

AIDS
2020



23RD INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

VIRTUAL

6 - 10 JULY 2020

Bringing PrEP closer to home: Why is now the time for differentiated PrEP?

AVAC, PATH, International AIDS Society (IAS)



Dreams goes digital:

Using virtual platforms to maintain PrEP access among adolescent girls and young women in Kenya

Habel Alwang'a
Chief of Party | Afya Ziwani



Afya Ziwani: who and where we are

- **Funder:** PEPFAR/USAID
- **Description:** Comprehensive HIV prevention, testing, and care services, focusing on adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), fisherfolk, and KPs.
- **Period of performance:** 5 years (October 2017 to September 2022)
- **Geographies:** 4 counties in Western Kenya—Homa Bay, Kisumu, Migori, and Nyamira



Pre-COVID-19, a health provider supports a client to enroll on PrEP in Kondele Ward, Kisumu. PATH/Afya Ziwani.

Pre-COVID-19 delivery model: PrEP at facilities or Safe Spaces



AGYW PrEP support group meeting at a safe space in Ruma-Kaksingiri Ward. PATH/Afya Ziwani.

- PrEP education, initiation, and continuation facilitated through Safe Spaces.
- AGYW assessed for eligibility, tested for HIV, and provided with PrEP at Safe Space or health facilities.
