



Key messages from AIDS 2026

(the 26th International AIDS Conference)

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Acknowledgements

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aids2026.org





 **AIDS 2026**

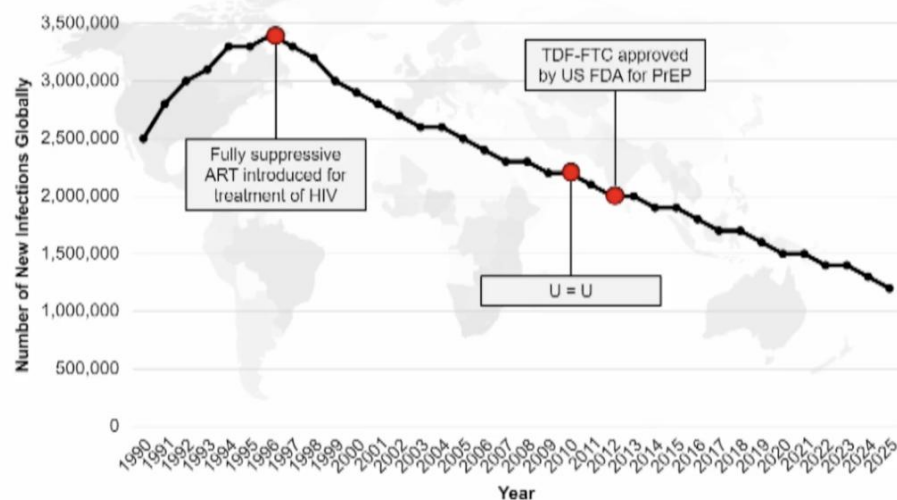


Long-Acting Prevention

Updates in HIV Treatment and Care

bnAbs, vaccines and cure

NEW HIV INFECTIONS OVER TIME



- PrEP is one of the key defining moments in HIV infection history

Percent Change in New PrEP Initiations (FY24 Q4–FY25 Q4)

-39.6%

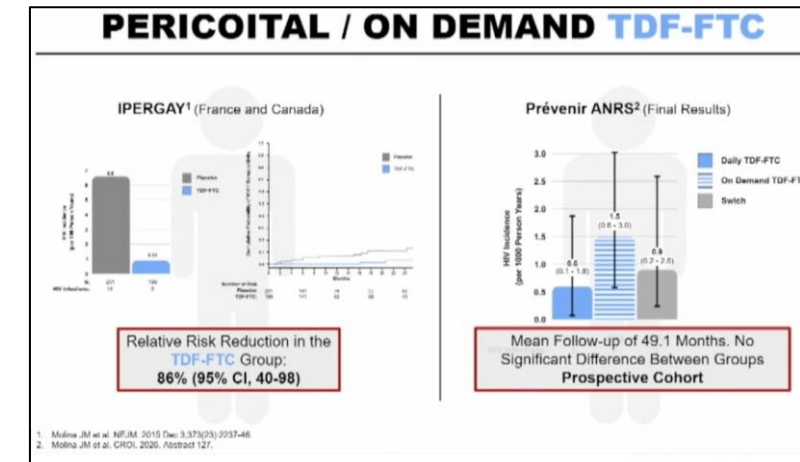
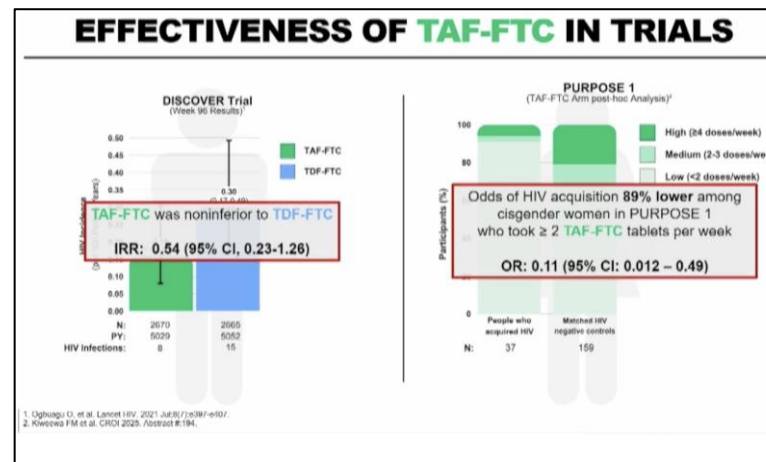
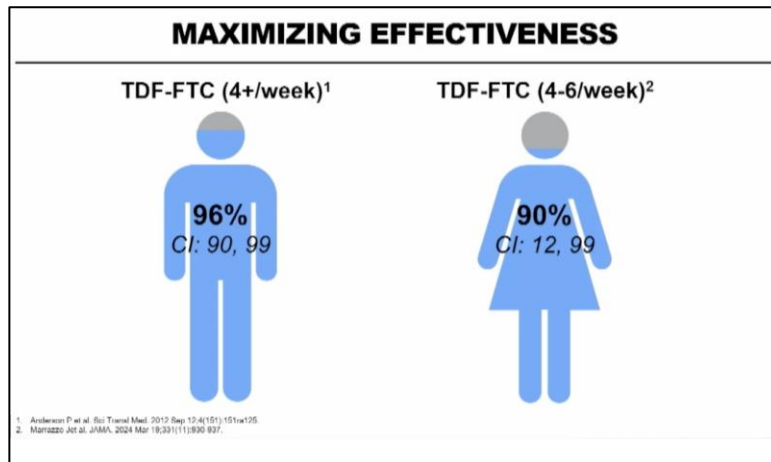
Percent Change in PrEP F/U or Reinitiations (FY24 Q4–FY25 Q4)

-39.7%

Department of State, Bureau of Global Health Security and Diplomacy, PEPFAR Performance Spotlight Dashboard. Accessed July 13, 2026. <https://data.pepfar.gov/dashboard>

- Impact of funding cuts is devastating

○ The basics...





