

# Changing Landscape of Early Childhood Development and HIV/AIDS

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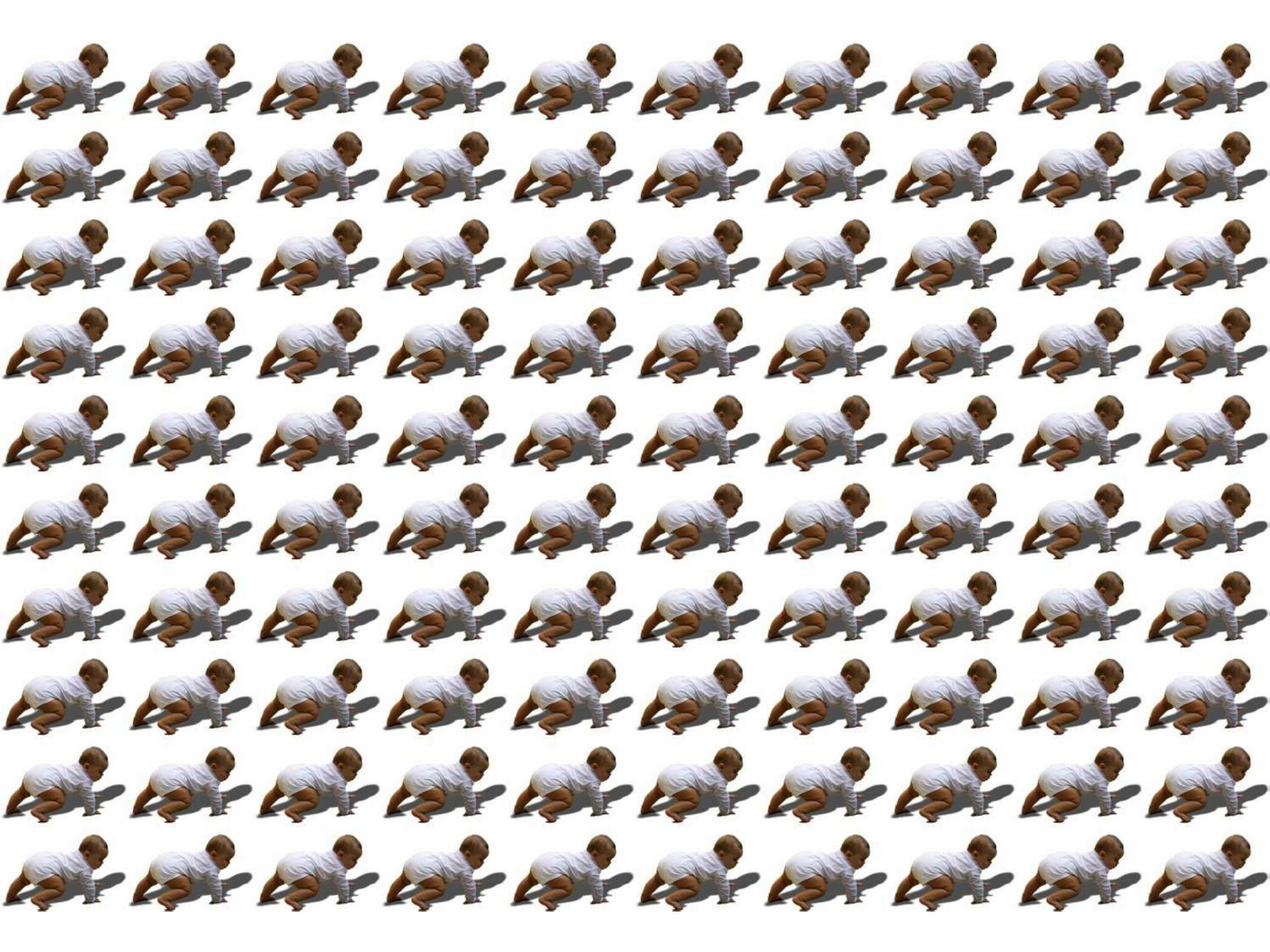
UNICEF