- PrEP support groups for AGYW for increased adherence and provision of layered package of DREAMS services.
- No telemedicine or virtual options.

Building blocks of PrEP for AGYW: Pre-COVID-19

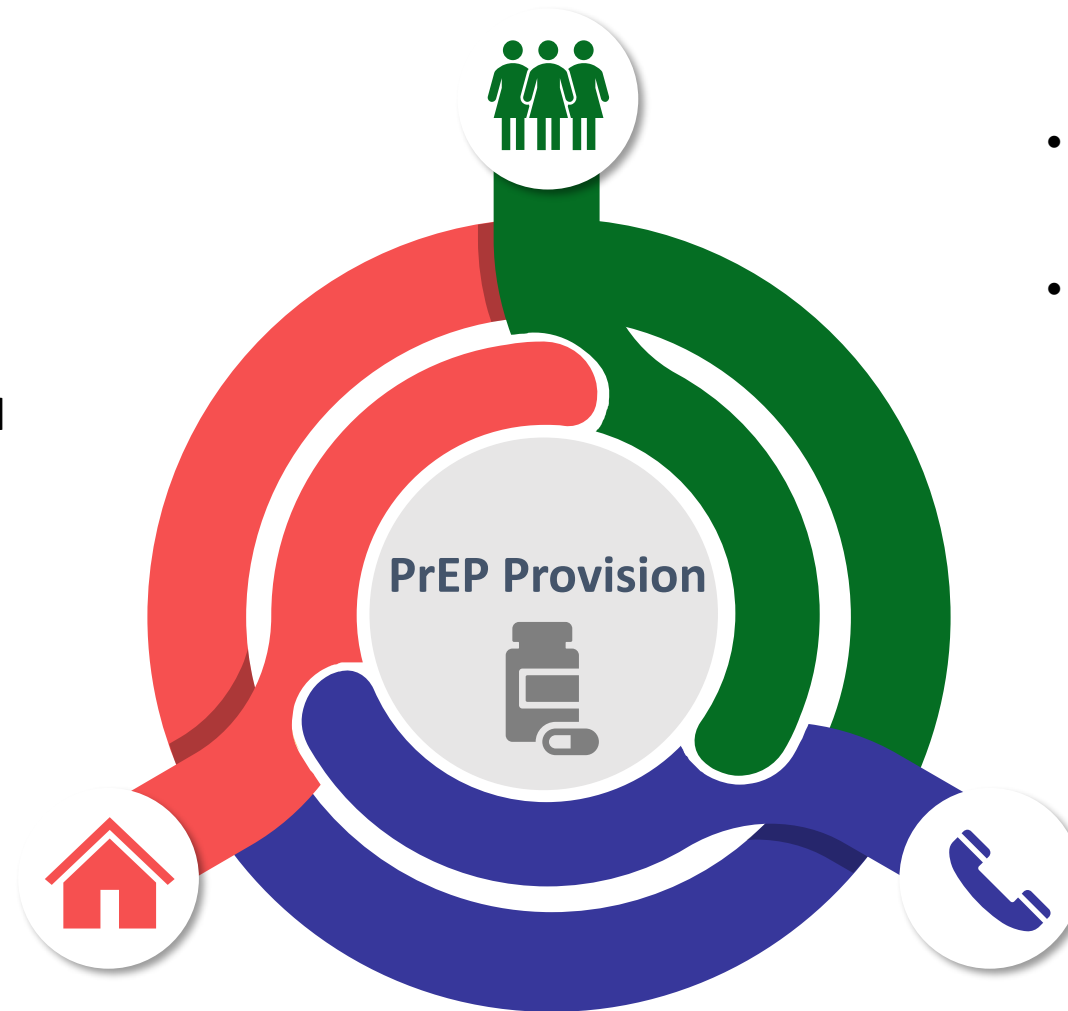
	PrEP screening, initiation, and early follow-up (0-3 months)			PrEP continuation (+3 months)
	Screening	PrEP initiation visit	Initial follow-up	Routine clinical follow-up
WHEN <i>Service frequency</i>	Same day		Month 1	Every 3 months
WHERE <i>Service location</i>	Safe Space (counseling) Health facility (screening and initiation)		Health facility	Health facility
WHO <i>Service provider</i>	Physician (exam/prescription) Nurse Counselor (AGYW DREAMS mentor; community health worker)		Physician (exam/prescription) Nurse	Physician (exam/prescription) Nurse Counselor (AGYW DREAMS mentor; community health worker)
WHAT <i>Service package</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same-day HIV testing • Risk assessment and plan • PrEP counseling 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV testing • PrEP counseling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same-day HIV testing • Integrated family planning & STI services • Risk assessment and plan • PrEP counseling