AIDS 2026

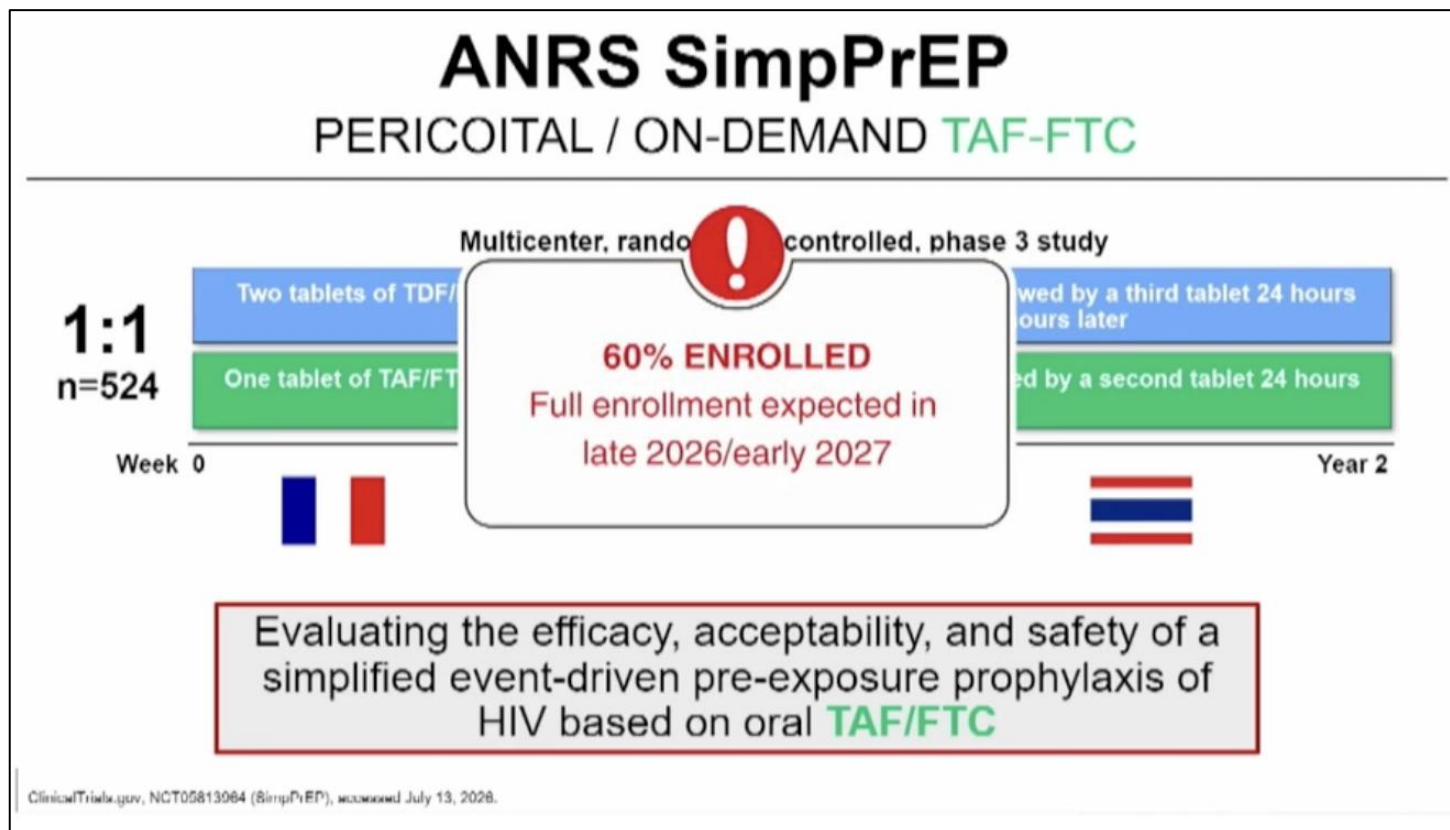
Scientific Highlights from AIDS 2026

Long-Acting Prevention



Intervention	Regimen	Efficacy	Adherence
Lenacapavir (PURPOSE 1)	6-monthly subcutaneous	No HIV acquisitions occurred during the first 52 weeks of the open-label extension of lenacapavir.	96% adherence at 52 weeks
Lenacapavir (PURPOSE 2)	6-monthly subcutaneous	96% efficacy. A total of 4 incident HIV acquisitions.	High adherence to scheduled injections (96% at Week 26, 92% at Week 52 among those switching from F/TDF).
Cabotegravir long-acting (OPERA cohort)	8-weekly injectable	No HIV acquisitions	44% of maintenance injections delayed and early discontinuation common
Dapivirine-levonorgestrel vaginal rings (Ring-105/106)	90-day continuous	Multipurpose (HIV and pregnancy prevention)	Adherent use maintained target drug levels and consistently suppressed ovarian function.

