resource Centers

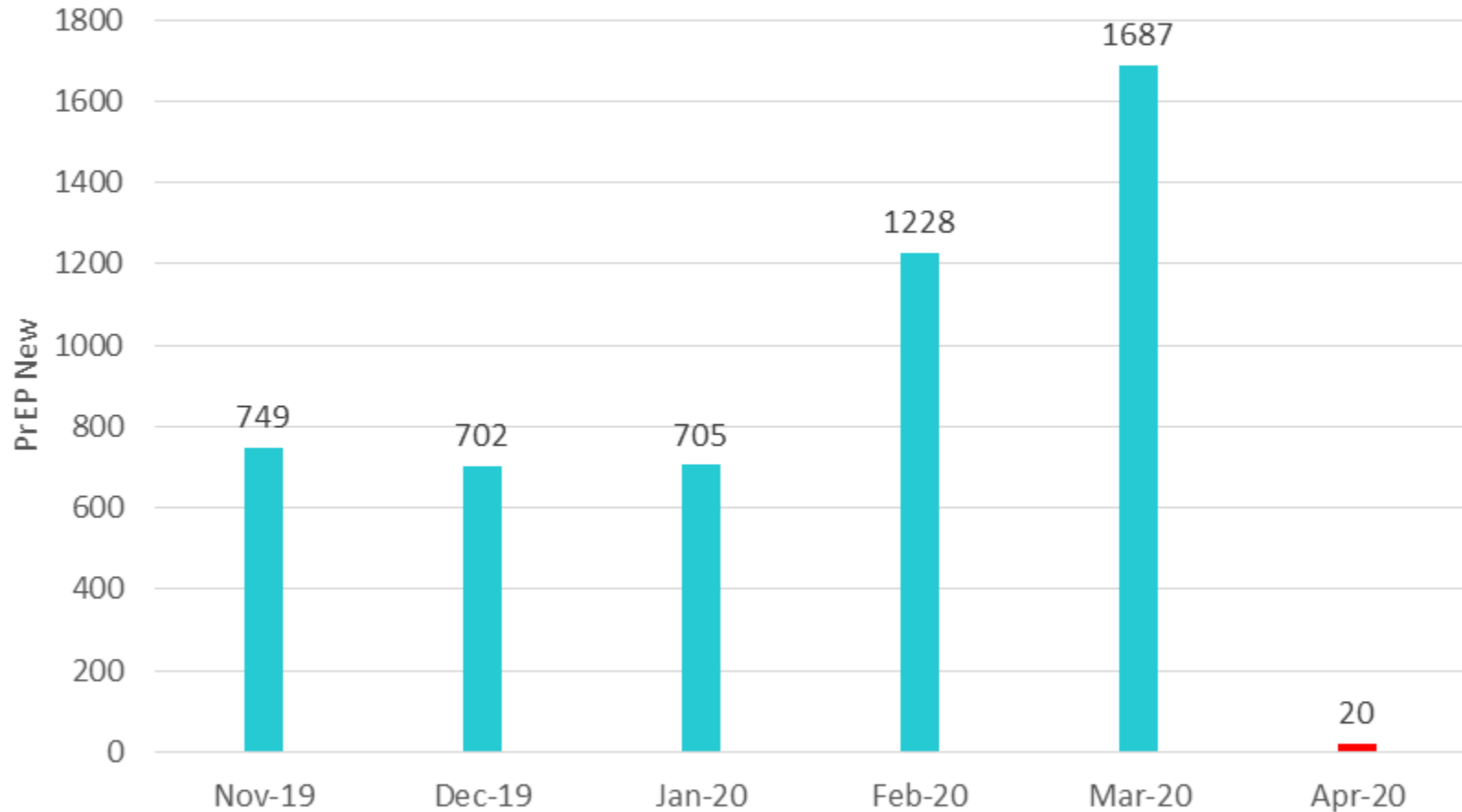
PrEP Resource Centers are OPEN

You can find us at the following locations:

