Health Lenacapavir is an antiretroviral drug that is also used to treat multi-drug-resistant HIV-1

Why are Kenyan men afraid of the new HIV prevention jab?

About 11,000 women have already received the injection, compared with just 3,500 men, new data shows

BY KAMAU MAICHUHIE

Men are lagging behind women in taking up Lenacapavir, a long-acting HIV prevention injection introduced by the government in March this year, new figures show.

Data from the National Aids and STI Control Programme (Nascop) show that about 11,000 women have received the twice-yearly injection, compared with approximately 3,500 men.

The figures show that about 15,800 Kenyans received their first dose during the initial phase of the programme, which targeted 15 counties with a high HIV burden. Lenacapavir is an antiretroviral drug given every six months to prevent HIV infection. It is also used to treat multi-drug-resistant HIV-1.

Kenya received 21,000 initiation doses from the Global Fund in February to support the roll-out, which covered 158 health facilities across the 15 counties.

However, limited supplies have slowed the programme. Health facilities administered 14,446 initiation doses between February and July, and uptake peaked in April before falling as stocks dwindled. Nascop head Dr Andrew Mulwa said the government was waiting for more doses from the Global Fund to address the shortage.

"The biggest challenge we are facing is inadequate supply. We are awaiting a further 12,000 doses from the Global Fund," he said.

The programme is also recording low uptake among adolescents, with only about 500 teenagers having received the injection. This is particularly worrying, given that girls aged 15 to 19 account for three in every 10 new HIV infections in the country.

Dr Mulwa said the initial response showed that Lenacapavir could attract people who had not previously considered HIV prevention services. He noted that nine out of every 10 people who sought the injection in February had never used pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

"The data tells us Lenacapavir will bring new people into HIV prevention, not simply move existing oral PrEP users," he said.

The gap between men and women has raised concern over what is keeping men away from HIV prevention services, including stigma, misconceptions and attitudes towards healthcare.

Michael Onyango, of the Movement of Men Against Aids in Kenya, said the figures reflected long-standing difficulties in getting men to embrace HIV prevention and treatment services.

He named fear of testing positive as one of the factors that discourage men from seeking preventive medication.

Mr Onyango said some men fear that visiting health facilities for HIV-related services could make others suspect that they are living with the virus or engaging in behaviour linked to HIV risk.

He said misconceptions about the injection were also contributing to the reluctance.

"Some men worry about side effects, injection-site pain, or unfounded myths, such as fears that an injection near the reproductive area could cause impotence. People receiving such injections need to undergo proper counselling so they are prepared psychologically," said Mr Onyango.

He called for community-based awareness campaigns to address misinformation and help men seek HIV prevention services without fear of discrimination.



A doctor dispenses Lenacapavir oral tablets to a patient at Riruta Health Centre on February 26. FRANCIS NDERITU I NATION

"There is an urgent need for a community awareness campaign to reassure the people, and more so men, that irrespective of their status after testing and treatment, all will be fine and it's not the end of life for them," he said.

He also warned that inadequate counselling and psychosocial support could leave people struggling emotionally, particularly those who receive a positive HIV diagnosis.

21,000

Doses of the drug that Kenya received from the Global Fund in February

Kennedy Otina, executive director of Masculinity Institute, attributed the low uptake among men partly to attitudes linked to traditional expectations of masculinity. He said many men tend to ignore health concerns and delay seeking medical attention until their conditions become serious.

"The way men are created, they do not normally want to assume they are sick. They rarely go to hospital and usually go only when they are critically ill. So that could explain why they find it hard to take the anti-HIV injection when they do not feel sick," Mr Otina said.

He argued that the perception that men should always appear strong, healthy and productive often prevents them from acknowledging their health needs.

Mr Otina said sustained public education was necessary to encourage men to view HIV testing and prevention as part of routine healthcare, rather than something to be pursued only when illness occurs. He also faulted the healthcare environment, saying some facilities and health workers did not adequately address the needs and concerns of male patients.

"Men feel that the health environment, which includes health workers, does not seem to favour them, which is why most of them shy away from seeking treatment," he said.

Fear of a positive diagnosis, uncertainty about available support and community stigma remain among the concerns that experts say must be addressed to improve uptake.

The latest HIV estimates also point to persistent gaps in prevention, diagnosis and treatment, particularly among children and young people.

Kenya has an estimated 1,481,853 people living with HIV, with prevalence among those aged 15 to 49 standing at 3.22 per cent. The country recorded an estimated 13,936 new infections.

Women account for the majority of people living with HIV, at 965,699. They also account for a larger share of new infections, estimated at 9,044 against 4,891 among men. Children, adolescents and young people account for 55 per cent of new infections, which points to the need to strengthen prevention.