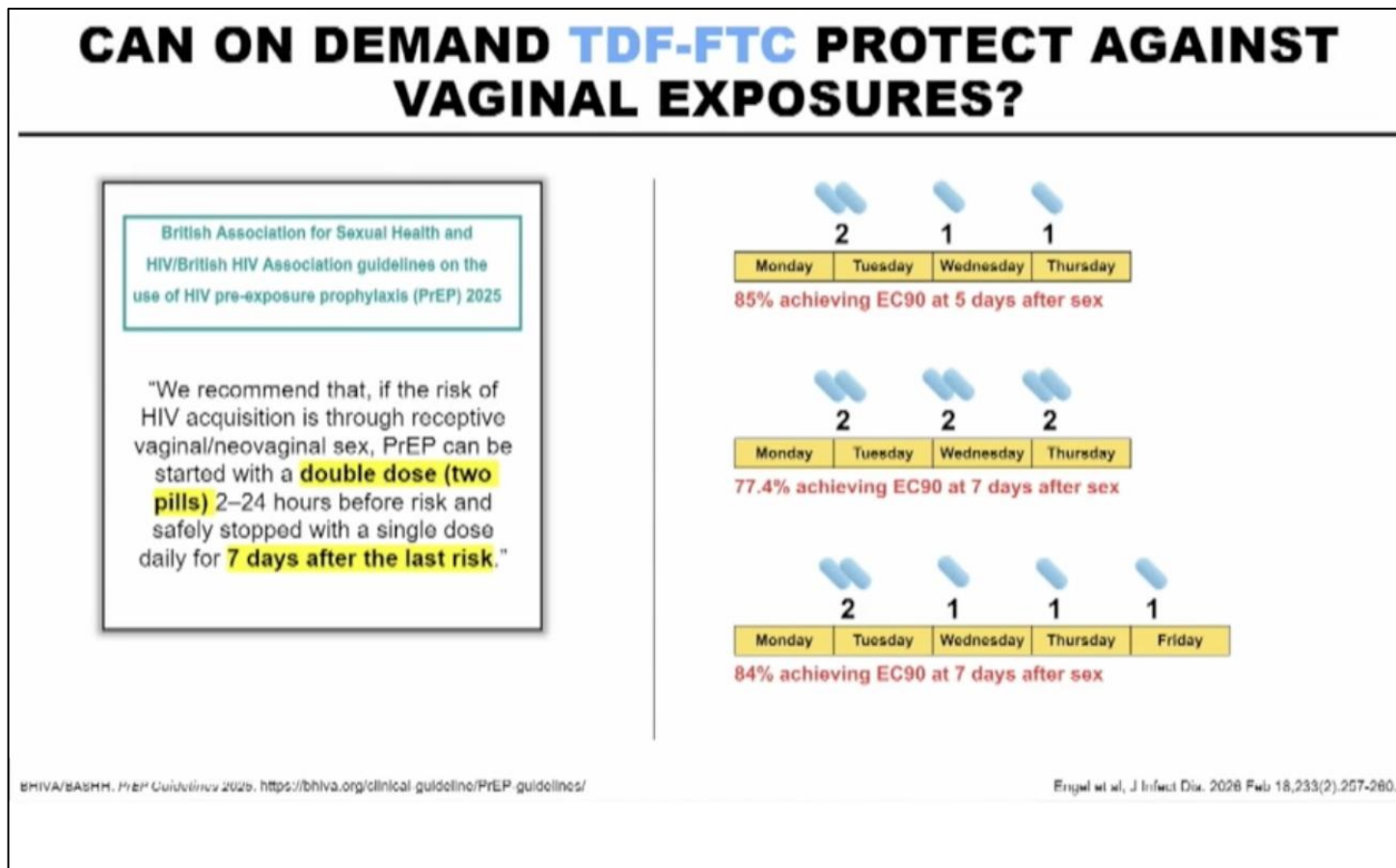
PrEP : what's in the pipeline?



○ Simplification :

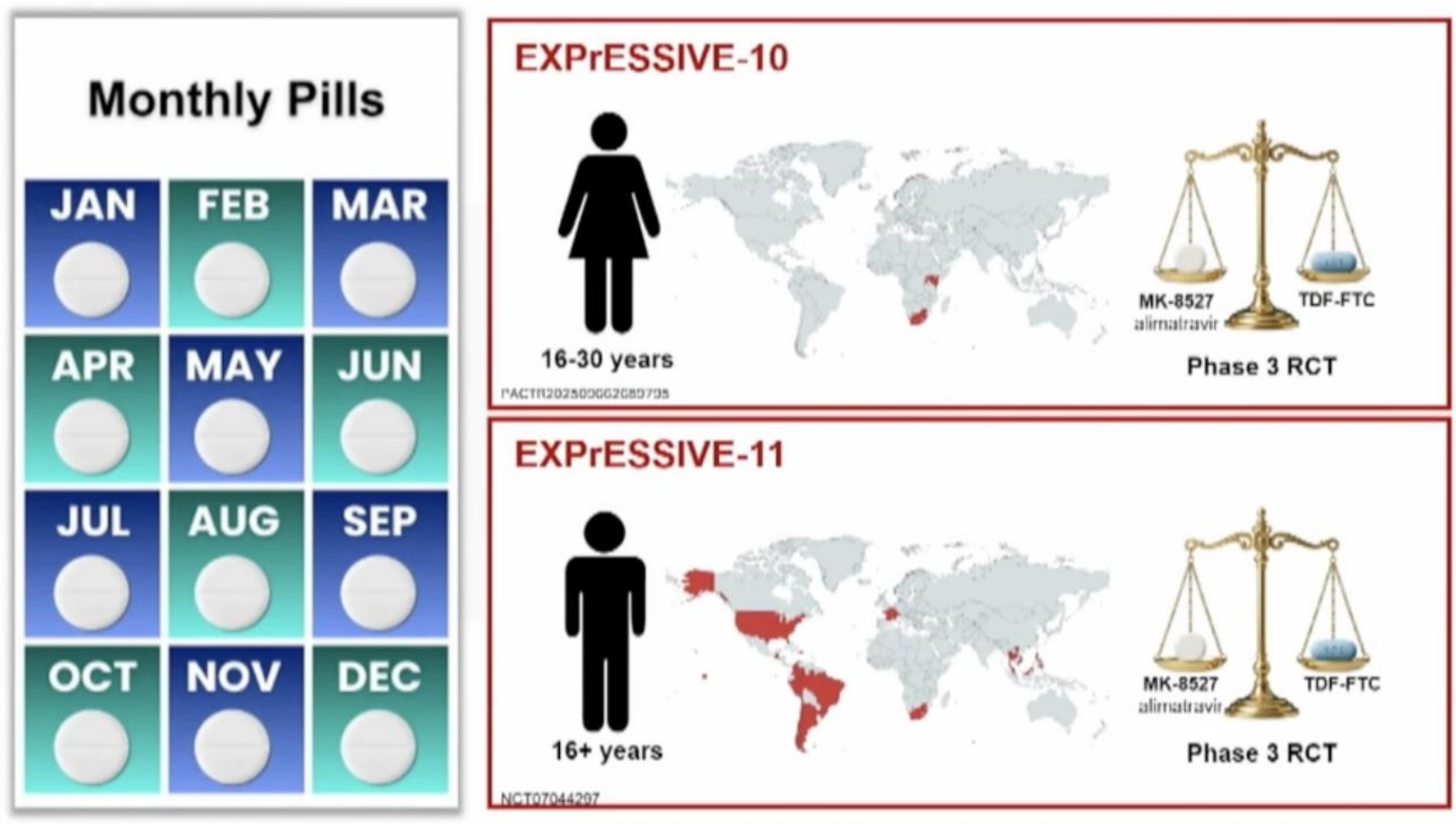
- *ANRS SimpPrEP* Study : TDF/FTC 2-1-1 *versus* TAF/FTC 1-1

