



INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV EASTERN AFRICA (ICWEA)

Uganda Launches Lenacapavir: A Major Step Forward for HIV Prevention

As global supply grows and HIV Prevention options increase, ICWEA calls for bold action to ensure women and girls can fully benefit from these breakthroughs

Lira, Uganda | 17 April 2026

Uganda has officially launched Lenacapavir for HIV prevention (PrEP), a major step forward in expanding HIV prevention choices and bringing new possibilities closer to people who are in most need of HIV Prevention tools.

Led by the **Ministry of Health Uganda**, this launch marks an important moment in the HIV response. Lenacapavir, a long-acting, twice-yearly injectable, has the potential to transform prevention, especially for people who need more flexible, discreet as well as long acting options.

Momentum is building.

The launch comes as Gilead Sciences and partners have announced an expansion in supply, bringing the global commitment to 3 million people over the coming three years. It is a welcome step forward.

But the opportunity in front of us is even bigger.

The International Community of Women Living with HIV Eastern Africa welcomed both the launch and the growing global commitment, while emphasizing the need to match innovation with scale.

“This is an exciting and important step forward. Lenacapavir has the potential to change the course of HIV prevention, especially for women and girls. But real impact will depend on how fast, how far, and how equitably it reaches communities.”

In Uganda, approximately 19,000 doses have been allocated for initial rollout across selected sites. Uganda also joins a growing number of countries across Sub-Saharan Africa introducing Lenacapavir, signalling strong regional momentum toward expanding prevention choice.

Still, experience has shown that new tools alone do not change outcomes.

“We have seen this before, science moves fast, but access can lag behind. This is our moment to do things differently. We must move with urgency to ensure women and girls are not left waiting.” **Lillian Mworeko, Executive Director, International Community of Women Living with HIV Eastern Africa (ICWEA)**

As a member of the **African Women’s HIV Prevention Community Accountability Platform**, ICWEA advances the **HIV Prevention Choice Manifesto**, calling for bold leadership, sustained investment, and accountability to ensure that prevention options reach those who need them most.

Lenacapavir adds to a growing range of HIV prevention tools. Together, these options create a real opportunity to reimagine prevention, one that is people-centered, responsive, and driven by choice.

The moment is here.

What happens next will determine the impact.

ICWEA reaffirmed its commitment to working with governments, partners, and communities to ensure that this breakthrough translates into real access, real choice, and real progress for women and girls across the region.

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