**Measuring field-wide growth: Tracking investments to support multipurpose prevention technologies (MPTs)**

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**BACKGROUND**

Women at risk for unintended pregnancy are often also at risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). With 89 million unintended pregnancies annually and young women at twice the risk for HIV infection as their male counterparts, these simultaneous risks have devastating impacts to the health of women and their families. Multipurpose prevention technologies (MPTs) are an innovative class of products that deliver varied combinations of contraception, HIV prevention, and other STI prevention. This growing field aims to expand the suite of prevention options for women to better address their sexual and reproductive health.

Over the past decade, the MPT pipeline has grown to over 20 dozen products, including a mix of different configurations, designs, and indication combinations – 40% of which have contraceptive components. Despite its growth, the MPT field faces technical, market, and resource challenges.

A focused strategic coordination of resources is required to continue the MPT field’s forward momentum and equip women with the prevention options they need. The Initiative for MPTs (IMPT) serves as the product-neutral convenor for the MPT field and monitors field-wide investment on an annual basis to help inform investment priorities, identify gaps, and accelerate action to advance the field.

**MAIN RESEARCH QUESTION**

What were the total investments in the MPT field in 2016 and how does that compare to the past years? Moreover, do the 2016 figures reflect trends in the key complementary fields such as HIV prevention research?

**RESULTS**

The MPT field has experienced tremendous growth over the past 5 years.

- There were 51.2 million U.S. dollars invested in the MPT field in 2016, a 92.7% increase from 2013 when the IMPT began tracking investments in the MPT field.
- From 2015-2016, investment in the MPT field grew by 9%, which differs from decades seen in investment in HIV prevention research and other related fields.

**MPTs**

Multipurpose prevention technologies (MPTs) are an innovative class of products that deliver varied combinations of HIV prevention, other STI prevention, and contraception and will improve the lives of women and families worldwide. Our international initiative is advancing the MPT field to realize a suite of products that will address women’s diverse needs and preferences.

**KNOWLEDGE CONTRIBUTION**

The IMPT has catalyzed the growth of the field by promoting collaboration across a broad cross-sector of organizations and experts from around the world, monitoring and managing MPT-related knowledge, and developing field-wide recommendations aimed to advance the MPT field. The tracking of resources supporting the MPT field is a critical component in understanding the state of the field, and accurately identifying gaps and developing strategies to support the continued and strategic growth of the field. This includes donor collaboration and coordination on investment decisions to ensure that investments align with priorities to help reach the potential value and impact of MPTs in improving the lives of women and girls worldwide.

**METHODOLOGY**

Data on total investments in the multipurpose prevention technologies (MPT) field were compiled and analyzed annually from 2013 through 2016. The data came from several different sources, including an annual HIV prevention, treatment and care research and development (RAD) investment survey conducted by Resource Tracking for HIV Prevention R&D Working Group; from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Grants Database; and follow up with key informants from organizations participating in MPT R&D, as captured in the MPT Product Development Database and MPT Network. The total annual calculation of MPT investments cover MPT R&D, including products officially named MPTs, as well as R&D related to multiple indications (e.g. research on products that combine contraception with HIV prevention). Investments in the MPT and other MPT-related, non-RAD, activities were also included.