

Annual Report

2023

—
Africa free of New HIV
infections



FORWARD

Dear Friends and Partners,

AfNHI's Annual report highlights our achievements and progress in the pursuit of an Africa free of New HIV infections. As the secretariat, we are motivated by the dedication, resilience, and determination demonstrated by the network members and partners throughout the year. Our vision is a future where Africa is free from the burden of new HIV infections. Our mission is to facilitate and coordinate African-led advocacy for HIV Prevention Research, working tirelessly towards ending the HIV epidemic in Africa.

Advocating for increased domestic resources for health, efficient and effective utilization of the resources. We have engaged in high-level regional policy engagements, including the Africa Union Commission and Africa CDC. Equitable access to existing HIV prevention options. Ethical and meaningful participation of communities in clinical trials. Position women's HIV prevention options and research as strategic areas of focus, raising awareness for DapiRing and advocating for regulatory approvals, policy updates and approval, and engaging policymakers for greater support and investment.

None of our achievements would have been possible without the collective effort and commitment of our network members, partners and supporters. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed their time, expertise, and resources to advance our cause. Special thanks to the AfNHI Steering Committee for their leadership and governance role they continue to play in advancing AfNHI's Vision, Mission, and goals.

As we move forward, let us remain united in our vision, unwavering in our mission, and relentless in our pursuit of an Africa Free of New HIV Infections.

With gratitude and determination,

Ms. Rosemary Mburu,
Executive Director WACI Health
And, AfNHI secretariat team



Who we are:

Africa Free of New HIV infections (AfNHi) is an African regional advocacy platform dedicated to advancing advocacy, policy, regulatory, community engagement and communications efforts that help accelerate biomedical HIV prevention research in Africa. Network began in 2012 as an extended exchange around the need to champion African led advocacy in biomedical HIV prevention research among HIV Prevention advocates through local ownership and use of indigenous strategies to enhance Africa's contribution to the global goals. The network not only advocates for use of the available tools for HIV prevention but also advocates for the development of new tools and technology. AfNHi tracks the implementation of the commitments by African Governments, plays the watchdog role in efficient use of resources and advocates for increased public sector investment in health.

Vision:

Africa Free of New HIV Infections

Mission statement:

Facilitate and coordinate African-led advocacy for HIV Prevention Research towards ending the HIV epidemic in Africa.

Strategic Goals

To build a Vibrant, Inclusive and Engaged Network of advocates for HIV prevention Research in Africa.

Advocate for increased utilization and equitable access to existing HIV prevention products

Facilitate ownership for Good Participatory Practice (GPP) in the design and development of new HIV prevention trials.