PrEP : what's in the pipeline?

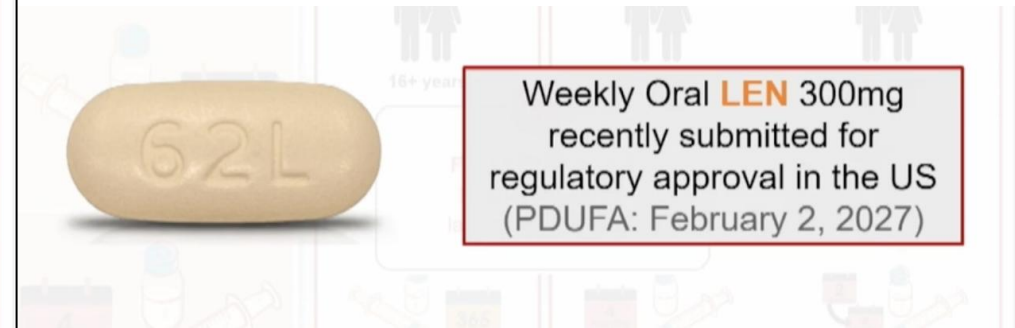
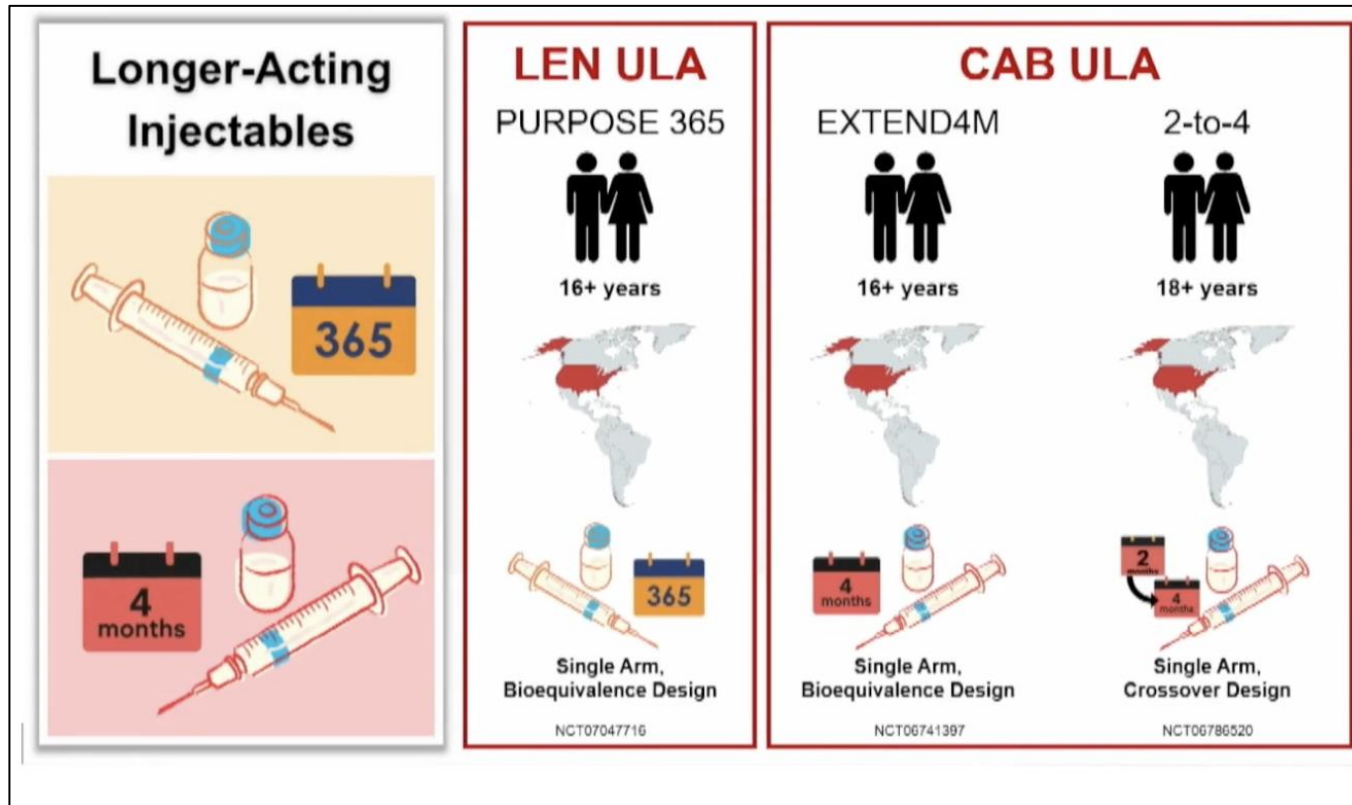


- On-demand for vaginal exposure

PrEP : what's in the pipeline?