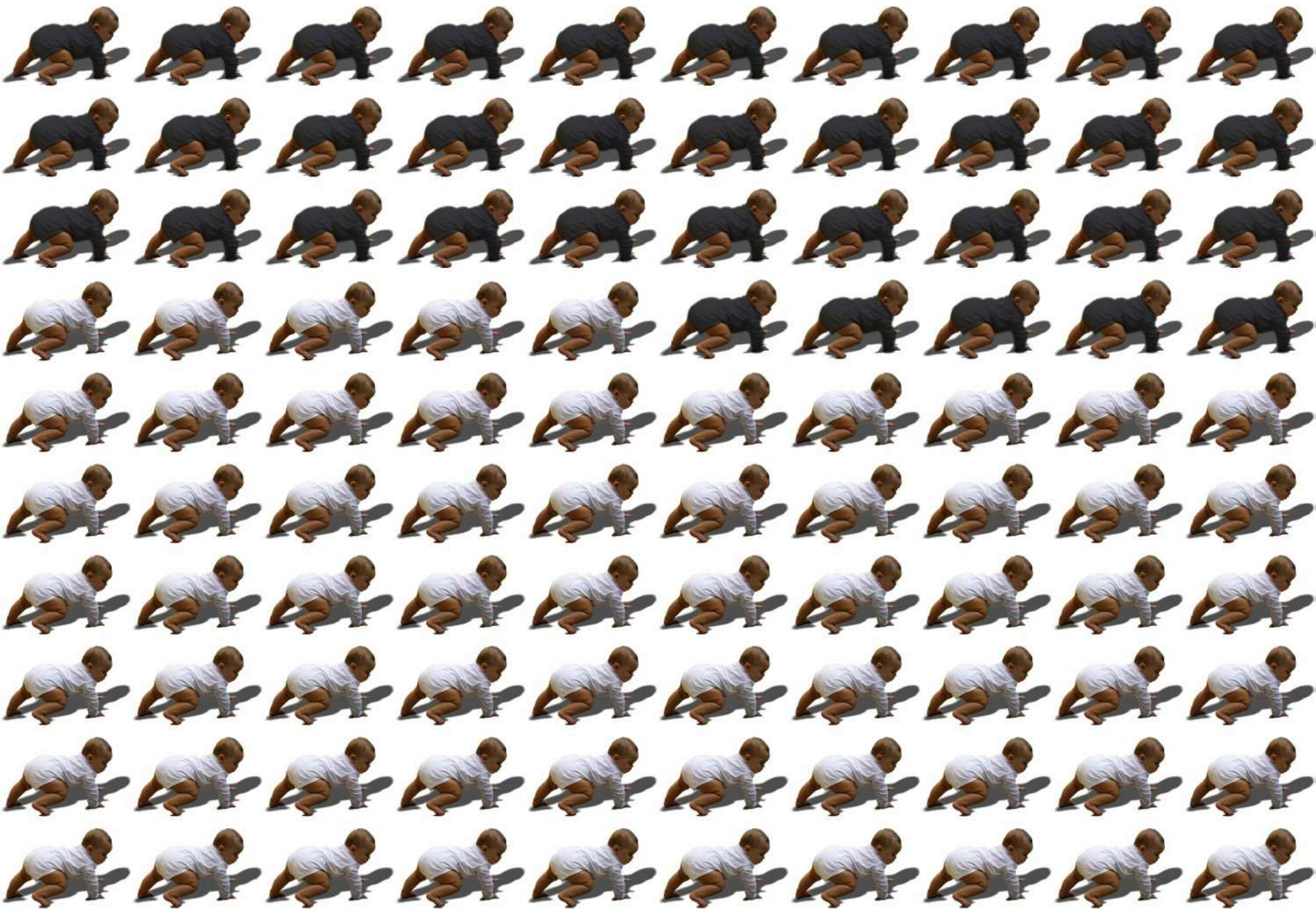
**The Road to Melbourne: Young Children Born into HIV-affected Families**