Effective and efficient resources for health

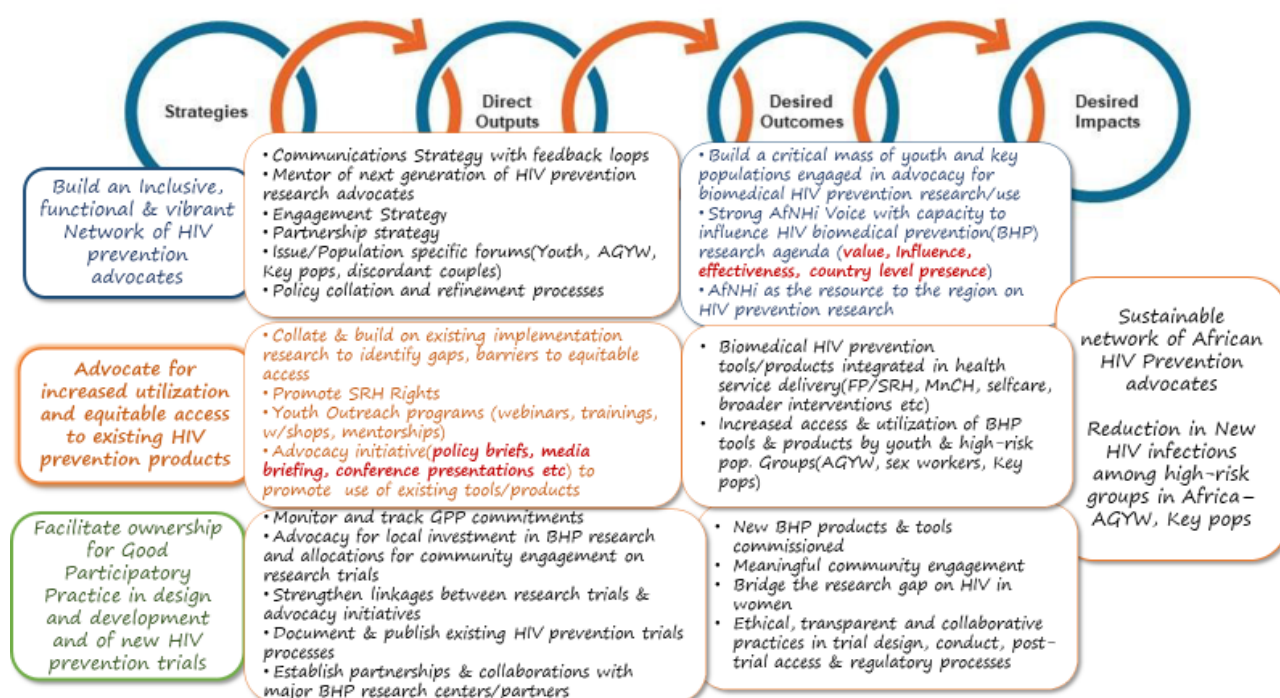


Strategic Goal One: To build a Vibrant, Inclusive and Engaged Network of advocates for HIV prevention Research in Africa

AfNHi Strategic Plan

The development of the AfNHi Strategic Plan involved a collaborative and inclusive process led by the AfNHi Steering Committee. Five workshops organized and gathered key stakeholders such as Steering Committee members, AfNHi members, the AfNHi Youth Cohort members, and the secretariat. These workshops served as crucial platforms for brainstorming and drafting the strategic plans for both AfNHi and the AfNHi Youth Cohort.