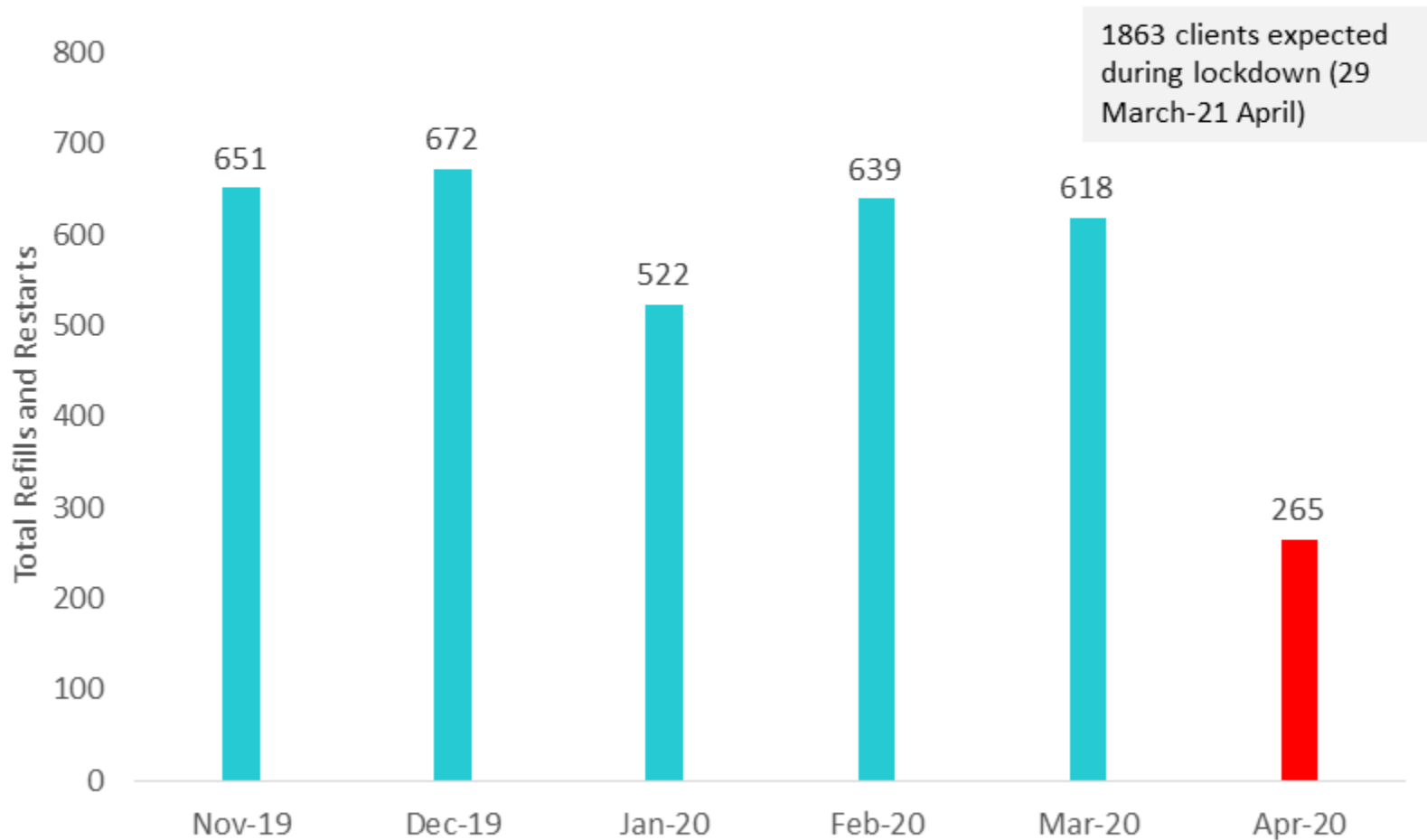
- 1 **Fokothi:** In the 'Makamo building next to Life high School and Lerotholi Polytechnic
- 2 **Roma:** In the new complex next to Vodacom
- 3 **TY:** On 1 way street at Nthane estate opposite Jet
- 4 **Maputsoe:** On Sir Seretse Khama road on the way to the border next to Naleli funeral parlour

 +266 5934 6315

PrEP Initiations have dropped drastically under Lockdown



Only 14% of clients expected to attend refills during Lockdown served



Challenges

- Clients not available after relocating for lockdown
 - › Tertiary school closures have resulted in students going back to their hometowns
 - › Some AGYW now living with parents to whom they have not disclosed
- Clients afraid of accessing services due to strict enforcement of lockdown
- Clients unavailable for refills due to movement restrictions
- Some clients no longer at risk due to lockdown inspired changes

HIV risk may be elevated during this time with high numbers of returnees from South Africa ahead of that county's lockdown. In addition, preliminary reports from OVC partners suggest a spike in GBV.

