

# Spotlight on Advocacy Fellows: A biannual publication from AVAC's HIV Prevention Research Advocacy Fellowship



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## When One End Marks Another Beginning...

2011 sped by—with a range of trials showing evidence of effective new HIV prevention tools, others finding no effect at all, and the beginning a new global movement seeking the end of the AIDS epidemic.

Please look at the graphic *HIV Prevention Research: Defining moments since 2010* (in *AVAC Report 2011*) to see the



milestones and game changers in the field in the past 18 months.

It was also an incredible year for AVAC's Advocacy Fellows. The Fellows rose to the challenges – building coalitions, convening multi-stakeholder meetings, voicing community issues, training and strengthening capacities of local partner groups, disseminating results to grassroots partners and communities and developing key tools that advocates can use to engage with scientists, policy makers and civil society. They have been at the frontlines – participating, and in some cases

leading, processes to review or develop national HIV/AIDS strategic plans, in addition to strengthening, and even building local civil society movements (Brian Kanyemba and Leader Kanyiki in South Africa, Sylvia Nakasi and Richard Hasunira in Uganda and Simon K'Ondiek in Kenya); working with partners to develop proposals to major funders such as the US President's Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the Global Fund and others (Grace Kamau in Kenya and Sylvia and Richard in Uganda); building and strengthening consistent, accurate and responsible reporting on HIV prevention research, and creating linkages

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## Yes We Can End the AIDS Epidemic!

AVAC's HIV Prevention Research Advocacy Fellows gathered for an orientation and wrap-up session in Kampala at the end of January. Alumni Fellows from 2010 and 2011, and eight new 2012 Fellows and their host organization supervisors gathered in Kampala, Uganda, to take stock of recent accomplishments, plans for the future and take steps to forge an African movement to end the AIDS epidemic. The three-day meeting included debates and discussions about how to prioritize prevention strategies that are available today, such as

treatment as prevention and voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC), and explorations of the agenda for emerging strategies such as PrEP and microbicides, and hoped-for interventions like an effective AIDS vaccine. One highlight was an intensive afternoon session on the potential for influencing the Country Operating Plans that guide the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). These "COPs" govern US-spending, and engaging with the COP process ensures that there are strategic, well-resourced plans in place, which in turn would strengthen the pillars of

combination prevention—ARV treatment, VMMC and prevention of pediatric infection. Fellows and alumni in Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe are working with partners in a fixed six-week window period to influence more funding allocations from both PEPFAR and their respective governments. In the coming months, advocates will be participating in intensive country-level campaigns. In the coming months, advocates will be participating in intensive country-level campaigns.

# Meet the 2012 AVAC Advocacy Fellows

## CLEVER CHILENDE



HOST: [TREATMENT ADVOCACY AND LITERACY CAMPAIGN \(TALC\)](#)

COUNTRY: ZAMBIA

PROJECT TITLE: ADVOCACY TO OPTIMIZE THE BENEFITS OF VOLUNTARY MEDICAL MALE CIRCUMCISION AND TREATMENT AS PREVENTION IN ZAMBIA

## LUCY GHATI



HOST: [NATIONAL EMPOWERMENT NETWORK OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS IN KENYA \(NEPHAK\)](#)

COUNTRY: KENYA

PROJECT TITLE: REALIZING THE POTENTIAL OF ART TREATMENT AS PREVENTION IN KENYA

## ALICE KAYONGO MUTEBI



HOST: [INTERNATIONAL HIV/AIDS ALLIANCE UGANDA](#)

COUNTRY: UGANDA

PROJECT TITLE: TREATMENT AS PREVENTION ADVOCACY PROJECT - LEVERAGING THE TREATMENT BENEFIT OF PREVENTION FOR UGANDA

## MEMORY MAKAMBA



HOST: ZIMBABWE AIDS PREVENTION PROJECT-UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE (ZAPP-UZ)

COUNTRY: ZIMBABWE

PROJECT TITLE: INCORPORATING HETEROSEXUAL PEOPLE IN STABLE RELATIONSHIPS INTO HIV PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN ZIMBABWE

