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women at substantial HIV risk

SILVER SPRING, Md. (January 27, 2021) — The non-profit International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM) warmly welcomes today's recommendation by the World Health Organization (WHO) that the dapivirine ring may be offered as an additional prevention option for women at substantial HIV risk. The WHO's recommendation supports existing evidence that a woman could reduce her risk of HIV infection by up to 26% (95% CI: 17-35%) by using a dapivirine ring. The WHO's list of

[prequalified medicines](#) in November 2020

“The WHO's recommendation for the dapivirine ring is a critical step toward introducing this woman-controlled option as part of a comprehensive HIV prevention strategy, pending country approvals,” said Dr. Zeda F. Rosenberg, founder and chief executive officer of IPM, which developed the dapivirine ring and is the product's regulatory sponsor. “IPM is committed to working with the WHO and other partners to ensure that women have the information and support they need to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health.”

IPM is pursuing regulatory approvals for the ring's use in eastern and southern Africa where the need is particularly urgent. Given current timelines, IPM hopes to receive first African country approvals as soon as mid-2021 and to begin making the ring available in some countries later this year. IPM is also applying for regulatory approval from the US Food and Drug Administration.

IPM is also working with a global network of partners across sectors to plan for the ring's potential rollout, including efforts to address additional research and implementation considerations outlined by the WHO Guideline Development Group. These include:

TheREACH study