PrEP : what's in the pipeline?



IAS PrEP : what's in the pipeline?

Douches



HPTN 106 / REV UP



18+ years

FULLY ENROLLED
Results expected
late 2026/early 2027



Phase 2
Crossover Design

INSERTS



TAF/EVG inserts



Phase 1 Trials

MATRIX-001

Completed and awaiting results

RITE-PrEP

Completed and awaiting results

TAF/EVG/DOXY inserts



Phase 1 Trials

Plans for testing the TED insert in a first-in-human Phase I clinical trial are underway

From trials to people: access, adolescents and affordability

Expanding options and removing barriers to bring long-acting prevention closer to the people who need it.

Scale-up: Eswatini & Kenya



Eswatini

- Rapid national introduction of lenacapavir (LEN), attracting current, former and first-time PrEP users — particularly women.



Kenya

- Peer-led access points and community-based delivery are helping bring PrEP/LEN closer to communities.

Adolescents: CAB-LA in Brazil



- **647** sexually and gender-diverse adolescents could choose oral PrEP or injectable CAB-LA and switch.
- High adherence and persistence; generally well tolerated; numerically lower HIV incidence, with overlapping confidence intervals.



Affordability — MK-8527 (OAE0504)

≈ **US\$15 per person-year**

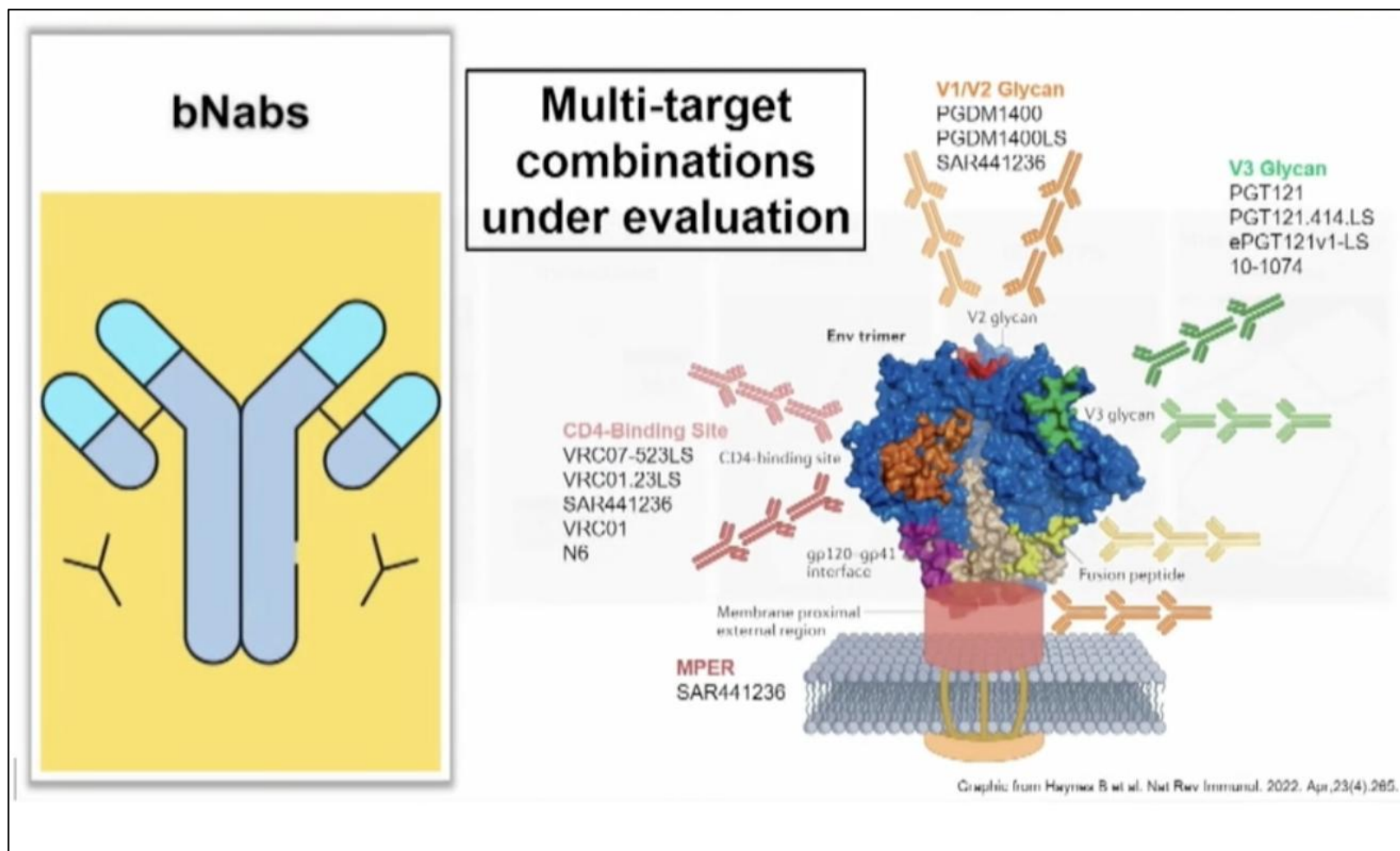
- Cost-plus modelling estimates a potential mass-production cost of around US\$15 per person-year for the once-monthly oral PrEP candidate.
- Lower modelled cost could expand access as donor funding tightens — but price alone does not create access.