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COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU

LIMURU MUNICIPALITY

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Municipality of **Limuru** is a beneficiary of the Kenya Urban Support Program Phase II (KUSP 2), a Government of Kenya initiative supported by the World Bank, aimed at promoting sustainable urban development, strengthening municipal institutional capacity, improving urban infrastructure and enhancing the delivery of efficient, inclusive and responsive urban services. The Municipality invites eligible Consultants to submit sealed Expression of Interest as follows.

S/No	NEGOTIATION NO	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY
1	CGK/EOI/KUSP/II/LIM/01/26/27	CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE PREPARATION OF PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDIES, ENVIRONMNETAL IMPACT ASSESSEMENT REPORT, PROVISION OF CIVIL/STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING SERVICES, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING SERVICES, ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, QUANTITY SURVEYING SERVICES AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (BUILDING SERVICES) FOR LIMURU MUNICIPALITY UNDER KENYA URBAN SUPPORT PROGRAM (KUSP II)	CITIZEN

Mandatory requirements, tender conditions and further instructions are contained in the tender document that can be downloaded free of charge at the or ***at the Limuru municipality website,*** www.kiambu.go.ke or www.tenders.go.ke

Completed Tender documents shall be dropped at the tender box located **Outside Municipal Managers Reception Office - Limuru Municipality** on or before the Tender closing date**, Wednesday 9th December 2026 at 10:00 A.M**

The tender will be opened at Limuru Municipality offices in presence of the tenderers or their representatives who may choose to attend at the same venue

LATE BIDS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

MUNICIPAL MANAGER
LIMURU MUNICIPALITY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU

27TH NOVEMBER 2026

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU

THIKA MUNICIPALITY

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Municipality of **Thika** is a beneficiary of the Kenya Urban Support Program Phase II (KUSP 2), a Government of Kenya initiative supported by the World Bank, aimed at promoting sustainable urban development, strengthening municipal institutional capacity, improving urban infrastructure and enhancing the delivery of efficient, inclusive and responsive urban services. The Municipality invites eligible Consultants to submit sealed Expression of Interest as follows.

S/No	NEGOTIATION NO	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY
1	CGK/EOI/KUSP/II/TKA/01/26/27	CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE PREPARATION OF PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDIES, ENVIRONMNETAL IMPACT ASSESSEMENT REPORT, PROVISION OF CIVIL/STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING SERVICES, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING SERVICES, ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, QUANTITY SURVEYING SERVICES AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (BUILDING SERVICES) FOR THIKA MUNICIPALITY UNDER KENYA URBAN SUPPORT PROGRAM (KUSP II)	CITIZEN

Mandatory requirements, tender conditions and further instructions are contained in the tender document that can be downloaded free of charge at the or ***at the Thika municipality website,*** www.kiambu.go.ke or www.tenders.go.ke

Completed Tender documents shall be dropped at the tender box located **Outside Municipal Managers Reception Office - Thika Municipality (Town Hall),** on or before the Tender closing date**, Tuesday 8th December 2026 at 10:00 A.M**

The tender will be opened at Thika Municipality offices in presence of the tenderers or their representatives who may choose to attend at the same venue

LATE BIDS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

MUNICIPAL MANAGER
THIKA MUNICIPALITY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU

27TH NOVEMBER 2026

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU

RUIRU MUNICIPALITY

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Municipality of **Ruiru** is a beneficiary of the Kenya Urban Support Program Phase II (KUSP 2), a Government of Kenya initiative supported by the World Bank, aimed at promoting sustainable urban development, strengthening municipal institutional capacity, improving urban infrastructure and enhancing the delivery of efficient, inclusive and responsive urban services. The Municipality invites eligible Consultants to submit sealed Expression of Interest as follows.

S/No	NEGOTIATION NO	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY
1	CGK/EOI/KUSP/II/RUI/01/26/27	CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE PREPARATION OF PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDIES, ENVIRONMNETAL IMPACT ASSESSEMENT REPORT, PROVISION OF CIVIL/STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING SERVICES, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING SERVICES, ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, QUANTITY SURVEYING SERVICES AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (BUILDING SERVICES) FOR RUIRU MUNICIPALITY UNDER KENYA URBAN SUPPORT PROGRAM (KUSP II)	CITIZEN

Mandatory requirements, tender conditions and further instructions are contained in the tender document that can be downloaded free of charge at the or ***at the Ruiru municipality website,*** www.kiambu.go.ke or www.tenders.go.ke

Completed Tender documents shall be dropped at the tender box located **Outside Municipal Managers Reception Office - Ruiru Municipality,** on or before the Tender closing date**, Tuesday 8th December 2026 at 2:00 P.M**

The tender will be opened at Ruiru Municipality offices in presence of the tenderers or their representatives who may choose to attend at the same venue

LATE BIDS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

MUNICIPAL MANAGER
RUIRU MUNICIPALITY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU

27TH NOVEMBER 2026

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