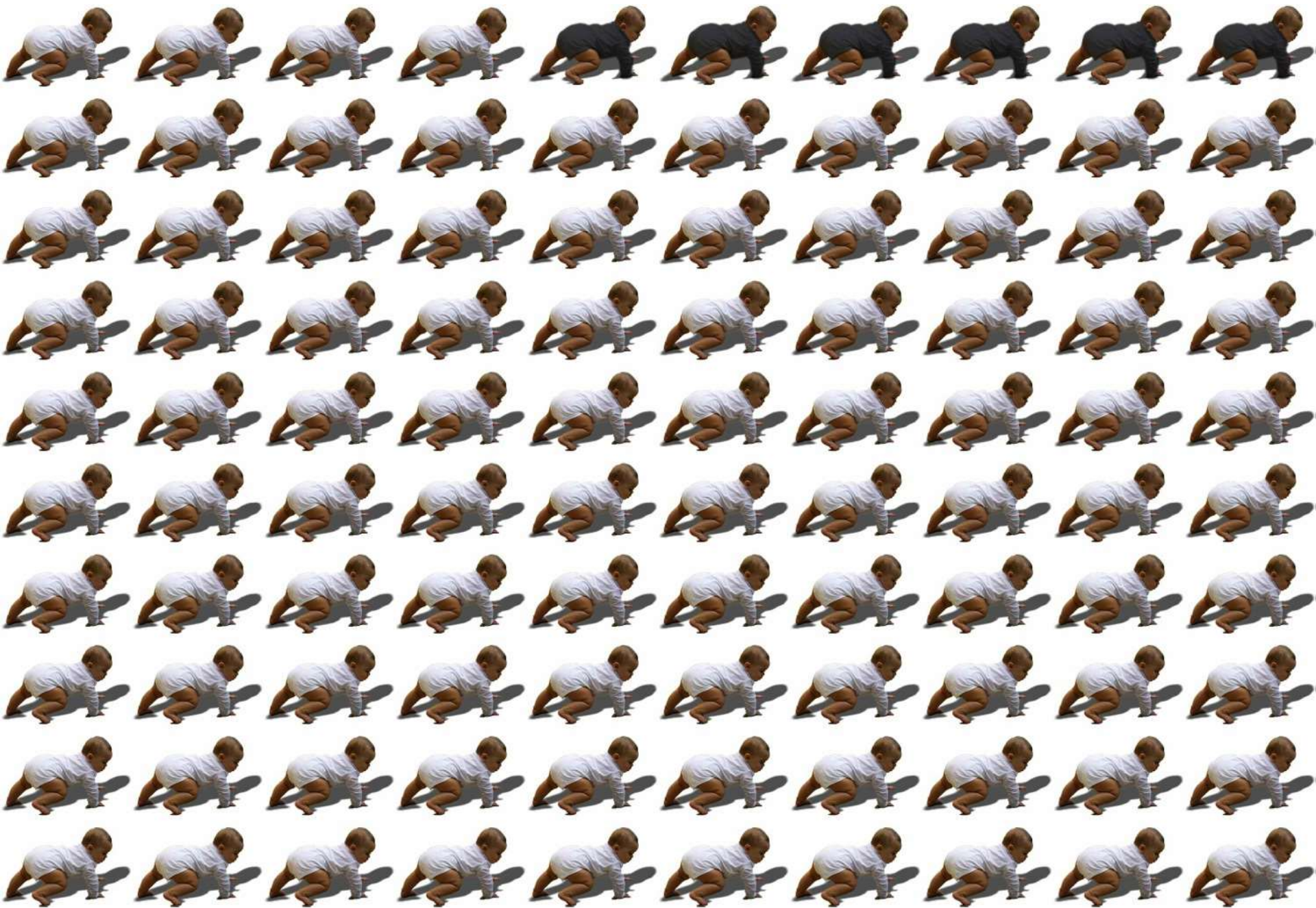
The Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS, UNICEF & UNAIDS