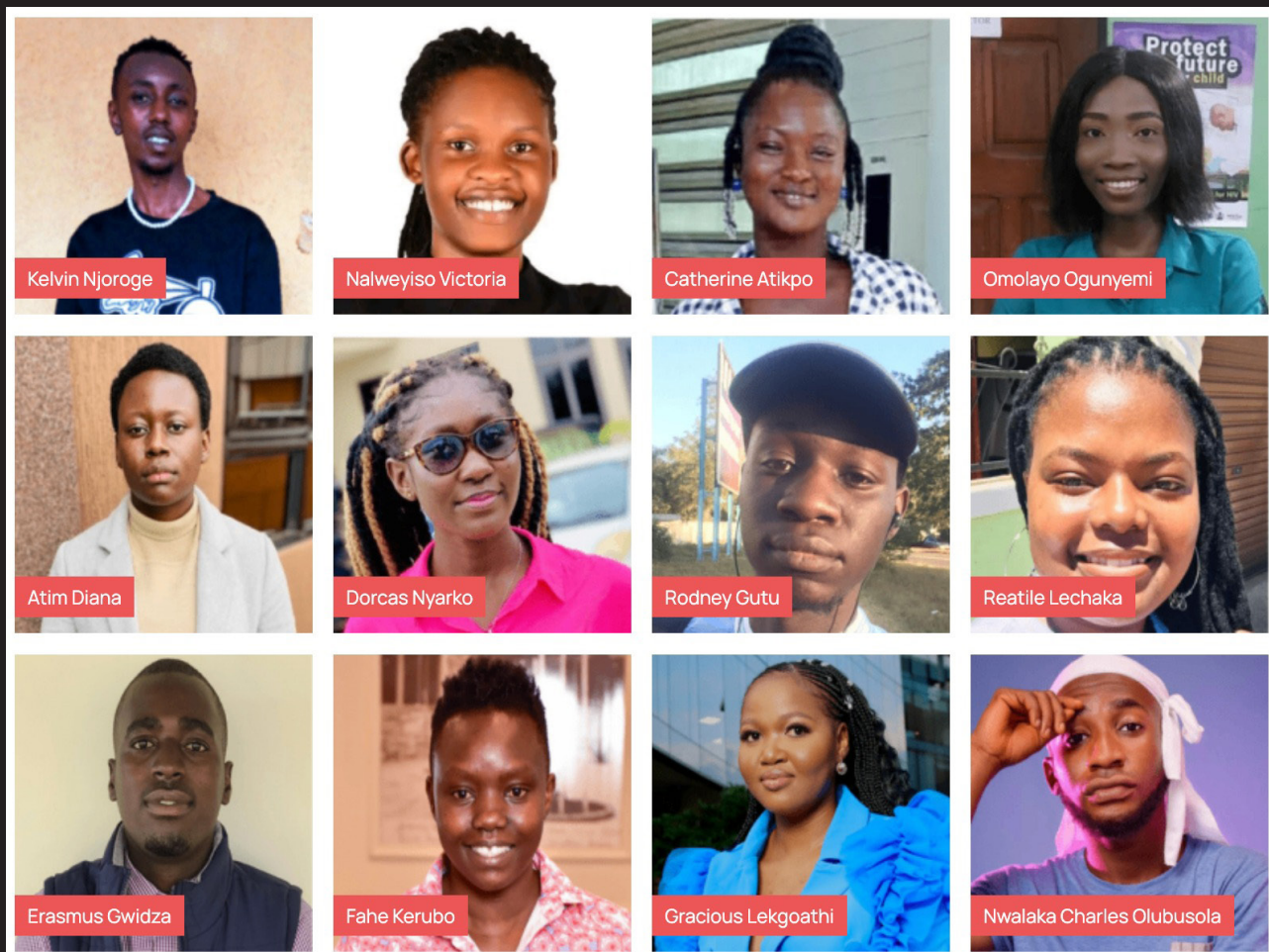
With a shared vision of an Africa free of new HIV infections, the network came up with four (4) core objectives which are outlined in the AfNHi Strategic Plan as; i. to build a Vibrant, Inclusive and Engaged Network of advocates for HIV prevention Research in Africa ii. Advocate for increased utilization and equitable access to existing HIV prevention products iii. Facilitate ownership for Good Participatory Practice (GPP) in the design and development of new HIV prevention trials and iv. Effective and efficient resources for health research and development.

