

Estimating the potential dual health impact and cost effectiveness of the Woman's Condom in selected sub-Saharan African countries

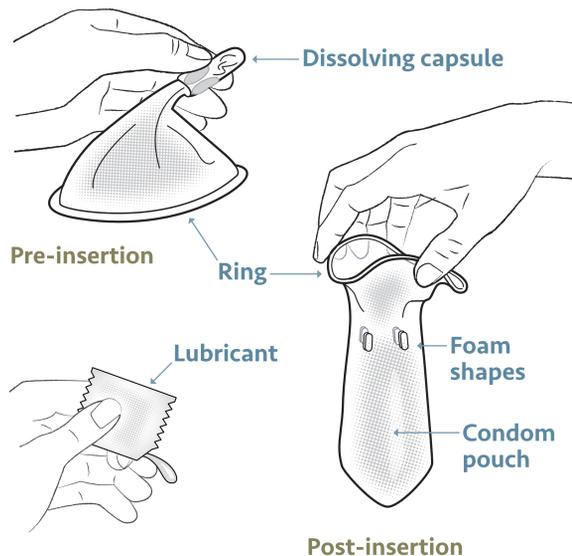
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Background

Female condoms are sheaths made of thin, soft film or latex that fit inside a woman's vagina. Other than male condoms, female condoms are the only currently available option that offers dual protection from pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. Despite widespread availability and low cost, male condoms are not used as often or consistently as needed. Female condoms are female initiated and offer another option when male condom use is not possible.

The Woman's Condom is a new female condom designed to provide dual protection and to be highly pleasurable and acceptable. It was developed by PATH through a user-centered process. This analysis attempted to estimate the dual health impact of the Woman's Condom for both family planning and HIV prevention, rather than HIV prevention alone.

COMPONENTS OF THE WOMAN'S CONDOM



Methods

We utilized two models available online:

- Marie Stopes International Impact 2 model to measure impact as a family planning method.
- Population Services International (PSI) DALY (disability adjusted life year) calculator to measure impact as an HIV prevention method.

Cost estimates included both the product and program costs. We obtained program cost data per female condom distributed from published literature.

Key outputs:

- Pregnancies, live births, abortions, and DALYs averted.
- HIV infections and DALYs averted.
- Cost per DALY averted estimated by dividing the costs by the DALYs averted.

Results

We estimated the impact of distributing 100,000 female condoms in 13 countries during a one-year period.

Countries included in the analysis

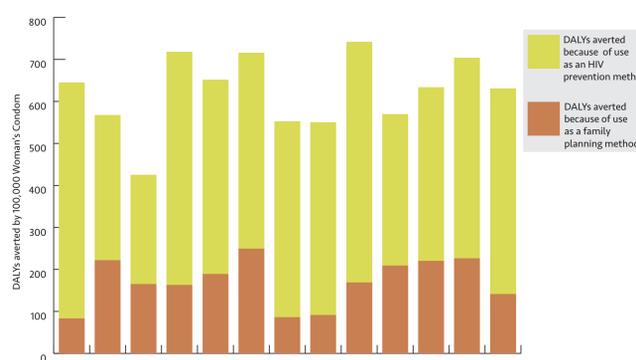


100,000
WOMAN'S CONDOMS

194
PREGNANCIES PREVENTED

24
HIV INFECTIONS PREVENTED

Estimated health impact of Woman's Condom



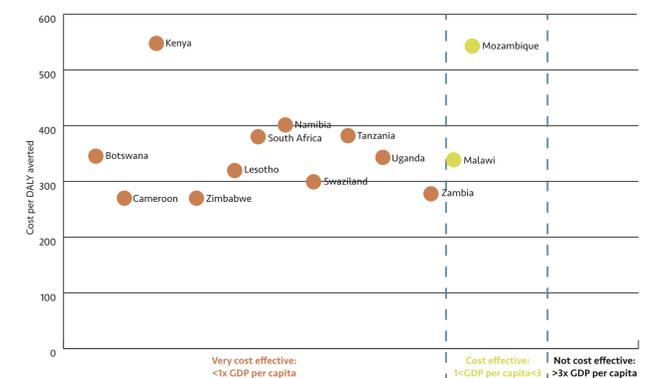
Results continued

The estimated cost per DALY averted from dual use ranged from US\$265 to \$535.

- Using the World Health Organization's CHOICE (Choosing Interventions that are Cost Effective) criteria, we found that the Woman's Condom was **very cost effective** in 11 countries and **cost effective** in the other two.

We also estimated the cost per HIV case prevented, and it ranged from approximately US\$7,000 to \$17,000.

Cost effectiveness of the Woman's Condom



Limitations of the analysis

The program cost data used in the analysis were obtained from data published by PSI for their female condom distribution program and may not reflect the actual costs of distributing the Woman's Condom in each country.

The impact estimates were generated using national averages of the parameter values and may not reflect geographical variations in the areas where the product may be distributed within the same country.

Conclusion

- This was a first and successful attempt to estimate the impact of dual protection of female condoms.
- The Woman's Condom was found to be very cost effective in 11 countries and cost effective in two countries.
- The health impact is greater for the use of the Woman's Condom as an HIV prevention method than for contraception.
- Dual use of the Woman's Condom increases the overall health impact.