The signal:

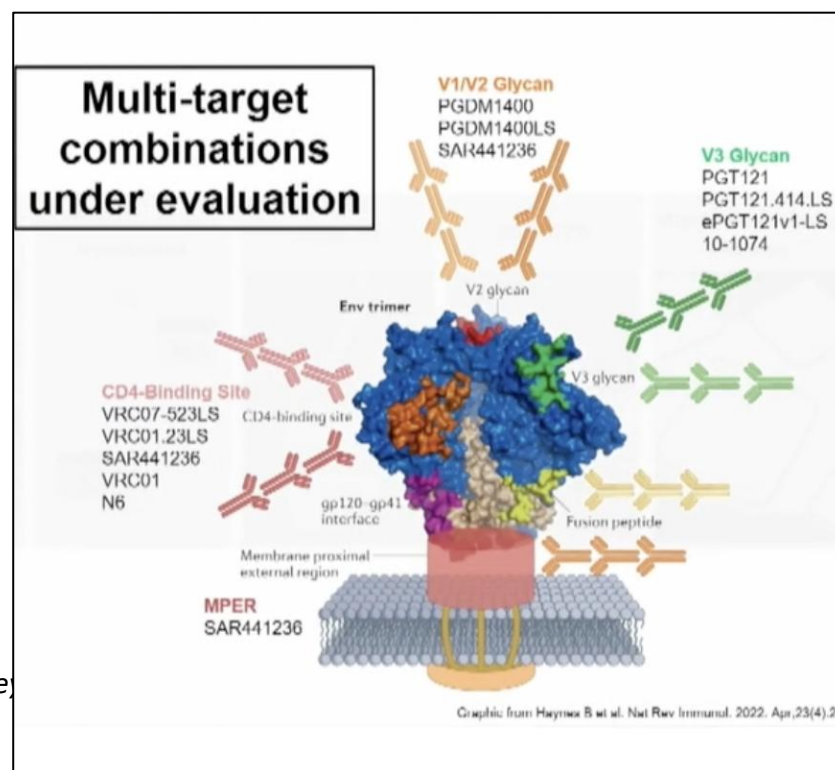
Expanding access to a range of long-acting options — including for adolescents — and reducing cost barriers are essential to bring effective HIV prevention closer to the people who need it.

PrEP : what's in the pipeline?



Broadly neutralizing antibodies (bnAbs)

- **bnAbs** : class of antibodies capable of neutralizing many different strains of HIV-1 (unlike most naturally occurring antibodies, which only target a narrow range of strains)
- Being explored in prevention and treatment/cure research



HIV Treatment – once weekly



- Two phase 3 treatment studies show that once-weekly oral islatravir/lenacapavir can offer a flexible option for PLHIV who are virologically suppressed.

ISLEND-1 (OAB1406LB)

Phase 3, double-blinded study: once-weekly oral islatravir/lenacapavir compared with daily B/F/TAF in virologically suppressed adults.



Adults living with HIV



Non-inferior at Week 48

(once-weekly vs daily)



Well tolerated

- Similar safety and tolerability between groups
- Low discontinuation rates



The bottom line

Once-weekly oral islatravir/lenacapavir is a safe, effective and well-tolerated option for people with HIV who are virally suppressed.

ISLEND-2 (OAX1106LB)

Phase 3, open-label study: 626 participants at 100 global sites compared once-weekly ISL/LEN with daily standard of care.



626
participants



100
global sites



High effectiveness

- 95.2% vs 95.5% suppressed at Week 48 (once-weekly vs daily)
- No emergent resistance to ISL or LEN through Week 48



The bottom line

Once-weekly ISL/LEN shows strong early efficacy, with excellent viral suppression and no new resistance signals.

IAS **Ageing with HIV : the metabolic burden**

People with perinatally acquired HIV (Central London clinic cohort)

- **Metabolic syndrome :**

16.2% perinatally acquired vs 5.9% horizontally acquired HIV

- Obesity**

29.5% perinatally acquired vs 16.3% horizontally acquired HIV

- Median age**

29 years for perinatally acquired vs 50 years for horizontally acquired HIV

- **Conclusion :**

Cardiometabolic conditions were more common in people with perinatally acquired HIV despite their younger age — highlighting the importance of long-term, integrated care

IAS **Broadly neutralizing antibodies (bnAbs)**



- RIO trial (a Phase 2, double-blind, placebo-controlled study) tested two long-acting bnAbs — 3BNC117-LS and 10-1074-LS — in men living with HIV who started ART very early after infection and underwent a supervised treatment interruption
 - ➔ delayed viral rebound and prolonged ART-free viral control compared to placebo, good safety and tolerance
- **Limits of bnAbs:**
 - Resistance of some circulating strains, naturally resistant to individual bnAbs
 - Delivery burden: IV infusion or subcutaneous injection
 - Population diversity: efficacy varies by circulating HIV clade/subtype

IAS **mRNA vaccine**

mRNA comes to HIV (OAA3006LB)



mRNA-LNP vaccines encode clade C CH505 envelope proteins protected rhesus macaques from acquisition in an autologous SHIV challenge — proof that the mRNA platform can deliver protective HIV envelope immunity.

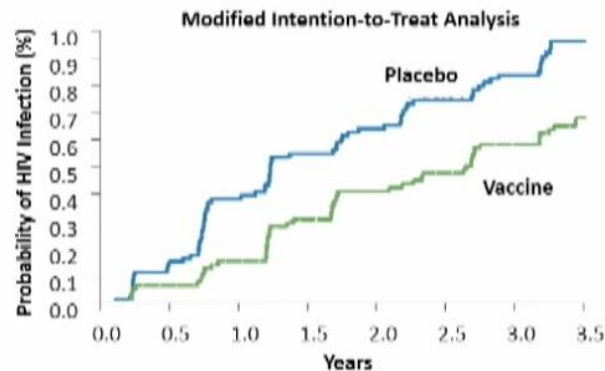
Why it matters

- ✓ Rapidly adaptable design and manufacturing potential
- ✓ Can induce strong, targeted immune responses
- ✓ May help overcome some challenges of traditional platforms