## CHAMUNORWA J. MASHOKO



HOST: [UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE-UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO RESEARCH PROGRAMME](#)

COUNTRY: ZIMBABWE

PROJECT TITLE: COMBINATION HIV PREVENTION (CHIP) REVOLUTION IN ZIMBABWE

## LYDIA MULWANYI MUKOMBE



HOST: [INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV \(ICW\) EAST AFRICA](#)

COUNTRY: UGANDA

PROJECT TITLE: UNDERSTANDING WHAT PREVENTION TRIAL RESULTS MEAN FOR WOMEN: FROM 1% TENOFOVIR GEL TO INJECTABLE HORMONAL CONTRACEPTIVES AND HIV RISK

## BUKELWA SONTSHATSHA



HOST: [WORLD AIDS CAMPAIGN](#)

COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA

PROJECT TITLE: ADVOCACY TO ENSURE SOUTH AFRICA ACTS ON NEW EVIDENCE, AND GETS ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE AN AIDS-FREE GENERATION

## JACQUELINE WAMBUI



HOST: [HEALTH GAP/NATIONAL EMPOWERMENT NETWORK OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS IN KENYA \(NEPHAK\)](#)

COUNTRY: KENYA

PROJECT TITLE: ENDING NEW HIV INFECTIONS IN KENYA IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

## When one end marks another beginning

between the media, researchers, civil society and other players (Jauhara Nanyondo in Uganda, Oliver Kanene in Zambia and Munyaradzi Chimwara in Zimbabwe); engaging grassroots advocates and civil society to increase demand for proven HIV prevention intervention, such as voluntary medical male circumcision and treatment as prevention, particularly after the HPTN 052 results were released; and engaging in discussions towards increasing African governments' commitment and ownership of their respective HIV responses (Simon and Leader). The HPTN052 result was a big highlight in 2011. Equally exciting were the results of the iPREX and PartnersPrep trials on daily use of ARVs. Fellows Sylvia Nakasi, Grace Kamau and Brian Kanyemba rallied grassroots communities, civil society, policymakers and high-risk groups, such as sex workers and gay

men and other men who have sex with men, to ensure that these positive results are acted upon.

In addition to the exciting breakthroughs were unexpected results and developments such as the FEM-PrEP and VOICE trial results and the decision for the Global Fund to suspend Round 11 of their funding (see graphic on page 1 on FEM-PrEP and VOICE).

For the 2011 Advocacy Fellows, December 31 marked the end of their Fellowship year, but only the beginning of their walk as more robust HIV prevention advocates. They built strong advocacy skills in a year of mixed feelings – many challenges yet such promise in the fight against HIV/AIDS. This enhanced their Fellowship experience and prepared them to intensify their continued contribution to

the end of AIDS. See inside for highlights of each 2011 Fellow's milestones.

As 2012 begins, a new cadre of eight Advocacy Fellows – from Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe have started their Fellowship year (see details below), transitioning from their roles and jobs in other capacities. The new Fellows and their host supervisors had an opportunity to meet with the 2010 and 2011 Fellows at a *Wrap-up and Orientation Workshop* in Kampala in January 2012. The Fellows family is growing in numbers and in strength and we, at AVAC, are looking forward to 2012 with renewed commitment to ending AIDS!

Stay Tuned for the 2013 Advocacy Fellowships Call for Applications. Write to [fellows@avac.org](mailto:fellows@avac.org) or visit [www.avac.org/fellows](http://www.avac.org/fellows) for more

## We caught up with our inaugural 2010 Fellows to find out what they have been up to. Below are excerpts of their responses on how the Fellowship impacted them and the work they have been involved in:

### **Munyaradzi Chimwara, "Open Doors..."**

Munya from Zimbabwe is involved in different media consultancies in Zimbabwe and the Southern African region.

