

# MICROBICIDES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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## Women's Voice

### Trial participants discuss HIV and MDP 301

“This thing (HIV) kills people in numbers, and people are vanishing.” (MDP participant)

“People will tell you that you can get HIV by kissing an infected person. ... I was ignorant about HIV before I came to the study.” (MDP participant)

“I like this clinic because we learnt many things. For instance, I was not concerned about condom use, but since I joined the study I always use a condom and am responsible for my life.” (MDP participant: Unemployed woman, age 32, Johannesburg, South Africa)

“I tell him that this medicine needs to be used together with condoms, so since he wants, he also wears.” (MDP participant: housewife, age 35, Zambia)

“I heard that there was thorough medical check-up provided in the clinic. Mainly that is what made me to join the study. The other thing is that I wanted to be part of the women taking part in this research of testing the gel.” (MDP participant)

“The reason I chose to come here is that they check everything inside a person's body, general health, they don't wait for you to complain about something before they look at it.” (MDP focus group participant, Johannesburg, South Africa)

“It is good to be a part of this study. You can get treated even for diseases you didn't know you had and it is not just HIV ... here you will gain more knowledge about your health and you will know how you were helped.” (MDP participant: Job seeker, age 28, Johannesburg)

“The clinic staff is friendly you always feel at home and you are able to share your personal problems with them.” (MDP participant)

“Both a male and female will have something for protection (against HIV). ... At the end of the day ... both of you have something to protect yourselves. I think that will help a lot.” (MDP participant)

“I will remember the time I spent in the study ... If it was possible I would rejoin the study again.” (MDP participant, age 23, Soweto, South Africa)