One problem with HIV prevention agendas is that they either live in an eternal present or in a far-off future. It’s “work with what we’ve got, which is condoms and VMMC and a little bit of PrEP”, or it’s “nothing can change without an AIDS vaccine”. The future depends on using what’s available, better and more widely, without ever losing sight of what’s in the pipeline. As the figures below show, in the very same timeframe that the world will miss its critical target for incidence reduction and scale-up of primary prevention, several trials will release results that could change the future. 2020 will be a time of hope and reckoning. But only if the two stories start to be told as one. For more details, check out AVAC Report 2018: No Prevention, No End at www.avac.org/report2018.

AGENDA AND PLAN

Trajectories to fast-track prevention targets: The present state of HIV prevention

- People on ART
- VMMCs performed
- New HIV infections
- Oral TDF/FTC PrEP users

Upcoming efficacy trial results: The future of HIV prevention

- Vaginal ring
- Oral PrEP
- Long-acting injectable
- Antibody
- Preventive HIV vaccine

AVAC’s “3D” View of the World: 2018 and beyond

DELIVER

Invest in demand creation for primary prevention.

- County-based stakeholders in government and civil society must insist on funded, evidence-based, well-designed demand creation work as part of all prevention programming.
- Funders and implementers need to establish and share the costs of demand creation for primary prevention interventions, collecting data on what works and why, and addressing the specific human resource needs and costs.

DEMONSTRATE

Champion informed choice.

- Leaders in the biomedical prevention field should embrace and advance the idea that success depends on multiple options, and programs that support decision-making.
- UNAIDS, along with WHO HIV and reproductive health programs, should develop—and countries should adopt—an “integration index” that links family planning, HIV prevention and treatment, and informed choice-based programming in a measurable framework.

DEVELOP

Confront the prevention crisis with radical action.

- The GFATM, the Global HIV Prevention Coalition, PEPFAR and country governments should set up accountability measures for a comprehensive primary prevention response, inclusive of human-rights protections and remediation of stigma and discrimination.
- All prevention advocates must keep research in the spotlight. 2020 could bring major good news or a mixed bag. Whatever happens, additional tools are needed, an effective preventive vaccine is still years off, and tireless advocacy is required to keep research a priority, with no decline in funding.