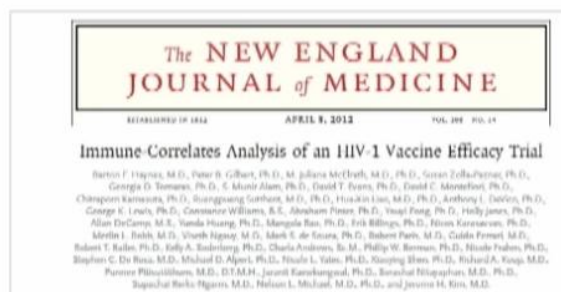
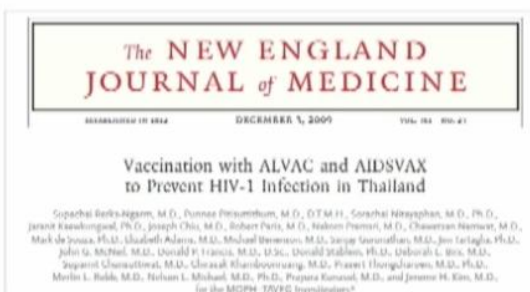


RV144: The Thai HIV Vaccine Study

- First candidate HIV vaccine to show modest efficacy in humans
- Vaccine efficacy approximately 60% at 1 year, Final VE 31% at 3.5 years



N=16,395
51 vaccine, 74 placebo HIV
infected
Est. VE = 31% 95% CI 1-51%
(p=0.04)



International
collaboration
established
correlates of
protection

S Rerkthanasakul, et al., NEJM 2009; B Haynes, et al., NEJM 2012

Impact of Funding Cuts



Measuring PEPFAR disruptions at scale: Results from a 46-country implementing partner survey

- 77% of implementing partners had a grant terminated or stopped one service
- 73% of KP organizations stopped providing at least one service
- 63% of organizations providing prevention of mother to child transmission reported interruptions
- 43% of prevention organizations stopped providing at least one service
- 21% of HIV care and treatment organizations stopped at least one service
- 1700 clinics closed due to funding cuts

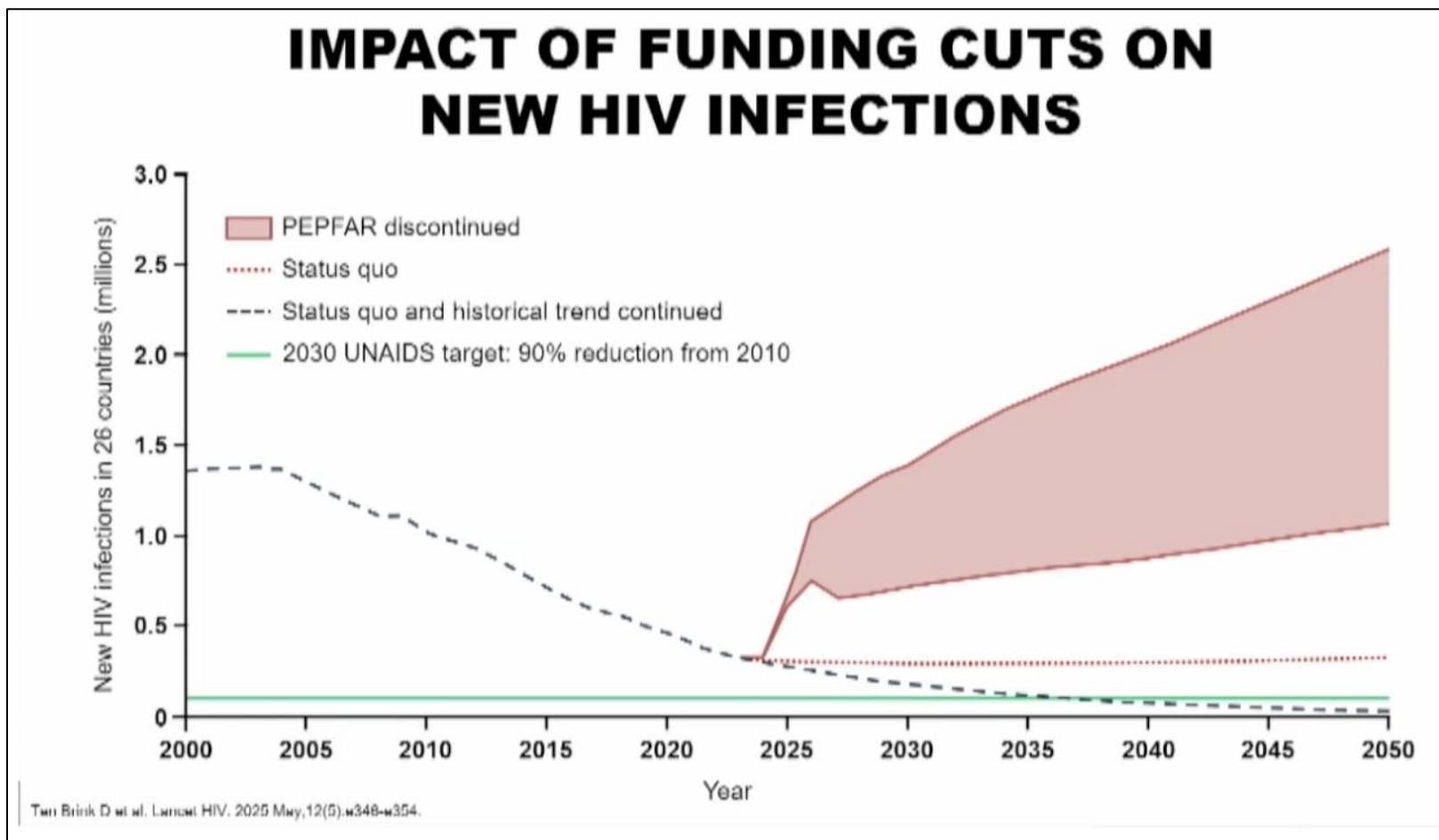
Impact of PEPFAR funding cuts on HIV program performance and outcomes in sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review