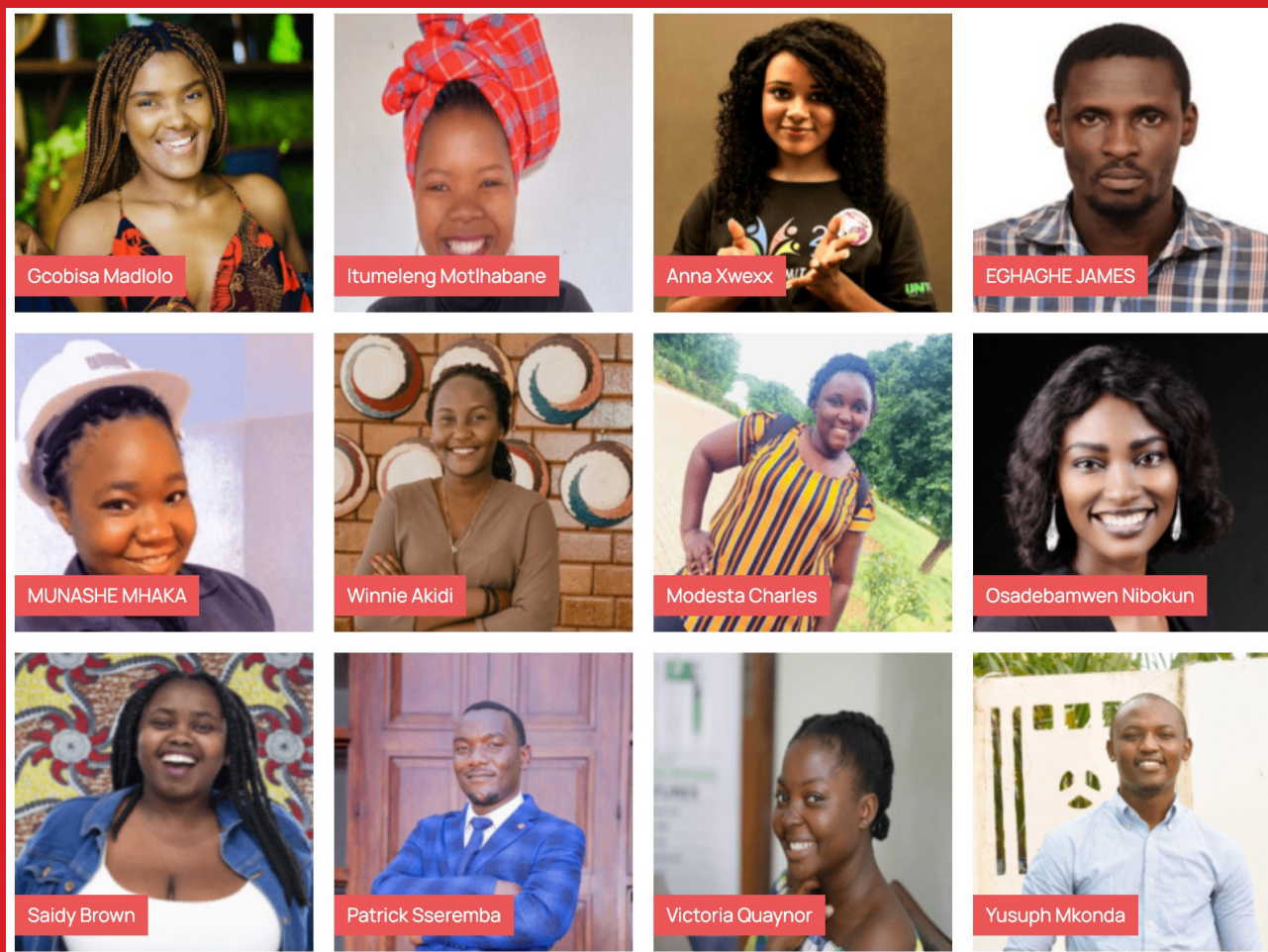


AFNHI YOUTH COHORT

The AfNHi Youth Cohort Mentorship Program proudly graduated 12 exceptional members from its esteemed program. The young people have successfully completed the mentorship journey, demonstrating their commitment and dedication to personal growth and professional development. Throughout the program, they have actively engaged in mentorship sessions, skill-building activities, and networking opportunities, all aimed at nurturing

their potential as future leaders in advocacy for HIV prevention research and in Global health. We commend the 12 graduates for their hard work, resilience, and the remarkable progress they have made during their time in the AfNHi Youth Cohort Mentorship Program. We are confident that they will continue to make valuable contributions to the field of public health and inspire others with their knowledge and passion.





Strategic Goal Two: - Advocate for increased utilization and equitable access to existing HIV prevention products

Women's HIV prevention Agenda:

AfNHI's women HIV prevention efforts are geared towards advocacy for stronger health systems to increase the uptake and rollout of women's prevention tools and products. We engaged a group of AGYW (Adolescent Girls and Young Women) to build awareness around the Ring among peers, demand generation and engage policymakers towards access to the new HIV prevention tools. AfNHI is a member of CASPR's women's HIV prevention Working group and contributes to strategic discussions and actions for improved access to these new prevention tools. These outcomes collectively contribute to the advancement of women's health and HIV prevention, ensuring that women have access to a wider range of effective prevention options and that health systems are strengthened to support their utilization.



DapiRing regional Advocacy:

AfNHi's women's prevention focused on strengthening health systems to respond to women's prevention e.g. advocacy for the Dapivirine Vaginal Ring as an additional HIV Prevention choice. We will continue to create the space for adolescents, girls and young women as Part of the AfNHi youth cohort in the coming year ahead.

The AGYW team effectively collaborated online to amplify the Choice agenda during important moments and virtual engagements, including the AIDS 2022 conference, The Day of the African Child, and World AIDS Day 2022. By strategically leveraging these platforms, they successfully advocated for the Dapivirine Vaginal Ring and raised awareness among a diverse group of young women across the country.

