





# PMTCT and Pediatric HIV Care Integration in rural Malawi

Blessings Banda

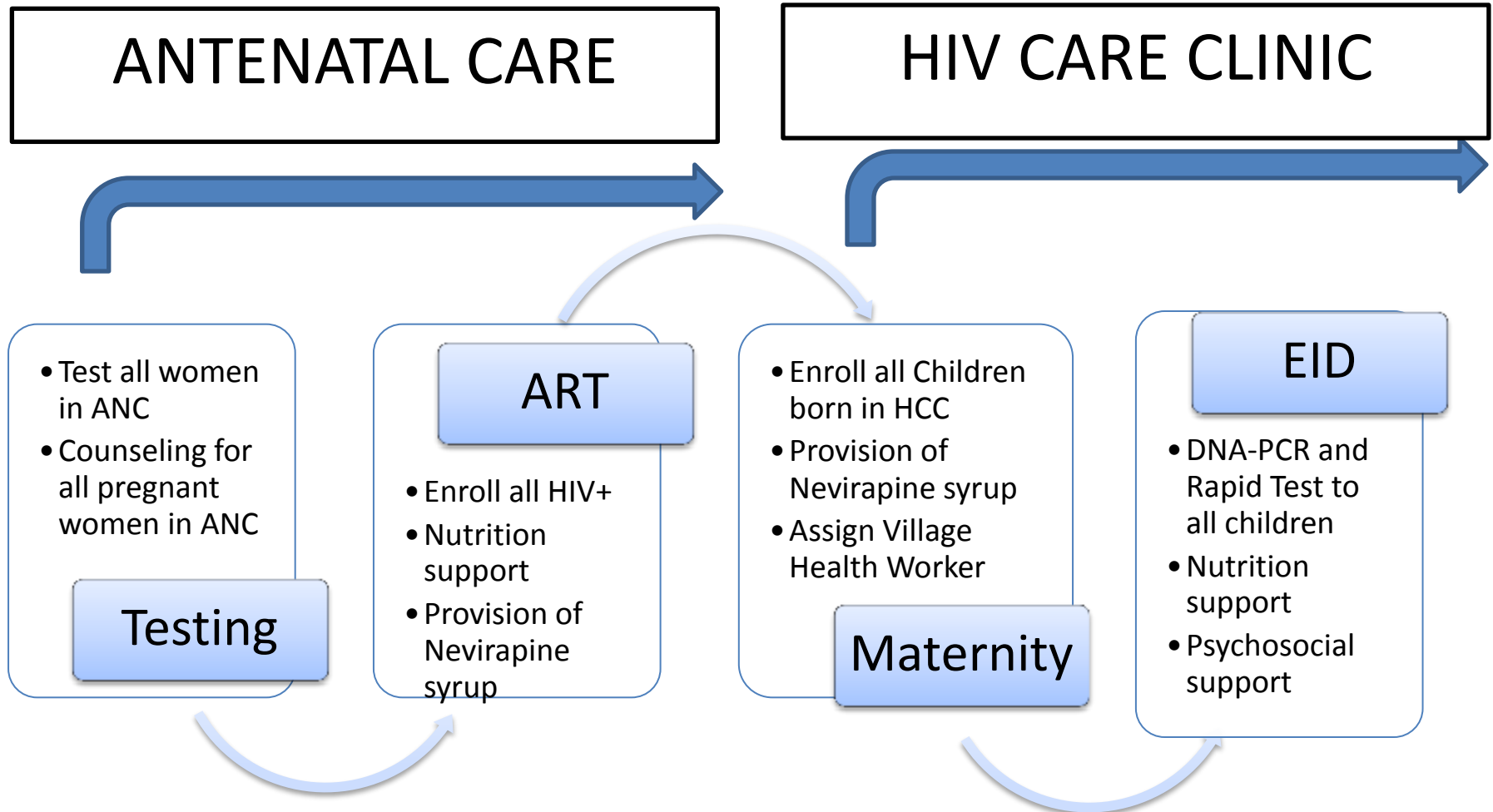
Abwenzi Pa Za Umoyo

Malawi

# Goals of Neno PMTCT Program

- 1. Family planning for HIV positive women 
  - 2. HIV testing for all pregnant women 
  - 3. ART for all HIV+ pregnant women (Option B+) 
  - 4. HIV testing and treatment for all exposed infants 
- Are HIV+ women given family planning in ART clinic?
  - Are pregnant women being tested for HIV at ANC clinic?
  - Are HIV+ pregnant women on ART?
  - Are exposed infants tested for HIV, and started on treatment when appropriate?

# Flow Chat of ANC-HIV Care



# What do Nurses say about HTC in ANC?

- How do you make sure all women are tested for HIV at ANC?