Thank You



Do you feel that you're
at risk for HIV? Did you
know PrEP resource
centers are
OPEN?



PrEP Resource Centers are open in Maseru, Berea and Leribe for refills and new clients. Please contact us for opening hours or additional information.

Maseru

Fokothi: In the 'Makamo building next to Life high School and Lerotholi Polytechnic

Roma: Located in the new complex next to Vodacom

Berea

TY: Located on 1 way street at Nthane estate opposite Jet

Leribe

Maputsoe: Located on Sir Seretse Khama road on the way to the border next to Naleli funeral parlour



Please contact us on WhatsApp for more information:

+266 5934 6315

PrEP continuation during COVID-19

Response of Botswana EpiC Project

Dr Wame Dikobe



Background

Botswana was one of the last few countries to be affected by COVID-19 in the world.

During the month of March the country strengthened COVID-19 prevention measures by announcing the following restrictions:

- March 24th
 - Introduction of mandatory quarantine for travelers coming from affected countries, including South Africa (only Botswana and Botswana residents will be allowed into the country during this period)
 - Ban of domestic and international travel (only trucks allowed)
 - **Closing of schools and bars**
 - Restrictions of gatherings of more than 10 people
- March 30th
 - Botswana recorded its first 3 cases of COVID-19
 - **Suspension of viral load and CD4 count testing across districts to prevent over burdening of laboratories during COVID-19 pandemic**
 - MMD for only 2 months for PLHIVs
- April 2nd
 - The emergency powers (COVID-19) regulations declared a national lockdown from 2nd April to 30th April 2020
 - Movement only with permits issued by GoB (both essential and nonessential)

Provision of PrEP before COVID-19

Prior to COVID-19, PrEP services were provided via differentiated models of service delivery

- Static clinic
- Drop-in center
- Mobile outreach/mobile clinic

Clinical services offered

- All persons who test HIV-negative offered PrEP screening
- PrEP screening by nurse to determine eligibility (STI screening, baseline labs drawn)
- First 3 months on PrEP include monthly clinic visits for HTS, STI screening
- MMD provided only for those on PrEP longer than 3 months
- Adherence support by Peer Navigators and through PrEP support groups

Offering PrEP Services during COVID-19

Demand Creation & New Enrolments

- Mobilization is done virtually and clients are referred to the facility or appointments made for enrolment at home or in the community

At Facility

- Adhere to social distancing and limit number of clients per day
- Clients require permits to come to the facility
- Modification of HTS protocol to shorten physical contact
- No baseline labs (all labs suspended)
- 1 month dispensing, after 1 month follow-up, 2 month MMD

At Home

- Home-based HIV testing and enrolment
- 1 month dispensing, after 1 month follow-up, 2 month MMD



Support for clients currently on PrEP during COVID-19

Tracked all clients who were due for refills and HIV testing through phone calls and followed-up with home visits

- Offered home-based testing
- Home-based refills with 3 month MMD
- STI & TB screening and treatment and referral



