

# Working in Europe to Make Microbicides a Reality

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR MICROBICIDES  
& GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR MICROBICIDES



The mission of the **International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM)** is to prevent HIV transmission by accelerating the development and availability of safe and effective microbicides for use by women in developing countries.

IPM addresses the entire microbicide pathway, from identification of novel candidates to distribution, to identify ways to accelerate efforts to get a safe, effective and affordable microbicide into the hands of women in developing countries. IPM is working to address challenges and gain efficiencies at each stage—expanding the pipeline of new candidates, development, testing, regulatory approval, manufacturing, distribution, and consumer use—without compromising scientific rigour or women's safety.

The **Global Campaign for Microbicides** is a broad-based international effort to build support among policymakers, opinion leaders, and the general public for increased investment into microbicides and other user-controlled HIV and STI prevention methods. Through advocacy, policy analysis, and social science research, the Campaign works to accelerate product development, facilitate widespread access and use, and protect the needs and interests of users, especially women.

The Global Campaign can be seen as the 'civil society' arm of the microbicides movement. Currently the Campaign is most active in India, South Africa, Uganda, Thailand, Ghana, Nigeria, Canada, the US, Ireland, the UK and Spain.

## Common goals:

IPM and GCM share a mutual vision of the existence and widespread use of microbicides to prevent HIV. Both entities are working to raise awareness of the need for new prevention options for women and specifically to ensure that microbicides are adequately funded. Both organisations are also committed to the availability and accessibility of microbicides to those women most in need of them, particularly in developing countries.

### In addition to these goals, IPM and GCM also have distinct objectives:

IPM was created to identify and address gaps or bottlenecks in microbicide development and access and to serve as a resource for the global microbicide field. Since its founding in 2002, IPM has established collaborations that are optimal for the most cost-efficient and rapid development of highly promising drugs, conducting state-of-the-art research on optimal formulations and delivery methods, and developing clinical trial sites to facilitate the conduct of large-scale efficacy studies.

As a global movement, the Global Campaign acts as an umbrella under which NGO-based microbicide advocacy work can occur in a unified, harmonised manner. The Campaign is working to ensure that, as the science proceeds, the public interest is protected and the rights and interests of trial participants, potential product users and communities are fully represented and respected. The Campaign actively supports the creation of a range of user-controlled prevention methods for women, including the female condom and other cervical barrier methods.

## European activities:

Both IPM and Global Campaign are active in Europe in the areas of resource mobilisation, advocacy, policy and communications with a range of key audiences including European donors and policymakers, politicians and elected representatives, NGOs and the media.

IPM's European activities include product development, conducting clinical trials, policy work, global advocacy and resource mobilisation. Many of IPM's donors are European: Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, as well as the European Commission. **IPM Belgium**, which was established in 2004, is registered as a Belgian non-profit organisation and has one full-time member of staff: Tessa Mattholie, the European Liaison Officer. Within Europe, IPM also has consultants in the UK.

**Global Campaign Europe (GC Europe)** is the European arm of the Global Campaign, coordinated by Rebekah Webb. GC Europe's main focus is on building the capacity of NGOs to participate in the global microbicides effort. Activities include provision of advocacy and skills training, development of targeted advocacy tools and materials, networking and parliamentary lobbying, as well as policy development on accountability, ethics and community involvement. GC Europe catalyses and supports many national grassroots campaigns across Europe. Through the Brussels secretariat, these campaigns are brought together to influence the EU in the creation of a supportive environment for the eventual introduction and use of microbicides, both in the developing world but also within Europe itself.

## Global activities:

IPM	IPM & GCM	GCM
Conducting high-level advocacy (e.g. Ministerial & G-8 level)	<b>Raising awareness of the need for microbicides</b>	Generating grassroots advocacy and building constituent-based national and regional campaigns
Focusing exclusively on microbicides for women in developing countries	<b>Advocating for increased resources for the field including IPM &amp; GCM</b>	Emphasis on needs of users in both industrialised and developing countries including gay men
Developing ARV-based products with HIV endpoints	<b>Striving for a range of microbicide products</b>	Advocating for a full range of HIV/STI prevention tools (female condoms and other barrier methods)
Basic and clinical science: widening pipeline, screening potential products & building clinical trial capacity	<b>Advocating for increased microbicides research and development</b>	Building consensus around pivotal research issues (ethical challenges and community involvement)
Designing and implementing scientifically and ethically sound clinical trials	<b>Advocating for increased clinical trial capacity</b>	Building NGO capacity to support trials and ensuring accountability to the end-user
Promoting product development policy (regarding regulatory issues, IP and manufacturing capacity)	<b>Creating a supportive policy environment</b>	Supporting development of mathematical models and policy research to evaluate potential impact
Conducting country preparedness studies and market research	<b>Acceptability research</b>	Advocating for expanded social/behavioural studies
Encouraging pharmaceutical engagement incl. negotiating with pharmaceutical industry to access promising candidates	<b>Advocating that pharmaceuticals release promising leads for development</b>	Campaigning for removal of N-9 from condoms and sexual lubricants
Working with international and national media	<b>Ensuring accurate media coverage</b>	Working with NGO and community media

## European collaborators:

COUNTRY	IPM	GCM
<b>BELGIUM</b>	Full-time staff member in Brussels office Tibotec-Virco (R&D collaborator) Medisearch International (Clinical collaborator) University of Ghent (Clinical collaborator)	Full-time staff member in Brussels office Emerging collaboration with Sensoa
<b>DENMARK</b>	Donor country AIDS Fondet (Advocacy collaborator)	Partners: HIV Denmark, AIDS Fondet Emerging collaboration with NordPol
<b>FINLAND</b>		Emerging collaboration with NordPol
<b>FRANCE</b>	Hélène Rossert, Director of AIDES, on IPM's board Collaboration with Equilibres et Populations and AIDES	Emerging collaboration with AIDES
<b>GERMANY</b>	DSW (Advocacy collaborator)	
<b>IRELAND</b>	Donor country Warner Chilcott, Northern Ireland Office (R&D collaborator) and Queen's University, Belfast (R&D collaborator)	Partner: Cairde Emerging collaboration with the Irish Public Health Alliance
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	Donor country International Antiviral Therapy Evaluation Centre (Clinical collaborator) Els Borst-Eilers, former Deputy Prime Minister, IPM Board Chair	Collaboration with AIDS Fonds
<b>NORWAY</b>	Donor country	Partner: Plusse-Ima
<b>PORTUGAL</b>		Partner: Abraco
<b>SPAIN</b>		Partners: gTt and Creacion Positiva
<b>SWEDEN</b>	Donor country	Emerging collaboration with Noah's Ark and NordPol
<b>UK</b>	Donor country St George's Hospital Medical School (R&D collaborator) GlaxoSmithKline (R&D collaborator) UK Microbicide Development Programme (Clinical collaborator) National AIDS Trust (NAT) (Advocacy collaborator) Two part-time consultants	Donor (DFID) Partners: Interact leads UK Campaign for Microbicides, NAT Research collaboration with London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
<b>European Commission</b>	Donor (AIDCO) European Microbicide Project (R&D collaborator)	Donor (AIDCO)
<b>Pan-European</b>	WHO (Regulatory collaborator) Co-convenor, UNAIDS' Global Coalition on Women & AIDS Emerging Collaboration with ICW	Partners: ICW, IPPF, International HIV/AIDS Alliance Emerging collaboration with European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG) Co-convenor, UNAIDS' Global Coalition on Women & AIDS