Adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in Tanzania, as in many countries, are at high risk of HIV. Oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), the use of antiretroviral medications by HIV-uninfected persons to prevent HIV, has the potential to substantially reduce HIV acquisition among AGYW as part of a comprehensive HIV prevention package, if they are able to access and use it. However, in the rollout of PrEP for AGYW, there is need to carefully examine the individual, interpersonal, structural, and sociocultural factors that may influence the provision of quality PrEP services and whether AGYW are able to make informed decisions about PrEP use.²

Introducing PrEP to AGYW in Tanzania requires information that reflects the unique sociocultural and political environment of Tanzania. In collaboration with the National AIDS Control Programme and CSK Research Solutions Ltd, the Population Council is conducting an implementation science research study in Tanzania to build needed evidence to inform decision-making around PrEP introduction to AGYW aged 15–24.³ The study uses quantitative and qualitative methods to gather data from AGYW, policymakers and other stakeholders, health providers, and AGYW’s parents and male partners to:

- Assess their knowledge and attitudes toward oral PrEP.
- Determine opportunities and approaches for providing PrEP.
- Identify potential facilitators and barriers to PrEP introduction and use.

ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS IN RU
The Population Council’s research utilization (RU) process involves active engagement of key stakeholders to ensure that the research is locally relevant and addresses the needs of the country.³ Our RU process engages stakeholders throughout the study to gain their insights on study questions, interpretation of the findings, and crafting programmatic recommendations and supporting their adoption within the country and beyond.

As one of the initial steps in our RU process, we held a meeting in March 2017 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania with 35 key stakeholders from the Tanzanian Ministry of Health, the donor community, HIV service organizations, and civil society organizations. The meeting’s objectives were to introduce the study to the stakeholders, to understand their views on PrEP introduction in Tanzania, and elicit their feedback on the study’s aims and research questions.
The table is a synthesis of participants’ feedback that broadly cluster around two themes: 1) key concerns about PrEP introduction to AGYW; and 2) key considerations/recommendations for PrEP introduction to AGYW. The two themes highlight the complex and multi-level factors—individual, sociocultural, health systems, and finance and policy—that will influence PrEP introduction in Tanzania.

**INCORPORATING FEEDBACK**
Stakeholders posed additional research questions about PrEP during the meeting. Afterward, the Council refined the study’s data collection instruments to incorporate a number of these questions, as follows, so that the study, within its scope, can contribute further evidence in response to the country’s needs.

- How would PrEP introduction affect funding of available HIV programs or services?
- How can PrEP be effectively integrated into other health services?
- What are effective strategies to train providers in offering PrEP and supporting adherence?

**NEXT STEPS**
As the study progresses, the Council will continue to engage stakeholders through release of information via study briefs and other communication channels and by bringing stakeholders together to interpret what the study results mean for PrEP introduction in Tanzania.