



Concept Note

Protecting At-Risk Adolescents in Nigeria with Long-Acting HIV Prevention (Lenacapavir)

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Executive Summary

Nigeria bears a **significant share of the global HIV burden**, particularly among adolescents and young people. Globally, an estimated **1.57 million adolescents aged 10–19 are living with HIV**, and only **64% receive life-saving antiretroviral therapy (ART)**.

In Nigeria, youth HIV prevalence is alarmingly high: a study found **12% of adolescents and youths tested HIV-positive**, far above the national average.

This project proposes delivering **long-acting PrEP (Lenacapavir)**, a twice-yearly injectable HIV prevention, to **6,500 at-risk Nigerian adolescents**, especially girls and marginalized youth. The model addresses adherence challenges, reduces stigma, and improves protection through integrated services, including HIV testing, counseling, clinical monitoring, and community outreach.

The approach aligns with **SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality)** and supports broader national AIDS control efforts.

EFI Background

Empower Future Initiative (EFI) is a Nigerian nonprofit organization dedicated to improving public health, empowering young people, and strengthening community resilience through evidence-based development programs. The organization is formally registered with Nigeria's Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC/IT8392723) and the EFCC Special Control Unit Against Money Laundering (SCUML), demonstrating its commitment to transparency, accountability, and responsible program management.

EFI works to address critical health and development challenges affecting vulnerable populations, particularly **adolescents, women, and underserved communities**. The organization's programs focus on **health education, HIV prevention, youth empowerment**, and digital skills development, helping individuals gain knowledge and resources to lead healthier and more productive lives.

With a growing network of community partners, educators, and public health practitioners, EFI implements programs that combine **community outreach, peer education, training workshops, and digital learning platforms**. The organization delivers nationwide online training initiatives while maintaining strong grassroots engagement in 5 Local Governments Areas of Nasarawa, Imo, Rivers, Akwa-Ibom, and Benue States, where many of our field activities are implemented.

EFI integrates strong **monitoring and evaluation systems, data-driven planning, and participatory community engagement** to ensure measurable impact. Through partnerships with donors, civil society organizations, and health institutions, EFI is well positioned to implement innovative health interventions, including **adolescent HIV prevention and long-acting biomedical prevention programs**, contributing to Nigeria's broader efforts to reduce HIV infections and improve public health outcomes.

Background and Problem Statement

Global HIV Among Adolescents

- Approximately **370,000 young people aged 15–24 acquired HIV in 2024, including 145,000 adolescents aged 15–19.**
- Only **64 % of adolescents living with HIV receive ART** worldwide, leaving many without treatment.

Despite progress in ART scale-up, prevention globally remains constrained by funding gaps and service disruptions: an estimated **2.5 million people lost access to PrEP during 2025 as funding declined**, with a pronounced impact on women and adolescent girls.

Nigeria's HIV Epidemic—Youth Impact

- Nigeria has an estimated **200,000 adolescents aged 10–19 living with HIV.**
- National studies show **12 % prevalence among screened adolescents and youths**, highlighting serious gaps in prevention and testing.
- HIV testing among youth is suboptimal; less than **25 % of adolescents and young adults have ever tested for HIV**, well below national targets.
- Women and girls continue to bear a disproportionate burden: females account for about **62 % of people living with HIV in Nigeria.**

Structural barriers, poverty, stigma, gender inequality, and uneven healthcare access compound vulnerabilities, undermining adolescent HIV prevention efforts.

Innovation in Prevention: Lenacapavir

The World Health Organization now recommends injectable Lenacapavir as a long-acting PrEP option, offering a highly effective alternative to daily oral PrEP.

Clinical evidence shows long-acting injectable regimens can provide strong protection with improved adherence, particularly in populations who struggle with daily pills.

Project Goal and Objectives

Goal

To reduce new HIV infections among at-risk Nigerian adolescents by expanding access to long-acting HIV prevention services (Lenacapavir).

Specific Objectives

- Provide long-acting PrEP (Lenacapavir) to 6,500 at-risk adolescents.
- Achieve ≥ 90 % retention in the prevention program.
- Increase HIV awareness and testing among youth in 10 underserved communities.
- Strengthen clinical capacity for HIV prevention services for young people.
- Reduce stigma and improve health-seeking behavior through peer-driven outreach.