Through their engagement on the VUKA Show and other platforms, the women's prevention advocates called on the Ministry of Health and regulators at the country level to undertake policy upgrades and approval processes. These advocacy efforts aimed to create an enabling environment for the Dapivirine Vaginal Ring, ensuring its availability and accessibility to women.

The engagement activities, including the VUKA Show series, significantly contributed to increasing knowledge among young women about the approval process of the Dapivirine Vaginal Ring. By disseminating information and promoting conversations about this prevention method, the AGYW team empowered women to make informed decisions about their own health.



The engagements and advocacy initiatives led by AfNHi have fostered ongoing strategic conversations regarding the Dapivirine Vaginal Ring as an additional HIV prevention method. By actively promoting, choice and highlighting the importance of this prevention option, AfNHi has played a crucial role in shaping the narrative and driving continued advocacy for the ring.

Overall, the achievements of AfNHi's women's prevention efforts include heightened advocacy, policy advancements, increased knowledge among young women, and the sustenance of strategic conversations surrounding the Dapivirine Vaginal Ring as an important HIV prevention tool.



Strategic Goal Three: **Facilitate ownership for Good Participatory Practice (GPP) in the design and development of new HIV prevention trials.**

African Women Community Prevention Accountability Board (AWCPAB)

AfNHi is a member of the AWCPAB and in partnership published a statement here in acknowledgement of UNAIDS commitment to championing the choice agenda.

The HIV Prevention Choice Manifesto

The HIV Prevention Choice Manifesto is a united call from African cisgender women and girls, feminists, and HIV prevention advocates in Southern and Eastern Africa. The manifesto emphasizes the need for political and financial support for HIV prevention choice, including the introduction of safe and effective options like long-acting HIV prevention tools.

The manifesto highlights the historic turning point in biomedical HIV prevention, emphasizing the importance of choice-based programs that offer a range of options, such as oral PrEP, the Dapivirine vaginal ring, and injectable Cabotegravir. The goal is to achieve a future free of HIV by centering choice and prioritizing adolescent girls and young women in Africa and globally. The manifesto also emphasizes community involvement, scientific evidence, and accountability.

The manifesto includes guiding principles aligned with the Good Participatory Practice Guidelines, such as respect, mutual understanding, integrity, transparency, accountability, and stakeholder autonomy. The call to action focuses on centering people and communities by prioritizing key and marginalized populations and ensuring community involvement in research and development. It emphasizes the importance of choice by scaling up access to safe and effective HIV prevention methods and giving women control over their health and bodies.

The manifesto also calls for programs that deliver by integrating HIV prevention into existing services and supporting interventions to prevent sexually transmitted infections among vulnerable populations. The future vision includes prioritizing research and development for additional prevention options and strategizing, staffing, budgeting, and procuring for choice-based HIV prevention.



Strategic Goal Four: Increased and effective resources for health

Domestic Resource Mobilization

AfNHi conducted a DRM training, September 2022 for HIV prevention advocates. The training brought together 55 advocates from different countries who actively participated and successfully completed the two-part series of the training. The participants brought diverse levels of knowledge and experiences to the training. Participants were had the opportunity to undertake the WHO course on financing for Universal Health Coverage (UHC). This additional training aimed to broaden understanding of financing mechanisms and strategies related to HIV prevention and UHC. To sustain the momentum generated by the training, it is envisioned that the participants will be supported in drafting their country-specific advocacy work plans. These plans will serve as roadmaps for implementing joint advocacy activities. AfNHi is a member of the CASPR DRM working group and plays a convening role.



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HIGH Level policy engagements

Africa Union Commission:

WACI Health supported the African Union Commission to celebrate World AIDS Day in December 2022 through agenda setting and materials. The presentation was delivered by WACI Health Executive Director, Rosemary Mburu, to Hon. Dr Lia Tadesse, the Health Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and H.E Amb. Minata Samate Cessouma, the African Union Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs, and Social Development, effectively influenced the agenda setting and provided valuable materials. The event's outcome contributed to the advancement of HIV/AIDS-related initiatives, ensuring enhanced collaboration and collective action in combating the epidemic across Africa.