#### **Impact:**

*Many doors have opened up because of the work I did as a Fellow. After the June 2011 UNAIDS/WHO meeting on planning the way forward for roll out and implementation of tenofovir gel, I developed a concept, 'Microbicides Information Dissemination and Advocacy Services'. Through this initiative the Southern African*

*AIDS Trust (SAT) Zimbabwe with assistance from the International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM) are working to move the media and biomedical HIV prevention research agenda in Zimbabwe forward. We've now developed a work plan for October 2011 through June 2012 which will enable us to engage with the media and other key stakeholders, in addition to setting up a resource at the SAT Zimbabwe office and an advocates' taskforce.*

**"Many doors have opened up because of the work I did as a Fellow ...We've now developed a work plan for October 2011 through June 2012 which will enable us to engage with the media and other key stakeholders, in addition to setting up a resource at the SAT Zimbabwe office," Munya Chimwara.**

**Richard Hasunira**, “Getting a place at the table...”

Based at his former Fellowship host organization, HEPS-Uganda, Richard currently coordinates the Uganda Civil Society HIV Prevention Working Group, a vibrant coalition of advocates. The group, with support from AVAC, is spearheading civil society engagement in the roll out of proven HIV prevention interventions, engagement of policy makers and grassroots communities and documentation of best practices among other things.

**Impact:**

*The fellowship strengthened my skills in research, communication, lobbying and mobilization; and broadened my knowledge of the prevention research field as well as my networks. It is largely due that experience that I now sit on the Resources and Costing Technical Working Group of the Uganda AIDS Commission; on the Community Advisory Board of the Makerere University Walter Reed Project; and on the executive committee of Uganda Cross-CAB Network.*

“... It is largely due that experience that I now sit on the Resources and Costing Technical Working Group of the Uganda AIDS Commission...,” Richard Hasunira.

**Cynthia Mungofa**, “Taking challenges in stride...”

Cynthia continues to do grassroots advocacy for women’s health and rights in Murewa, Zimbabwe. She raises awareness around the need for female-controlled HIV prevention options using the “Voices of Rural Women” DVD she developed during the Fellowship.

**Impact:**

*The Fellowship was a very helpful platform not only for me but also my organization, ZWAAPV. We now enjoy national, regional and international limelight. The marginalized rural women we*

*represent have been brought closer to the science, the scientists and policy makers. I’m now a better leader – one who is able to take any challenges in stride. With these new leadership skills, I believe that I can open any door in government, local leadership, community leadership and even with funding partners. With these skills, I’m a better champion for rural women especially around the issues of their sexual and reproductive health rights and their engagement and involvement in biomedical prevention research. I feel honored that rural women can also have their voices heard and they can also meaningfully interface with the world of science as they strive towards HIV prevention tools that they can initiate and control.*

**Patrick Mwai Muchai**, “Stronger documenting and networking skills...”

Patrick joined his former hosts, the Global Campaign for Microbicides (GCM), as a Program Officer. He coordinates the community of involvement Community of Practice (CoP) program, and is responsible for strengthening links with clinical trial staff and trial communities.

**Impact:**

*The increased knowledge and understanding of new HIV prevention options has helped me to conduct introductory workshops on microbicides and other HIV prevention options. It has also enhanced my capacity in program documentation through developing newsletters, in addition to creating opportunities to network with key policy makers in Kenya.*

**Jauhara Nanyondo**, “Building journalists network...”

Jauhara took some time off after she had her beautiful baby, Jamaal. After her recent return from maternity leave, she picked up where she'd left off, by holding the first pretesting workshops for a media training manual she created during her Fellowship. The first workshop was with CAB members, and she plans to hold more for media, research teams and other audiences. The team congratulates, Jau and welcomes her back!

**Impact:**

*The advocacy skills attained have turned me into a better communicator. I now know when to push real hard, and when to push back. In addition to this, the network of journalists and stakeholders I built during the Fellowship continues to grow, which has helped to drive national discussions around HIV prevention research. At my host organisation, I have continued to be a resource – developing health health/community education materials and sessions.*

**Alliance Nikuze**, “Confident advocate shines through...”

Alliance is currently in Sweden pursuing an MPH at the Karolinska Institute and continues to be engaged in various HIV prevention discussions in Africa. She was part of a delegation that represented civil society in discussions held in South Africa in October 2011 to determine what the VOICE mean especially for women and what the field needs to do moving forward. She was also recently invited by UNAIDS and WHO to a technical consultation on hormonal contraceptives and HIV risk, held in Geneva in early February 2012.