COVID-19 response: Increased community and virtual options for PrEP

1. Home delivery

- Provides AGYW aged 15-24 with PrEP.
- AGYW opt to have PrEP delivered to them at a place of convenience, e.g. home.
- Healthcare worker accompanies DREAMS mentor to provide PrEP to AGYW at home.



2. Temporary “mobile” Safe Space

- Serves well for AGYW living in close proximity to each other.
- Meetings organized by and held at AGYW Ambassadors’ home.

3. Virtual Safe Space and outreach

- Increased use of virtual contact (calls, text messages, WhatsApp, video) to provide PrEP services to AGYW.
- Led by DREAMS Mentors.

Feasibility of virtual outreach and HIVST distribution with AGYW

AGYW in Afya Ziwani's DREAMS cohort with cell phone access, by age group

9-17 YEARS



Have cell access

Of the 60,737 AGYW enrolled, 76% had cell phone access; most use parents'/guardians' phones, posing confidentiality issues.

18-19 YEARS



Have own phone

7,731 AGYW have own phones; remainder are reachable through parents'/guardians' phones.

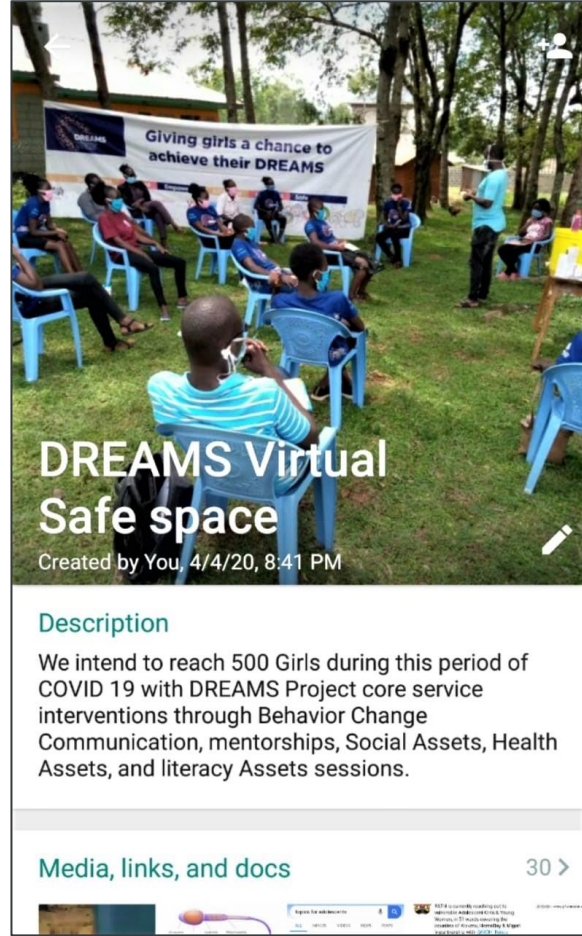
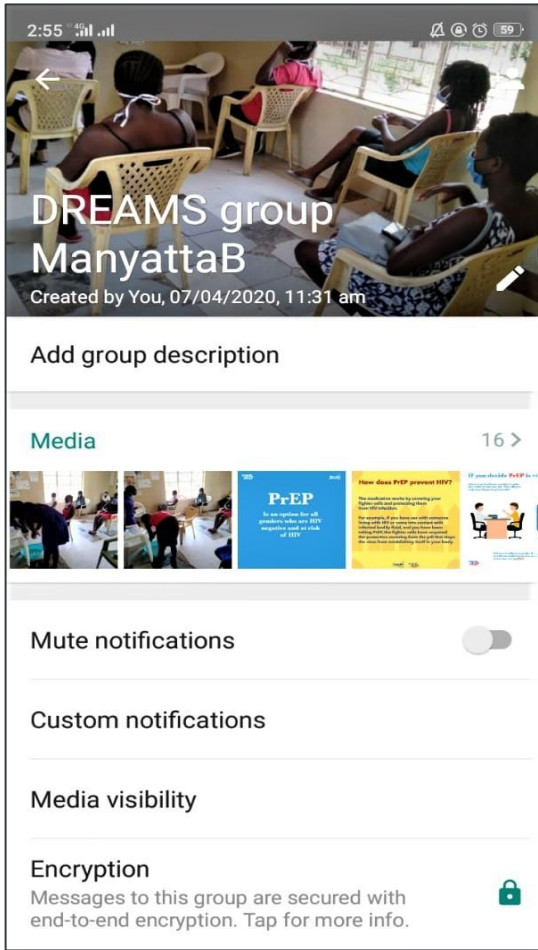
20-24 YEARS



Have own phone

11,411 AGYW have own phones, remainder are reachable through parents'/guardians' phones.

COVID-19 response: Virtual Safe Spaces and PrEP



Safe Spaces shifted to WhatsApp (Virtual Safe Spaces); **111 Virtual Safe Spaces** created.



Phone calls, text messaging, and social media outreach to generate demand and provide individualized access to services.



Service directories and airtime given to providers; **“Please call me”** feature for AGYW.



Group education on HIVST, PrEP, COVID-19, and other information shared through Virtual Safe Spaces.

