

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 1st 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

Partner

MaiKhanda Trust

Funder

Positive Action for Children Fund (£349,997)

Dates

2014 – 2017

Project population

96,077

Salima District, Malawi

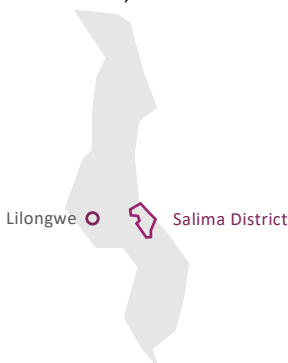


Figure 1: Impact on FP and key vertical transmission prevention interventions

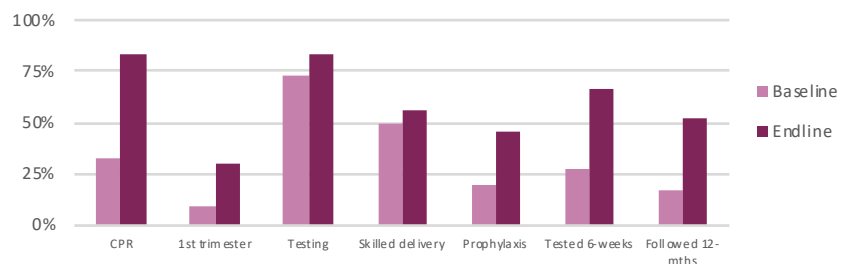
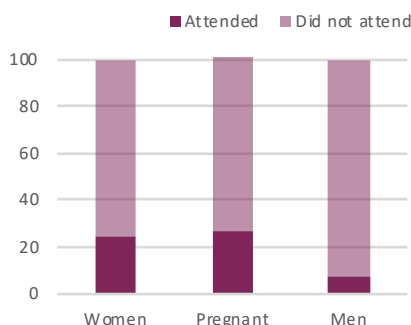


Figure 2: Group membership



District Environmental Health Officer:

"I feel there has been a big improvement in PMTCT during the project. We have made gains in 1st 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%"