**Impact:**

*The skills and knowledge I attained in the fellowship enabled me to qualify for the highly competitive Swedish Institute Scholarship (only 105 accepted out of more than 7,000 applications). The experiences are serving me well in my studies. I am a less shy advocate as I always take advantage of any audience to promote HIV prevention research as I did during a training of human rights activists in Kampala in May and during my first course here at the Karolinska Institute in September. Before coming to Sweden I was honored to be on the Rwanda national male circumcision task force, another door that the fellowship opened for me.*

**Gift Trapence**, “Stronger advocacy through the trials and tribulations...”

Gift is working with different civil society groups and local and international human rights organizations to ensure that voices of marginalized groups, especially gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM) are heard. Gift has spent the last couple of weeks working with [amfAR](#), the Foundation for AIDS Research, to influence Malawi's PEPFAR Country Operation Plan.

**Impact:**

*My fellowship provided me with advocacy skills that I'm now using to lobby and advocate for the rights of LGBT people in Malawi. It also strengthened my networking skills which have enabled me and my host organization to initiate and maintain strategic local and international alliances and*

*partnerships. We have just submitted a human rights shadow report on Malawi to the UN, and I was recently invited to attend the UN session on human rights in Geneva on October 25, 2011. I also acquired media relations skills which have helped me to work better with the media. Working better with journalists has led to a remarkable improvement in the portrayal of LGBT issues by the local media with an increasing number of print and electronic media houses objectively covering LGBT issues. But all this work hasn't been without challenges. My life was threatened and some of my fellow human rights advocates and activists have been physically abused and some of their homes and offices have been burned. The struggle continues...*

## Shout-out to the Fabulous 2011 Host Supervisors

The AVAC team would like to acknowledge all the fabulous Host Supervisors we worked with in 2011: Ben Brown (DTHF, South Africa), Bharam Namanya (UNASO, Uganda), Cheri Reid (CIDRZ, Zambia), Christopher Chessa (BHESP, Kenya), Nelli Westercamp (NHRS, Kenya) and Tim Shand (Sonke, South Africa)!

We want to take this opportunity to thank all of the supervisors and the leadership at the respective host organizations for their partnership in the 2011 HIV

Prevention Advocacy Fellowship program. It has been truly an exciting year watching the Advocacy Fellows learn, adapt, impress and help to bring about change in their communities and countries. We are very proud of their successes and are sure that the hosts share in that as well since much of that credit goes to them for the support to the Advocacy Fellows throughout the year. We look forward to continued collaboration as we work together to being an end to the AIDS epidemic! *Yes, we can!*

## 2011 Advocacy Fellows' Awards

**The climax of the 2012 Fellows Wrap-up and Orientation Forum in Kampala in January was honoring each 2011 Fellow with a plaque and an Award that reflects his or her achievements and personality throughout the Fellowship.**

**Below are the Awards:**

The **"I am woman – hear me roar!"** Award, for her relentless advocacy for sex workers and bar hostesses' to be acknowledged and their voices to be heard while we consider the future of what microbicides and prep mean for women in Kenya - **Grace Kamau**

The Award for **"I'll do this my way"**, for a seasoned advocate whose fellowship project improved reporting on HIV prevention research and amended relationships among key players in Zambia, in an environment that has been marred by mistrust for the last few years - **Oliver Kanene**

The **"Transformative advocacy"** Award goes to this bubbling individual who was transformed from researcher to passionate advocate, one whose voice and warmth cannot be missed in any room; one who is determined to deliver new HIV prevention to MSM, a minority group that is 'taboo' even to talk about in much of Africa - **Brian Kanyemba**

The **"You will not shut me down"** Award goes to Leader Kanyiki, this King of the Jungle, who went through obstacle after obstacle in 2011 to move forward the discussions on MMC in South Africa; his resilient voice could not be ignored by even the busiest government - **Leader Kanyiki**