Proposed Intervention

4.1 Long-Acting PrEP Delivery

Eligible adolescents (HIV-negative and at risk) will receive **two injections of Lenacapavir per year** following clinical screening and counseling. This reduces barriers related to daily pill adherence and privacy concerns.

4.2 HIV Testing and Counseling

Participants will undergo the following:

- Confidential HIV testing
- Pre- and post-test counseling
- Risk reduction education

Testing literacy and early diagnosis support increased service uptake.

4.3 Clinical Monitoring

Services include:

- Follow-up clinical reviews
- Adherence and safety monitoring
- Digital tracking of appointment retention and outcomes

4.4 Community Engagement and Outreach

Peer educators will lead:

- School and local awareness sessions
- Youth health empowerment programs
- Parent and guardian forums on adolescent sexual health

These reduce stigma and build support systems within communities.

Expected Outcomes and Impact

Within the first year, the project will:

- Protect 1,500 adolescents with long-acting PrEP.
- Achieve a 90 %+ retention rate in HIV prevention services.
- Increase HIV testing and awareness among youth in targeted areas.
- Contribute to reduced new HIV infections and improved adolescent health outcomes.

Long-Term Impact: Integration of long-acting PrEP into youth-friendly health services, supporting national HIV targets and sustainable prevention systems.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Indicators:

- Number of adolescents enrolled
- Completion of both injections
- HIV testing uptake and results
- Retention and adherence rates
- Community awareness reached

Regular reports will track progress and inform adaptive learning.

Sustainability

- Training health workers on long-acting PrEP delivery
- Linking project sites with national HIV services
- Building youth peer networks for ongoing education
- Advocating for policy integration of long-acting prevention

By strengthening systems and capacity, the intervention will remain impactful beyond initial funding.

Budget Summary

| Category | Estimated Cost (USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Lenacapavir procurement | \$180,000 |
| HIV testing/counseling | \$35,000 |
| Clinical monitoring | \$25,000 |
| Outreach & education | \$30,000 |
| Health worker training | \$15,000 |
| Monitoring & Evaluation | \$20,000 |
| Administration & logistics | \$20,000 |
| Total | \$325,000 |

Conclusion

This project combines evidence-based HIV prevention tools, cutting-edge long-acting PrEP, and community empowerment to tackle HIV risk among adolescents in Nigeria. With strong data backing and an integrated model, donor support can accelerate progress toward ending HIV in this vulnerable group.

References

A study shows 12% HIV prevalence among Nigerian adolescents and youth.
https://guardian.ng/features/health/study-reveals-12-hiv-prevalence-among-nigerian-adolescents-youths/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

UNICEF: Nigeria accounts for a notable share of global AIDS-related deaths among children.

https://www.unicef.org/nigeria/press-releases/almost-15-cent-global-aids-related-deaths-children-and-adolescents-globally-occur?utm_source=chatgpt.com

NACA reports high viral suppression among treated Nigerians, but prevention gaps persist.

https://guardian.ng/features/health/95-of-nigerians-on-hiv-treatment-can-no-longer-transmit-virus-naca/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Global and national HIV prevalence among youth and adolescents.

https://gitnux.org/nigeria-hiv-statistics/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

WHO recommends Lenacapavir as a long-acting HIV prevention option.

https://www.who.int/news/item/14-07-2025-who-recommends-injectable-lenacapavir-for-hiv-prevention?utm_source=chatgpt.com

HIV testing coverage among Nigerian adolescents is below national targets.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32428005/>

Global adolescent HIV treatment and prevalence data.

https://data.unicef.org/topic/hivaids/adolescent-hiv-treatment/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Global HIV infection data among adolescents and young people.

https://data.unicef.org/topic/hivaids/adolescents-young-people/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Nigeria is set to take delivery of the first Lenacapavir Supply in March, 2026.

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/health/health-interviews/861002-lenacapavir-what-to-know-about-new-hiv-prevention-injection-coming-to-nigeria.html>