- All health passports are checked for status
- Women sent for HTC if no recent test
- Testing may not be done if there are too many patients

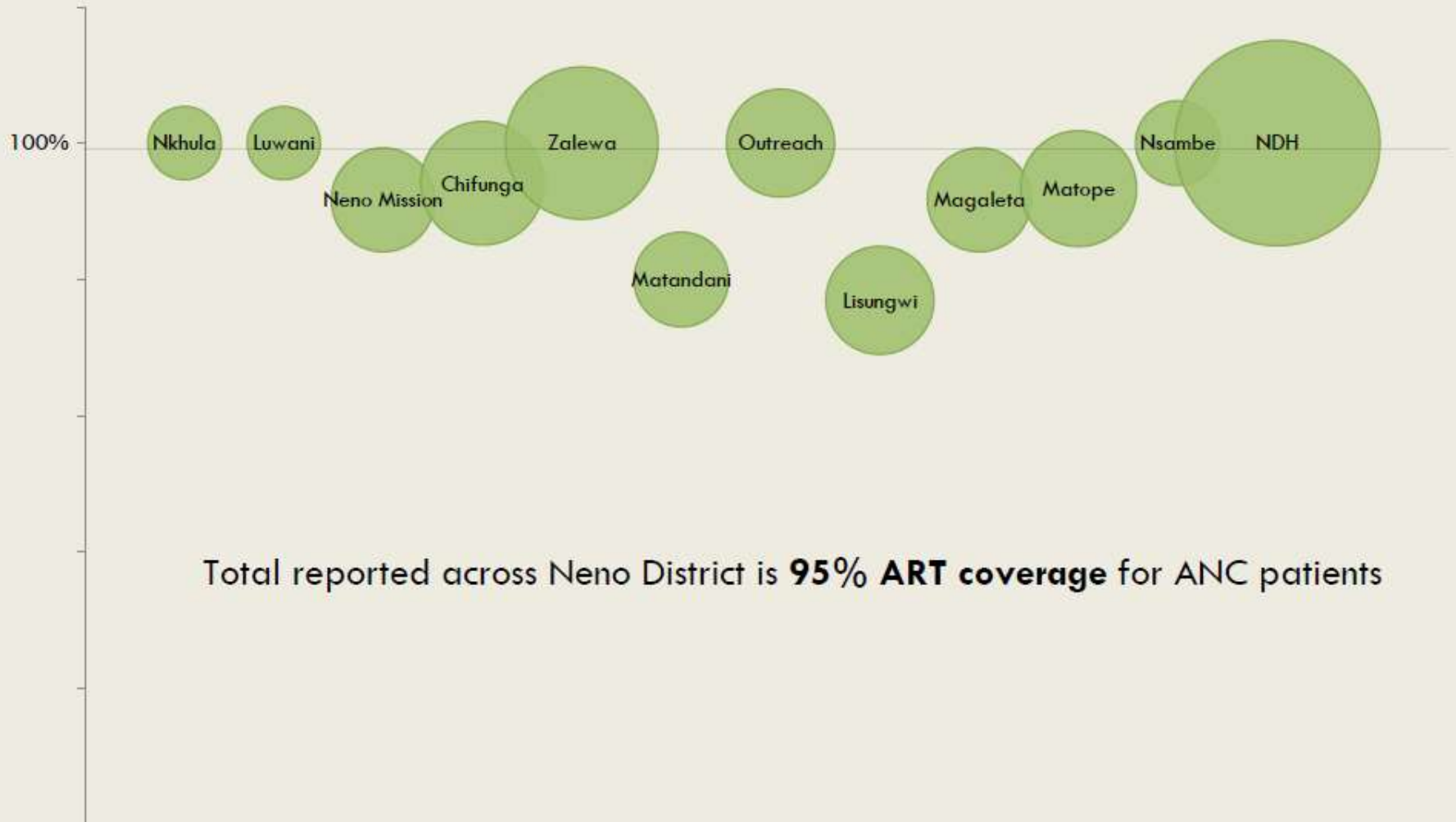
- Are HTC Counselors and HTC kits always available?

- At least one HTC Counselor is available in HTC Office during ANC Clinic
- HTC Counselors are here most of the times

- What are the reasons that someone might not get tested for HIV at ANC?

- Women refuse testing because they haven't checked with their husbands
- Staff is not available to perform HTC

# Percent of HIV+ Patients on ART as Reported in ANC Register



Total reported across Neno District is **95% ART coverage** for ANC patients

# Challenges and Recommendations

- Women refuse testing because they haven't checked with their husbands
  - Need community education with engagement of traditional leaders on importance of HIV Testing while pregnant
- Staff is not available to perform HTC/Testing may not be done if there are too many women at ANC
  - Provision of two HTC Counselors in all Health centers,
  - Assigning a special dedicated counselor for ANC
- No ART provided at ANC, women must return to ART the next day to start ART
  - Women are started ART the same day as when they test positive. The ANC Nurse enter them in the register and fills out ART MasterCard
  - ART medications are kept in the ANC Clinic
- Women not bringing back children at 6 weeks, 12 months and 24 months
  - Sensitization to women on importance of bringing children at designated appointments
  - Engaging Village Health Workers to follow all clients that did not make it to an appointment
- Turn around time for DNA-PCR results longer
  - Lobbying for an online DNA-PCR result printer

# Conclusion

- Assigning of a Village Health Worker to all HIV pregnant women
- Community awareness on the importance of ANC visits and male involvement
- Involvement of community leaders in maternal health issues
- Starting of treatment as early as possible ( in Maternity soon after birth)
- Provision of Nutrition supplements for Exposed Children
- Provision of child disclosure services

# Acronyms and Abbreviations

- PMTCT – Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
- ART – Anti-Retroviral Therapy
- ANC – Antenatal Clinic
- EID – Early Infant Diagnosis
- HTC – HIV Testing and Counseling
- DNA-PCR – Deoxyribonuclearic Acid Polymerase Chain Reaction