The **'Chop Chop'** Award for the determination to remove all foreskins of all males in Nyanza Province and beyond and help communities take charge of the pace to move male circumcision forward in Kenya goes to our bold in-house photographer extraordinaire - **Simon K'Ondiek**

The **"This chair at the table is mine!"** Award for resilience and persistence in getting a place at the policy-makers table, bringing fresh energy to civil society engagement and coordination in Uganda - **Lady Sylvia Nakasi**

## After what some Fellows have called a ‘life-changing twelve months’, below are some key milestones from the 2011 Fellows’ activities:

At the beginning of his Fellowship, **Zambian Fellow Oliver Kanene (Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia)** set out to establish and maintain favorable media-researcher relationships. Today, he has created opportunities for researchers, reporters, editors, media house owners, journalism instructors, government and civil society among others to interact with each other, in a country where these relationships have been largely fragile

and mistrust rife. One key highlight of his work is an October 26-27 2011 workshop at which he brought together representatives from the above groups in order to provide an opportunity for sharing and learning about HIV prevention research, and to cement their relationships and to help foster a more conducive environment for HIV research in Zambia.

“... I could not believe I could get journalists to come to a meeting where they were not getting paid to attend. I have never seen that happen in Zambia. It shows how interested they are in prevention research and how they see this engagement will help them...,” **Oliver Kanene.**

**Kenyan Fellow Grace Kamau (Bar Hostess Empowerment and Support Programme)**, by her own admission, has been transformed from a shy advocate to a powerful activist who will stand up to anyone for the right to health for marginalized women, especially sex workers. She is completing development of an important tool that advocates, policy makers, sex workers, media and even the community at large can use as they advocate for and/or prepare for access to microbicides and other new proven HIV preventions. She developed the tool through

engagement and collection of opinions from more than 150 Kenyan sex workers across the country. This tool, which identifies gaps in access to new prevention tools makes bold recommendations to civil society, policy makers and sex workers has several demands and recommendations for these groups. Marginalized women such as the Kenyan sex workers that Grace works with are obvious champions of their own, but having informed and powerful advocates like Grace can add value to their cause of demanding interventions that they can initiate and control.

**Brian Kanyemba (Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation)**, in South Africa, was anxious about changing focus from supporting research to supporting research advocacy just twelve months ago. Today, although he remains committed to his research interests, he has turned into a bold advocate in the area of PrEP and MSM at the national, regional and international levels. Brian collected voices of young MSM from different regions in South Africa on PrEP to prepare for

possible wide scale rollout of this new HIV prevention intervention. He has been part of major civil society consultations on PrEP and rectal microbicides in South Africa and abroad and has been invited to take part in key study protocol reviews. He is part of the South African PrEP Rollout Guidelines Development Committee, the only advocate among physicians and researchers.

“Can you imagine they wanted to develop PrEP guidelines for MSM without an advocate at the table? How can doctors alone decide how to roll this out? How much do they know about the reality on the ground?” **Brian Kanyemba.**

**Leader Ngooyi Kanyiki (Sonke Gender Justice Network)**, also in South Africa, set out to advance national discussions on voluntary male circumcision for HIV prevention (VMMC), and specifically to help integrate gender equality throughout VMMC rollout. Over the last twelve months, Leader consulted, engaged, questioned and lobbied different groups to achieve his goals. He participated in the SA National Strategic Plan development

process and pushed for timely development and release of South Africa's VMMC National Implementation Guidelines. Another key highlight is a June 2011 meeting he organized that brought together different groups including the National and provincial Departments of Health, the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC), civil society groups and representatives from a male circumcision working group he helped to lead.

“... I happened to be the only speaker who turned to be a capacity- building training facilitator, since the subject [VMMC] was completely unknown by attendees. It worked extremely well when I challenged them saying ‘only un-informed people out there have the right to negatively regard VMMC, not a person calling himself or herself an ‘HIV activist’,” Leader Kanyiki.

