What do these technologies mean for women living with HIV?

Session 6: Multipurpose Prevention Technologies for Girls and Women

Georgina Caswell (GNP+)

Women Deliver 2013
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Women living with HIV are women first.
The SRHR opportunities of HIV treatment

• Greater choices for women with undetectable viral loads who want to conceive
• Increased options for women to have normal deliveries
• More options around breastfeeding
I think myself, I’ll go [with] both of them: treatment and condom, to prevent STIs.
**Integration** is critical to ensure the continuum of care for young women living with HIV, like myself. We need a one-stop service or a strong referral system that facilitates easy access to counselling, condoms, and services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV, as well as alternative contraceptives that do not interact with antiretroviral medications.

Young woman living with HIV, Kenya (2013)
Women living with HIV have been amongst the most POWERFUL advocates for multi-purpose technologies.
Listening to the voices...
Potential Benefits of MPTs

• Greater acceptability and adherence to MPTs because of MULTI-nature of products
• Reduce stigma and discrimination and promote human rights: range of tools available at the same place for all women, regardless of their HIV-status
• Continued engagement in care
• Addressing cultural and religious issues
Critical Challenges

• Assumption that women should use condoms
• Stigma and discrimination when accessing MCH services
• Taking into account realities of women (poverty, gender-based violence)
• Ongoing access issues
Young people living with and affected by HIV

- Young people often fail to access and utilise SRH and HIV services
- Discrimination based on age, gender, HIV status and sexual orientation and attitudes
- Importance of feeling safe and comfortable when accessing services
- What else can we learn from the SRH field about providing services for young people?
The more choices I have, the more likely I am to find one that works for me – and therefore to use it
Acknowledgements

• AVAC
• International Community of Women Living with HIV (ICW) East Africa & Global
• NEPHAK (Kenya)
• NZP+ (Zambia)
• Positively UK
• Positive Women’s Network (South Africa)
• RECAP+ (Cameroon)
Thank You!

www.gnpplus.net