- Systematic review of 21 published studies
- Results:
 - 8,000 PEPFAR-supported health workers lost in South Africa & 16,700 positions at risk in Zimbabwe
 - PrEP initiations fell by 31 to 64%, voluntary medical male circumcision by 65-88%, and condom distribution by over 50% in several countries
 - ART initiation declined by 22-30%, while viral load testing fell by 16-68%

Rethinking HIV prevention prioritization during funding crisis: evidence from rapid service declines among key populations in Nigeria

- Quarter-on-quarter analysis of national routine HIV programme data, comparing Q1 and Q2 2025
- Results:
- KPs reached with prevention –50.5%
- HIV testing services uptake –70.2%
- PrEP initiation – 3%
- Declines were among sex workers, men who have sex with men, and people who inject drugs

Impact of Funding Cuts



Key messages from AIDS 2026, the 26th International AIDS Conference

Artificial intelligence-assisted HIV self-testing for partner notification in China: a multi-province implementation study

- Late HIV diagnoses have remained at 40% for years. An issue is timely HIV reporting and testing of partners.
- Methods: 2834 newly diagnosed HIV index patients were recruited from 149 VCTs and CBOs.
- 4986 Smart HIV kits were distributed to sexual partners (excluding spouses) with results along with geolocation and timestamps uploaded automatically into the cloud
- Positive results were confirmed by AI powered hotline.

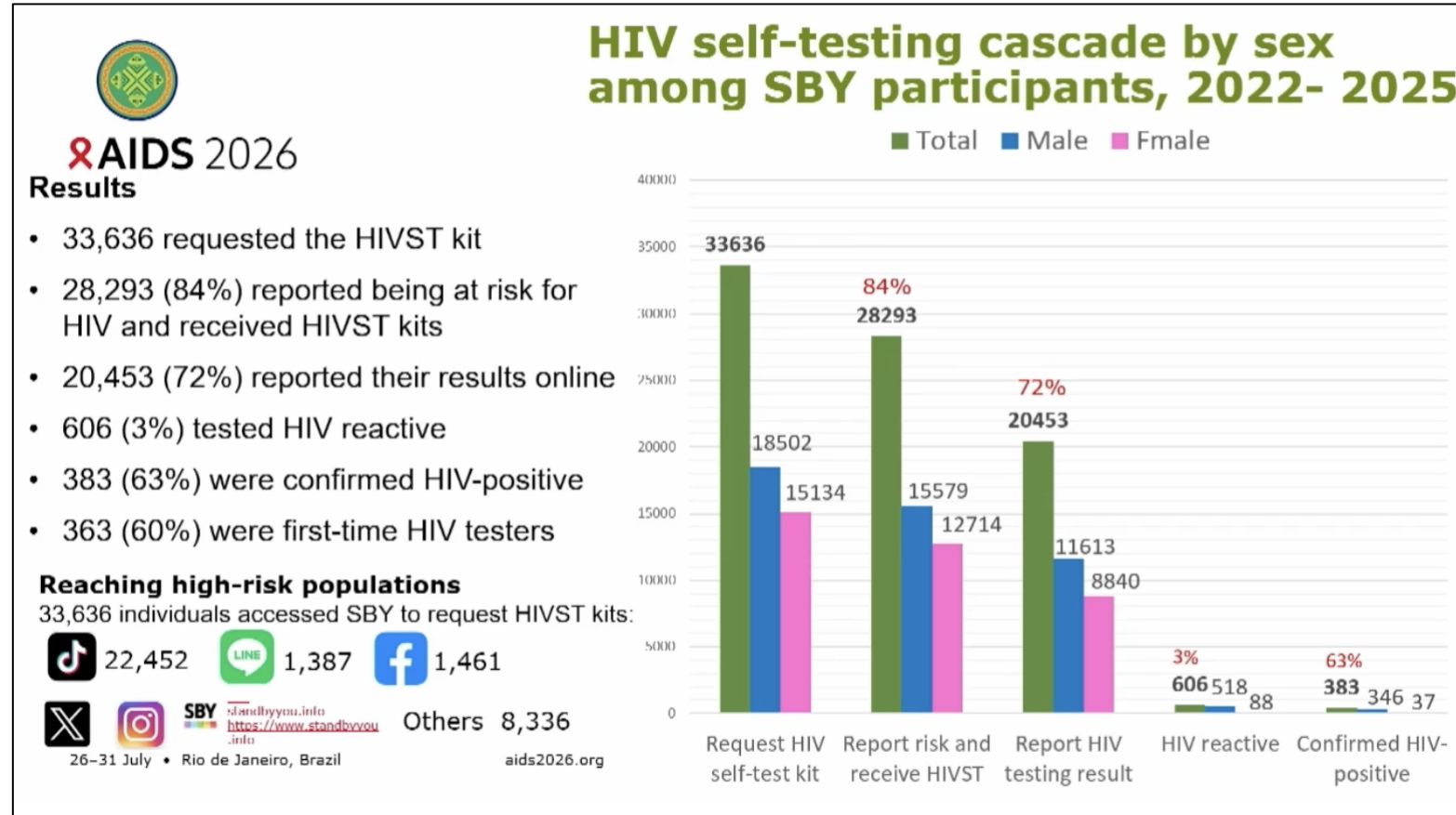
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- Positive results were confirmed by AI powered hotline.
- Results: 80% of partners returned self-testing results and 488 (12%) were HIV positive. Only 30% of partners had baseline CD4 <200 cells/ μ L
- Costs per newly diagnosed partner was 1/3 of standard facility-based testing.
- Conclusions: " AI-assisted HIV self-testing for partner notification is highly feasible and effective"

IAS Innovative Models of Care

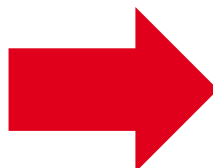


HIVST online platform, Thailand



Key messages from AIDS 2026, the 26th International AIDS Conference

Ending HIV/AIDS :



Thank you !