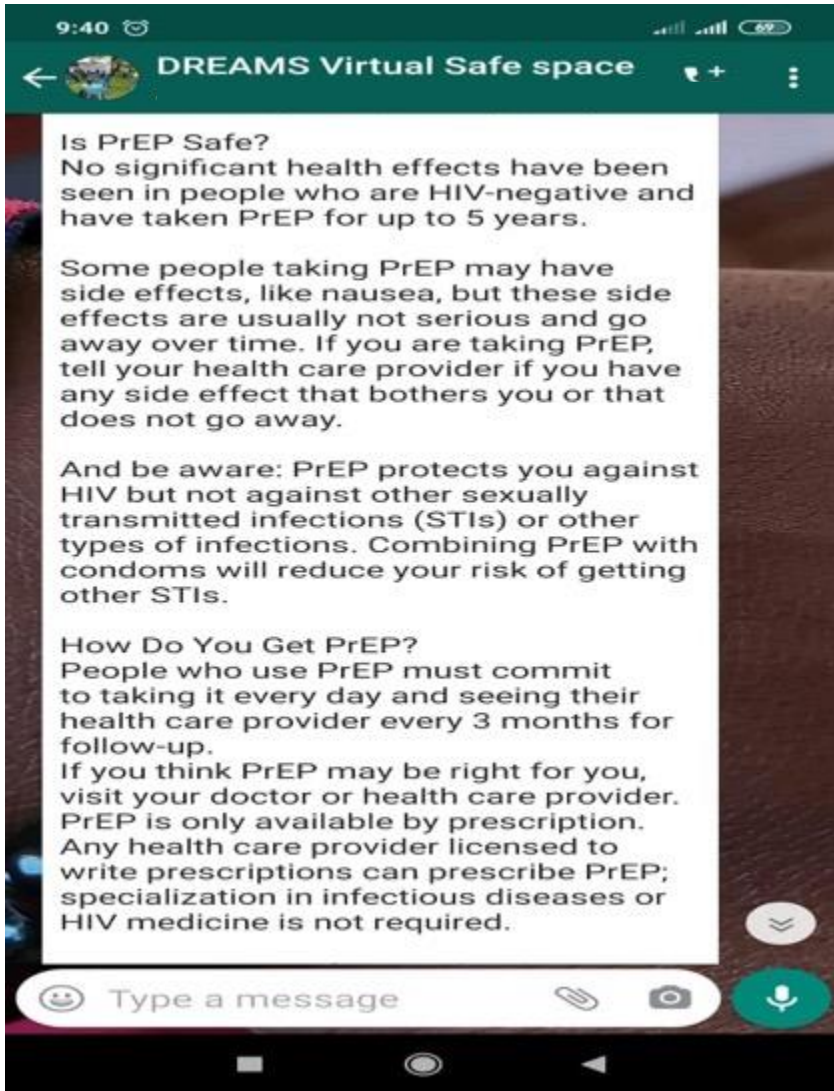


PrEP requested through individual outreach via phone or Virtual Safe Space platform.

Screenshots of WhatsApp-based “Virtual Safe Spaces” for Manyatta B ward in Kisumu County and West Kamagak and Kokwanyo wards in Homa Bay County. Credit: PATH/Afy Ziawani

