



Newsletter
July 2025

Oral and Injectable PrEP for men who travel for work in South Africa and Uganda

Welcome to the MOBILE MEN newsletter which we send every six months to give updates on progress. Please send to anyone who may be interested.

We are exploring how to deliver oral and injectable PrEP to men who travel for work. In East London and KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, this mainly **comprises taxi and truck drivers** whilst in Masaka, Uganda this is focussed on **fishermen and people working in the fishing industry**.

Trial Design

Phase 1: Randomisation phase: HIV negative men randomised to oral or injectable PrEP

Phase 2: Choice Phase

Primary Endpoint: Persistence and PrEP choices

Secondary endpoints: attitudes and preferences, cost effectiveness, HIV self-test, STI, HIV

CURRENT STATUS of TRIAL

1. Recruitment was fast (took 3 months) and completed in November 2024
2. 400 HIV uninfected men were randomised to either CAB-LA injection or oral TDF/FTC PrEP.
3. The 9-month randomised phase is completing this month and will be analysed.
4. The 9-month choice phase has started. Men have the choice of oral PrEP (event based or daily) or injectable PrEP
5. Last participant visit is expected March 2026.
6. The second rapid assessment is underway to understand the impact of PrEP and the study on local communities

Initial observations

1. High uptake of PrEP at baseline: only 1 man declined injection.
2. Baseline survey confirmed high mobility of men, high-risk behaviours and low awareness of the different PrEP options (particularly injectable PrEP)
3. Event driven PrEP use is high and staff are happy promoting it.
4. HIV self-test and national HIV testing algorithms are an acceptable part of injectable PrEP management

Update from Clinical Trial Chief Investigator (Eugene Ruzagira)

“As the randomised phase is concluding, we are now transitioning into the ‘choice phase,’ during which participants may change PrEP modalities multiple times based on their preferences and experiences. The randomised phase has progressed very well overall. We are now eager to enter the choice phase and learn how men who are mobile for work in Africa, engage with the available options and what factors influence their decisions.”

MOBILE MEN News from the sites

Desmond Tutu Health Foundation, East London, South Africa:

We welcomed the addition of Professor Nigel Garrett to the team as a site lead and investigator. A Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting was held Feb and March 2025 with a strong representation of Men's organizations working in men's health and development. They committed to sharing about the work of Mobile Men in their local, provincial, and national structures, and that it will inform future HIV prevention policy and programming for men's health in the country. This marks an enthusiastic and productive beginning to our collaborative journey with local partners and stakeholders. Close collaboration with the Cape Town DTHF team on PrEP2 Choose have helped shared learning.

The team:



Africa Health Research Institute, KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), South Africa: *Professor Limakatso Lebina.*

“There was a lot interest in the study from the men that are mobile for work in our area. Parking a mobile clinic within a taxi rank/transport hub made it easy for men to access the services. We finished enrolment quickly, however attendance to the follow-up visits has not been lower than expected. As we move to the next phase where men will have an option to choose the method that works well for their needs and schedules we hope to have better adherence to scheduled visits. We will also continue to counsel the men and find what other strategies we can implement to improve access to the services.”



Uganda Virus Research Institute, Masaka, Uganda:

Community engagement meetings at the village level. These meetings aimed at addressing community health concerns and more importantly, addressing the myths and mis conception about PrEP use.



MOBILE MEN virtual Meeting – February 2025. Hello from some of the team!



IAS Kigali

We will host a MOBILE MEN meeting Tuesday 15th July and keen to meet as many people as possible who are interesting in developing PrEP Programs for men who travel for work. **Contact** [Julie.fox@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:julie.fox@kcl.ac.uk). Please see our poster entitled “How to reach mobile men.”

Training and knowledge exchange

Shared knowledge and training within MOBILE MEN and between other HIV prevention consortia is a key priority of ours. For resources, contact Emily Webb: Emily.Webb@lshtm.ac.uk. For new collaborations contact : Julie.fox@kcl.ac.uk

More information

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