

What is the UK Campaign for Microbicides?

The UK Campaign for Microbicides was established in September 2002 as a coalition of UK-based organisations working together to promote widespread, global access and use of microbicides for the prevention of STI's including HIV.

Goals

- To raise awareness and mobilise political support for increased funding for microbicide research and development from the UK.
- To support a progressive policy environment in the UK for the timely development and introduction of microbicides which ensures their global accessibility and use.
- To ensure that as science proceeds, the public interest is protected and the rights and interests of trial participants, users and communities are fully represented and respected.

Purpose

The UK Campaign for Microbicides plans in-country advocacy activities to build support among policymakers, opinion leaders and the general public for increased awareness and investment into microbicides within the broader context of prevention.

The Global Campaign for Microbicides

The UK Campaign is one of several national campaigns in Europe supported by the Global Campaign for Microbicides, 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 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.

How do I get involved?

By becoming a member of the UK Campaign for Microbicides you can register your support for increased microbicide development. Members are kept up to date with microbicide developments and can get involved in the UK based activities increasing awareness of microbicides.

For more information about the UK Campaign and to sign up as a member, please contact Amy Whalley at whalleya@interactworldwide.org

What are Microbicides?

A **microbicide** is a substance that can substantially reduce transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) when applied either in the vagina or rectum. A microbicide could be produced in many forms, including gels, creams, suppositories, films, lubricants, or in the form of a sponge or a vaginal ring that slowly releases the active ingredient.

The word "microbicides" refers to a range of different products that share one common characteristic: the ability to prevent the sexual transmission of HIV and other STI pathogens when applied topically.

Interact Worldwide has hosted the UK Campaign since 2005. They have worked for over 30 years to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights, including in relation to HIV and AIDS in developing countries with network linkages with organisations in Africa, Asia and Latin America.