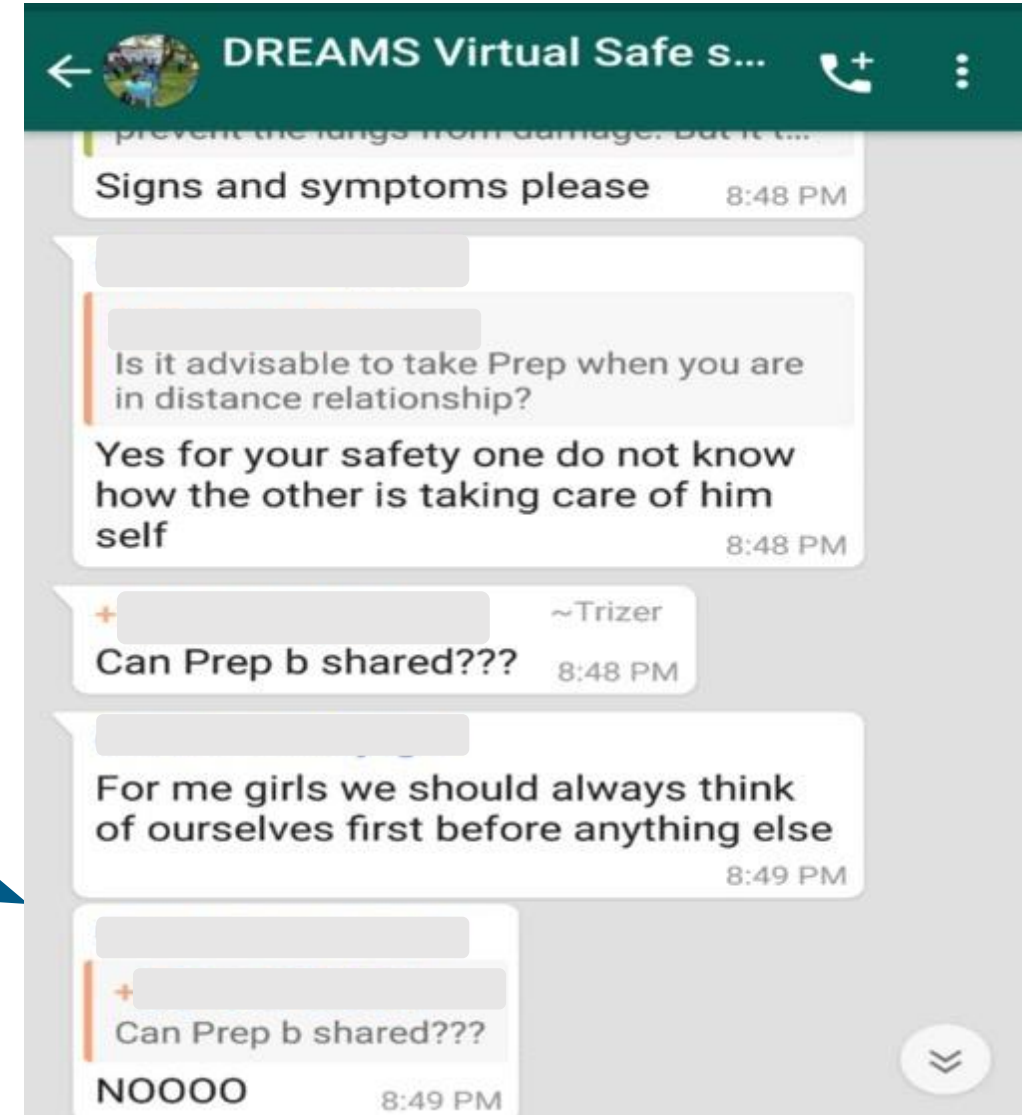


COVID-19 response: Enhanced outreach and education through virtual platforms



Screenshots of WhatsApp based "Virtual Safe Spaces" providing information on PrEP

Screenshots of WhatsApp based "Virtual Safe Space" members discussing PrEP



Building blocks of PrEP for AGYW: COVID-19 and beyond

	PrEP screening, initiation, and early follow-up (0-3 months)			PrEP continuation (+3 months)
	Screening	PrEP initiation visit	Initial follow-up	Routine clinical follow-up
WHEN <i>Service frequency</i>	Same day		Month 1	Every 3 months
WHERE <i>Service location</i>	Virtual or mobile Safe Space (counseling) Health facility (screening and initiation)		Health facility	Health facility (if clinical follow-up required) Mobile Safe Space (if no clinical follow-up required) Home (if no clinical follow-up required)
WHO <i>Service provider</i>	Physician (exam/prescription) Nurse Counselor (AGYW DREAMS mentor; community health worker)		Physician (exam/prescription) Nurse	Physician (exam/prescription) Nurse Counselor (AGYW DREAMS mentor; community health worker)
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COVID-19 response: PrEP enrollment and follow-up through Virtual Safe Spaces



1. Online outreach

DREAMS mentor initiates online discussion on PrEP with Virtual Safe Space group.

2. Opt for PrEP

AGYW member expresses interest in enrolling on PrEP.

3. Risk screening

DREAMS mentor and **AGYW** complete the rapid assessment screening tool and schedules appointment for PrEP initiation.

4. PrEP initiation

Clinician reviews AGYW file, conducts HIV test, and initiates on PrEP (if deemed eligible).