Africa CDC:

WACI Health and its partners successfully advocated for a formal engagement between Africa CDC and civil society organizations (CSOs), resulting in the establishment of the CSO 1st engagement call: Brainstorming Session on 3 November 2022. Because of their long-standing relationship with the African CDC and African Union Commission, WACI Health was entrusted with leading the engagement. This space created an opportunity for all CSOs to actively participate and contribute. WACI Health is committed to prioritizing HIV prevention and Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM) as key topics for discussion in the upcoming quarterly meetings. This achievement is regarded as a significant victory for all advocates, as it strengthens the collaboration between CSOs and Africa CDC, facilitating more effective and comprehensive efforts to address HIV and mobilize resources for the continent's health needs.

AIDS 2022 conference in Montreal, Canada

During the AIDS 2022 conference in Montreal, Canada, high-level consultation meetings with UNAIDS Executive Director, Winnie Binyama, and PEPFAR's Ambassador, Dr. John N. Nkengasong, were successfully conducted to advocate for funding for the Dapivirine Ring, a long-acting HIV prevention tool for women. These consultations played a crucial role in securing support, fostering collaboration, and mobilizing resources to advance the implementation of the Dapivirine Ring and promote the adoption of Good Participatory Practice (GPP) principles. The efforts aimed to strengthen HIV prevention options and contribute to the global goals set for 2030. The engagements with UNAIDS and PEPFAR resulted in increased awareness, commitment, and potential funding opportunities for the Dapivirine Ring, thereby paving the way for enhanced HIV prevention strategies and improved health outcomes for women worldwide.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS:

The Africa Health R&D Week, which took place from 8-11 November 2022, AfNHi, IAVI, and CASPR partners joined forces in a collaborative effort.

One of the key highlights of the week was the youth fellowship-training program, which played a vital role in empowering young individuals through mentorship, guidance, and skill development in areas such as social media influence, knowledge sharing, and networking.

The program not only provided valuable learning experiences but also fostered a sense of community and collaboration among the youth cohort. By equipping young leaders with the necessary tools and support, the collaboration between AfNHi, IAVI, and CASPR partners contributed to nurturing the next generation of advocates and influencers in the field of health and R&D. The outcomes of this collaborative effort will have a lasting impact on youth empowerment on Health R&D.



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Amid Covid 19, the world still needs an effective efficient, accessible and affordable HIV Vaccine

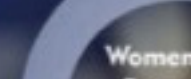
#EndNewInfections #InvestedHIVPreventionResearch #HIVVaccine
#VaccinesWork #HIVAD2022

Dear Young Person

*"If you love Them
prevent new HIV
infections!"*

Makena Koome, Kenya

#LoveChat #Valentines #TheBeatContinues



Women Need
Prevention
Options That
Work In Their
Lives

 **AIDS 2022**
29 July - August

#FundTheRing #FacilitateChoice #DapivirineRing #AIDS2020

29 July - August

MY VAGIN
MY CHOICE
MY RING!

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The BHPF has been successfully hosted in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2021, and the upcoming event in 2023 will be the sixth edition.

Biomedical HIV Prevention Forum (BHPF)

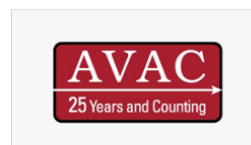
The Biomedical HIV Prevention Forum (BHPF) is a biennial event held as a pre-conference to the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA). It serves as a platform for stakeholders to gather and learn about the progress and best practices in biomedical HIV prevention research and development. The BHPF has been successfully hosted in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2021, and the upcoming event in 2023 will be the sixth edition.

Publications:

AfNHi / WACI Health submitted an abstract to the international priority-setting conference held in Norway, on 28th – 30th April 2022. The abstract was based on the DRM report themed: A multi-country comparative analysis of prioritization of Health Research in Sub Saharan Africa. Other articles included;

- [HVAD Statement](#)
- [The world still needs a safe, effective, affordable and accessible HIV Vaccine despite disruptions by COVID 19](#)
- [COVID-19 & lack of funding negating gains HIV progress](#)
- [Blogs/ posts: Two members of our mentorship program based in Ghana and Uganda published blogs on their projects See links here and here.](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:



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