Executive Summary:

- The UK government and DFID play a vital role in the sustained support of new HIV prevention technologies for women. IPM is deeply appreciative of the UK government, the Secretary of State for International Development and DFID's long-standing commitment to the health and well-being of women and girls.
- The UK government and DFID play a vital role in the sustained support of the research, development, and delivery of new and improved medicines, vaccines and other health tools for diseases that affect low and middle income countries, such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. In the case of the particular needs of women and girls DFID has played a pivotal role in supporting programmes that promote women and girls’ health and should be congratulated for this important contribution.

1. Background to IPM and its work:

2. Around the world, women face complex challenges to their sexual and reproductive health. Issues such as HIV have devastating effects on women, their families and their communities. In sub-Saharan Africa where the epidemic has hit hardest, HIV is spread primarily through heterosexual sex, and women are more likely to be infected than men during vaginal sex. HIV/AIDS is also one of the leading causes of death for pregnant women and mothers in developing countries, and is a major barrier to global efforts to reduce maternal mortality.

3. To address the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS on women, IPM was established with a mission to prevent HIV transmission by accelerating the development and availability of safe and effective microbicides for use by women in developing countries. Microbicides are biomedical products being developed to protect healthy people from becoming infected with HIV during sex. IPM is dedicated to providing women with affordable and self-initiated HIV-prevention strategies they can use to protect their own health.

4. IPM is one of a group of product development partnerships (PDPs), nonprofit organizations that have been formed as innovative models to advance the global health across diseases areas. PDPs like IPM are flexible and efficient, and can focus their resources on a single public health objective. PDPs collaborate with pharmaceutical and biotech companies to develop critically needed, but often not profitable, medical products for resource-poor settings. These include new health technologies for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other diseases.

5. Since IPM was founded as a nonprofit organization in 2002, it has leveraged public, philanthropic and private sector resources to spur development of safe and effective life-saving technologies for women. IPM builds on partnerships—with governments, foundations, researchers, pharmaceutical companies, policymakers, advocates and communities—to bring scientific
ingenuity, political will and financial resources to bear on all phases of product development.

6. Thanks to long-standing support from DFID and other donors IPM has been able to develop a pipeline of HIV prevention products that use cutting-edge science to respond to the complexity of the HIV epidemic and the diversity of women’s individual needs. Outlined below is a brief description of IPM’s key achievements over the past 10 years which have been made possible through significant financial support of DFID as well as other donors:

7. Negotiating royalty-free licenses for ARV drugs: Recent studies have validated the potential of ARVs to prevent HIV infection and save millions of lives. Since its inception, IPM has negotiated non-exclusive, royalty-free licenses from five pharmaceutical companies to develop eight different antiretroviral (ARV) drugs as microbicides. These licenses are essential to ensuring IPM products will be affordable where the need is most urgent.

8. Developing the monthly dapivirine ring and advancing it to Phase III efficacy trials: IPM developed an easy-to-use monthly vaginal ring that delivers the ARV dapivirine slowly over time that could help women protect themselves against HIV. IPM brought the ring from concept to Phase III efficacy trials, now underway, in just seven years after acquiring the license for dapivirine.

9. Conducting research studies: IPM has worked in 11 countries in Africa, Europe and North America to conduct 17 clinical trials on a variety of products, 13 incidence studies and two product acceptability studies, all of which continue to inform its work and the field.

10. Strengthening medical research capacity in Africa: IPM has helped build and strengthen capacity at over 10 research centres in seven countries in Africa, and trained 600 clinic staff and community advisors on microbicide trial implementation. These centres are now equipped to conduct high-quality clinical trials for IPM and other organizations, and many provide other needed services to their communities.

11. Streamlining manufacturing processes: IPM led a state of the art manufacturing facility to accelerate production of prototype gels and rings for early trials, resolving a bottleneck in manufacturing capacity and saving costs for more than 10 clinical studies. IPM successfully transferred ring production for its Phase III program to a manufacturer to ensure cost-efficiencies for large-scale production.

12. Expanding the pipeline with MPT’s (multipurpose prevention technology) to address women’s multiple sexual and reproductive health needs: Because HIV rates of HIV and unintended pregnancy are significant causes of health complications and death for women worldwide. IPM is building on its ring technology to advance a new MPT – a 60 day dapivirine-contraceptive ring that would offer both HIV protection and contraception.

13. Developing the first combination ARV ring: IPM is also developing the first combination ARV vaginal ring, the dapivirine-maraviroc ring, now in Phase I clinical trials. Combining ARV’s with different mechanisms may provide greater protection against HIV that an single drug alone.
14. More detailed information on IPM’s work which is supported by DFID and other donors can be seen in IPM@10- A decade of progress advancing HIV Prevention for Women.


15. IPM and its collaboration with DFID:
16. IPM has worked closely with DFID for over 10 years and we congratulate them and the UK government for its leadership in supporting and sustaining a research and development program for new prevention tools such as microbicides and to support innovative approaches such as PDP’s.
17. The attention DFID has brought to meeting the needs of women and girls has provided important leadership in the international response to the threats of their wellbeing and their health. In particular, IPM would like to thanks DFID’s Human Development Research Team in the Research and Evidence Division. Their expertise has played a critical role ensuring support for lifesaving research and development that meets the urgency of women’s health needs globally.