"Addressing multiple sexual and reproductive health needs in one product"

Dingaan Mithi, JournAIDS, Programme Manager

Need for multipurpose HIV prevention techniques

- HIV and maternal mortality, and their frequent intersection, are among the greatest obstacles to women's health and development.
- Together, they constitute the two leading causes of death among women of reproductive age.
- New products are urgently needed to address these issues together.

Need for multipurpose HIV prevention techniques

- Women are disproportionately affected by HIV /AIDS due to biology, gender inequality and cultural norms. In sub-Saharan Africa where the epidemic has hit the hardest and its main driver is unprotected heterosexual sex women carry nearly 60 percent of the HIV burden. Young women in sub-Saharan Africa are twice as likely to be infected with HIV as young men.
- An estimated 225 million women of reproductive age have an unmet need for contraceptives that would allow them to space their pregnancies, and lead to better health, education and economic outcomes for women and families.

Need for multipurpose HIV prevention techniques

• Overlapping risks: Women in areas with high rates of HIV often have the greatest unmet need for contraception and family planning, imposing dual risks for women in developing countries.

Thank You! Merci!

Promises in MPTs

- New products called multipurpose prevention technologies (MPTs) are now being developed to protect women from HIV and unintended pregnancy.
- Additional types of MPTs in development may prevent HIV along with other sexually transmitted infections
- While existing MPTs such as male and female condoms are extremely effective at preventing both HIV and unintended pregnancy, many women cannot negotiate condom use with their partners.
- MPTs now being developed, including vaginal gels and rings, and new types of barrier devices, could expand women's options with discreet methods they could use on their own.

Promises in MPTs

• As is the case with contraceptives, no one MPT product will suit all women. Instead, an array of safe and effective options will be needed to meet women's needs and preferences.

IPM's MPT Ring: Long-acting protection against HIV and pregnancy

- Leveraging experience in developing a long-acting microbicide ring to prevent HIV, IPM is currently developing a 90-day MPT vaginal ring that would protect women from HIV and unintended pregnancy.
- Currently in preclinical stages, the ring would slowly release the ARV drug dapivirine and the contraceptive hormone levonorgestrel.