5. Ongoing follow-up

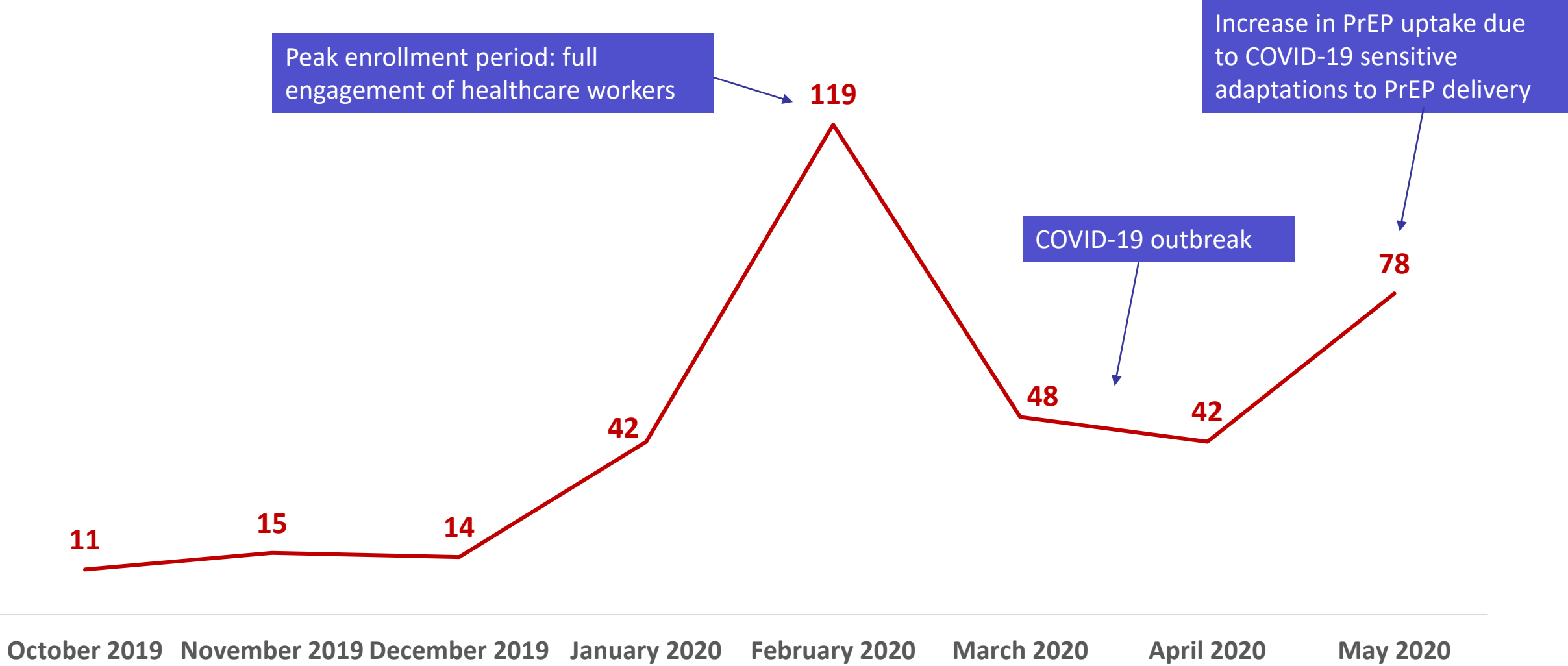
DREAMS mentor/healthcare volunteer conducts one-month/quarterly check-in with AGYW.

6. PrEP refills

DREAMS mentor/healthcare volunteer provides PrEP refill to AGYW at preferred location (home; Safe Space; clinic; community).

Monthly PrEP enrollment among AGYW before and during COVID-19

Figure: PrEP_NEW enrollment among AGYW by month, October 2019—May 2020



AGYW PrEP refills across 22 wards during COVID-19

1,022 AGYW across 22 wards received refills of PrEP from March 15 through May 30.



Safe Space
51%



Home
10%



Health facility
39%

AGYW Perspective

“I want to say thanks for bringing PrEP for me at home because it would have been difficult for me to go to health facility to collect it within the circumstances, we are facing now with COVID.”

Tracy Achieng, Kisumu, Kenya



Where to from here?

Lessons and future directions



Strong uptake of telehealth services in Kenya—enabled continuity of critical prevention services through COVID-19.

- ➡ Standardizing virtual approaches in HIV service delivery—continuing with virtual Safe Spaces post COVID-19



How to ensure high-quality virtual follow-up?

- ➡ Develop and distribute key talking points to guide health care workers deliver messaging virtually.
- ➡ Adopting a mix of virtual and safe in-person follow up.

Acknowledgements

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Thank you!