**Simon Odiwour K'Ondiek (Nyanza Reproductive Health Society)**, in Kenya, has designed a photo novella to address knowledge, attitudes, communication and behavioral intentions of young men and women with respect to (VMMC) rollout in Nyanza Province. In the novella, Simon follows a man from the first contact in his farm to introduce the idea of VMMC; convinces him to be circumcised, and the man invites him to his home to discuss the decision with his wife; and finally both the

man and spouse go to the clinic where they receive couples counseling and the man is circumcised. Simon also trained community members to take and capture images for the novella and is working on a second novella to use some of these images. These community members also formed a grassroots working group that is monitoring VMMC roll out in Nyanza Province, in addition to documenting and voicing community concerns, and engaging leadership at different levels.

Ugandan Fellow **Sylvia Nakasi (Uganda Network of AIDS Service Organisations)** developed three key tools – a report, *How ready is Uganda for ARV-based prevention?*; a case study of best practices from a VMMC program being implemented by the Makerere University Walter Reed Project in Kayunga district; and, a joint *Civil society action alert* presenting results from a community survey of Uganda's VMMC policy and programs that Sylvia

conducted together with the Women's HIV Prevention Tracking Project, another AVAC program, and partners at HEPS-Uganda. Sylvia has been and continues to be at the heart of key national processes; including the national strategic plan development, the HIV prevention strategy development, national PEPFAR and Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria proposal development processes among others.

Visit [www.avac.org/fellows](http://www.avac.org/fellows) to track what current and alumni Advocacy Fellows are working on and for resources/tools they have developed such as reports, meeting agendas, slides, fact sheets, backgrounders and others.



## Fellows' Activities in Pictures



1. Cover of VMMC advocates' photo novella created by Kenyan Fellow Simon K'Ondiek.
2. 2011 Fellows & Supervisors visit a trial site in Johannesburg in 2011.
3. Zambian journalists on a trial site visit organized by Fellow Oliver Kanene.
4. Kenyan women discuss the possibility of an effective microbicide at a consultation organized by Fellow Grace Kamau.

5. S. African Fellow Bukelwa Sontshatsha presents her project at the Kampala Fellows' forum in Jan 2012.
6. Ugandan Fellow Lydia Mulwany Mukombe presents her project at the Kampala Fellows' forum in Jan 2012.
7. South African youth discuss relevance of PrEP during a consultation organized by Fellow Brian Kanyemba.

## Welcoming the 2012 Fellows

Eight Fellows from five countries were awarded 2012 AVAC HIV Prevention Research Advocacy Fellowships. They were selected from a pool of nearly 100 applicants from over a dozen countries. The new Fellows will spend the next 12 months accelerating country planning for HIV treatment and prevention, catalyzing community dialogue, coalition-building and mobilizing communities to ensure that there is

demand for and delivery of tools that have been proven effective – testing and treatment, voluntary medical male circumcision and prevention of mother to child transmission.

See who 2012 Fellows are on pages 2 and 3, and please visit [www.avac.org/fellows](http://www.avac.org/fellows) and subscribe to *P-Values*, our partners' newsletter to learn more about their work throughout the year.



### COMING UP

1. 15 APR: MICROBICIDES 2012, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
2. 11 JUN: CONTROLLING THE HIV EPIDEMIC WITH ANTIRETROVIRALS, LONDON, UK
3. 21 JUN: THE 5TH MSM PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON, DC, USA
4. 22 JUL: AIDS 2012 CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON, DC, USA

### About the Advocacy Fellowship

- Fellowship pairs emerging leaders in advocacy and activism with existing organizations to develop and execute creative, context-specific projects focused on HIV prevention research.
- Fellowship projects focus primarily on advocacy around biomedical HIV prevention research (such as clinical trials of vaccines, microbicides, pre-exposure prophylaxis) or rollout of male circumcision for HIV prevention. Fellowship projects may also focus on “test and treat” or ARV treatment as prevention strategies, which are under active discussion in many contexts.
- Visit [www.avac.org/fellows](http://www.avac.org/fellows) for details.

### About AVAC

Founded in 1995, AVAC is a non-profit organization that uses education, policy analysis, advocacy and a network of global collaborations to accelerate the ethical development and global delivery of AIDS vaccines, male circumcision, microbicides, PrEP and other emerging HIV prevention options as part of a comprehensive response to the pandemic.