Support for managing side effects and remaining on PrEP

Beneficiaries provided with nurses and peer navigators' (PNs) phone numbers

Online support through WhatsApp groups and phone calls by PNs

Frequent check-ins by PNs for those newly put on PrEP

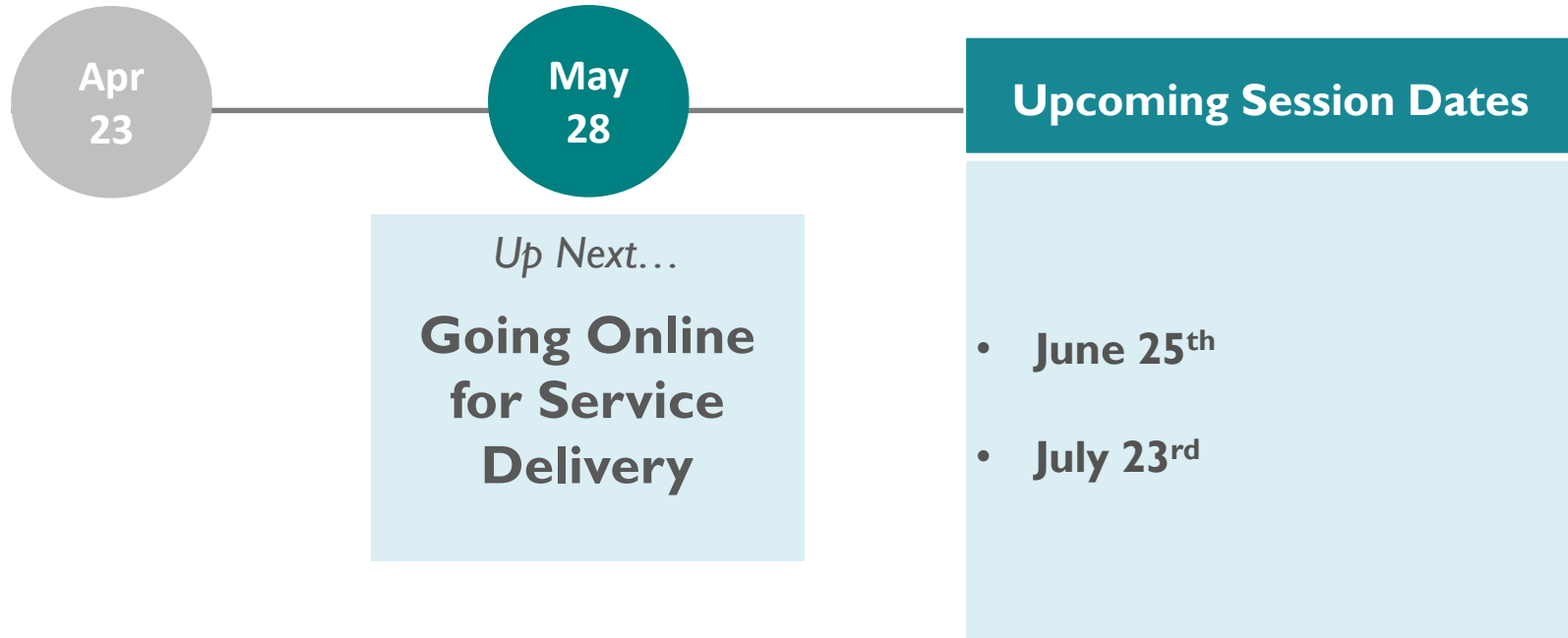
GBV/IPV screening tool



EpiC is a global cooperative agreement dedicated to achieving and maintaining HIV epidemic control. It is led by FHI 360 with core partners Right to Care, Palladium, Population Services International (PSI), and Gobe Group.



Upcoming Sessions: Register!



Visit <https://www.prepwatch.org/virtual-learning-network> for up-to-date information.



Visit PrEPWatch for additional resources

- Webinars are **recorded** and will be accessible on PrEPWatch within a week post-presentation date
- Additional, complementary **resources** will also be shared on PrEPWatch—including related research articles and tools
- Registration for **upcoming webinars** are also located on PrEPWatch

Virtual Learning Network

The PrEP Learning Network, hosted by OPTIONS, EpiC and RISE, provides national and sub-national ministries, implementing partners, community-based organizations (CBOs), and others working with PrEP around the world with the tools and resources, best practices, and opportunities to learn from others to help to advance PrEP scale-up.

Its monthly webinar series features presentations from experts in specific content areas, lessons learned and insights shared from implementing partners and government ministries, and new tools or research on specific topics related to PrEP scale-up, ranging from demand creation to continuation.

The following pages include links to register for upcoming PrEP Learning Network webinars, watch previously recorded webinars and access complementary resources, research and tools on webinar topics.

Upcoming Webinars

- PrEP Delivery in the Context of COVID-19

Thursday, April 23, 9:00am EDT | 15:00 CAT | 16:00 EAT

In this webinar, an overview of PEPFAR's PrEP guidance in the context of COVID-19 will be provided, including key considerations for program implementation. PrEP implementers from several African countries will discuss how they have adapted PrEP service delivery to accommodate social distancing, lockdowns, and ensure the safety of health care workers, clients and the community. Experiences, innovations, and challenges will be shared. We encourage all who are currently implementing PrEP to attend and take the opportunity to ask questions and share experiences on best approaches during this challenging time.

[Register here.](#)

- PrEP Learning Network: Going Online for Service Delivery

Thursday, May 28, 2020, 9:00am EDT | 15:00 CAT | 16:00 EAT

[Register here.](#)

Previous Webinars

- Addressing Intimate Partner Violence in PrEP Services

Thursday, March 26



<https://www.prepwatch.org/virtual-learning-network/>



Poll:

What did you think of today's session?



Thank You!

