

# Women and Children First

Addressing loss to follow up in PMTCT in the community and preventing unintended pregnancies in Salima District, Malawi



Communities supported  
**120**  
Lives saved  
**53**  
Women, children and adolescents benefiting  
**26,267**

## Problem

At the time of the project Malawi had a total fertility rate of almost 6 per woman, an HIV prevalence of 13% and under-5 mortality rate of 85 / 1000 live births.

## Approach

### WCF PMTCT tool

- 120 groups established with 6,701 members
- Developed local answers including: awareness raising campaigns; income generation and sharing; emergency transport funds; construction and support for maternity

- waiting shelters; vegetable gardening, distribution and cooking demonstrations; lobbying for quality health services, outreach clinics and community distribution of FP.
- Community health workers trained to follow-up all defaulter HIV exposed infants and encourage them back to care
- Over 50 frontline health workers trained and supervised on PMTCT guidelines

## Advocacy

- Groups and project staff routinely shared evidence from the project and lobbied with key decision-makers

## Results

### Pre-conception increases:

- Contraceptive prevalence rate – 50%

### Before birth increases:

- ANC in 1<sup>st</sup> trimester – 20%
- Women tested for HIV – 10%

### During childbirth increases:

- ARV prophylaxis – 26%

### After birth, for HIV exposed infants, increases:

- HIV testing at 6-weeks – 38%
- Following-up 12-mths – 35%

## Lessons learned

Community-based approaches can improve adherence within the PMTCT cascade:

- The PMTCT tool can increase uptake of family planning and reproductive health care-seeking during pregnancy and delivery
- HIV exposed infants who drop-out of care can be brought back by specifically tasked community health workers

[www.womenandchildrenfirst.org.uk](http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.org.uk)

Partner  
MaiKhanda Trust

Funder  
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Dates  
2014 – 2017

Project population  
96,077

Salima District, Malawi

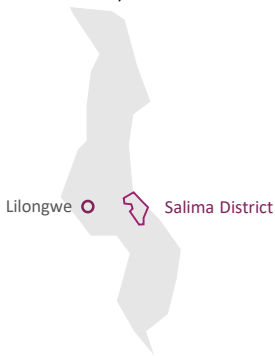


Figure 1: Impact on FP and key vertical transmission prevention interventions

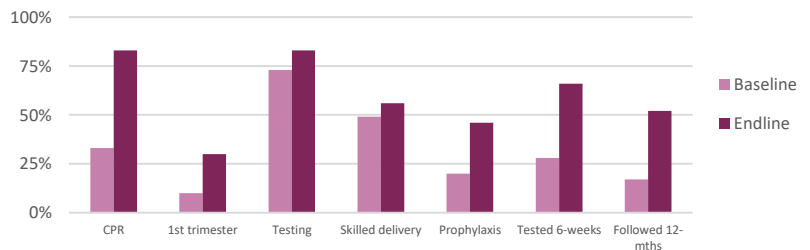
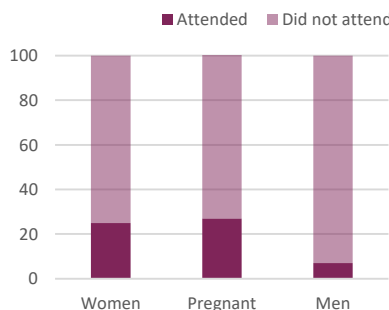


Figure 2: Group membership



District Environmental Health Officer:

*"I feel there has been a big improvement in PMTCT during the project. We have made gains in 1<sup>st</sup> trimester ANC due to [the groups]. This has enabled early HIV screening. I believe [the project] has contributed to the district recording a lowest HIV prevalence rate of just 3%"*