Thursday May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013, New York







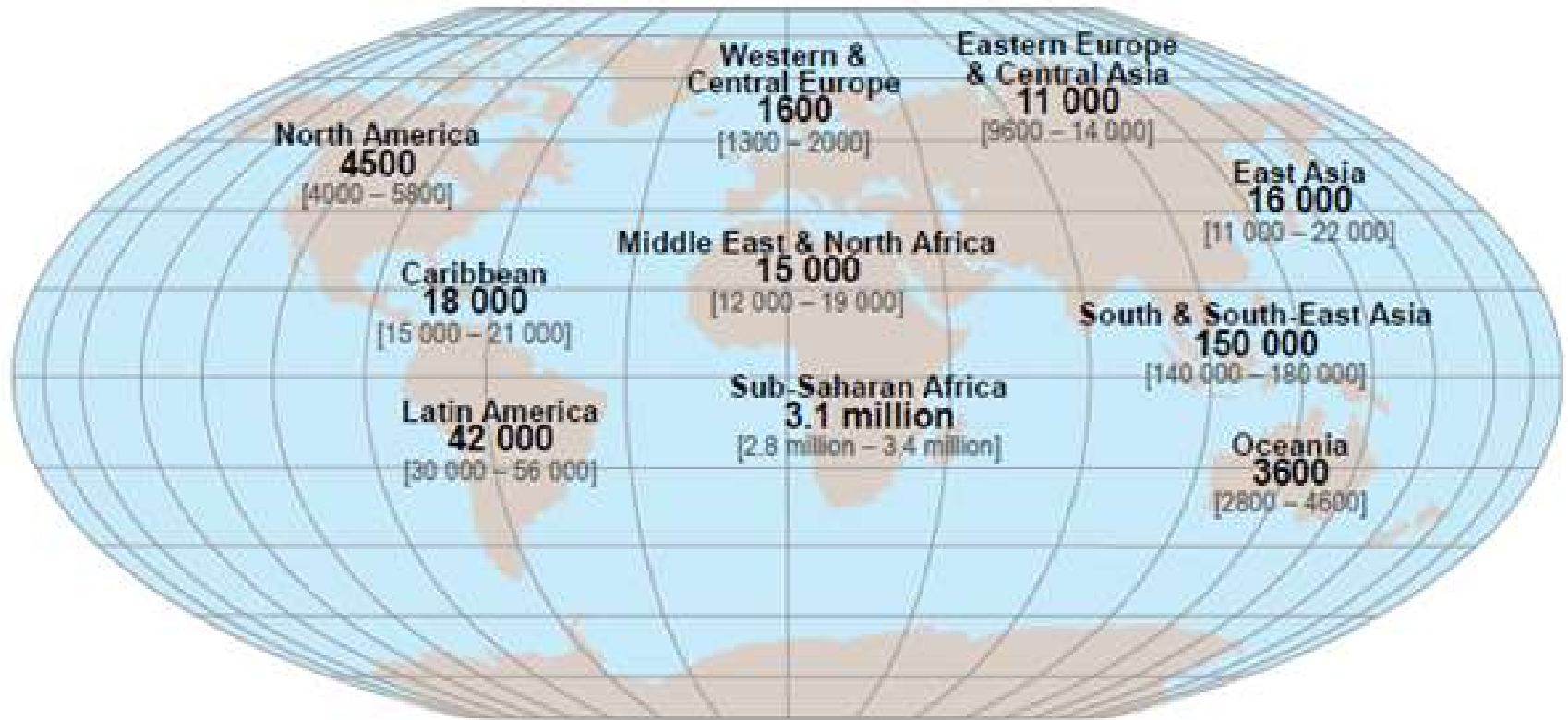




# Why ECD & HIV/AIDS?

- Part 1: Brief overview of HIV/AIDS prevalence in young child population
- Part 2: What is ECD and why it is important for HIV/AIDS?
- Part 3: Innovation: Family focused interventions

# Children under 15 years of age living with HIV (2011)

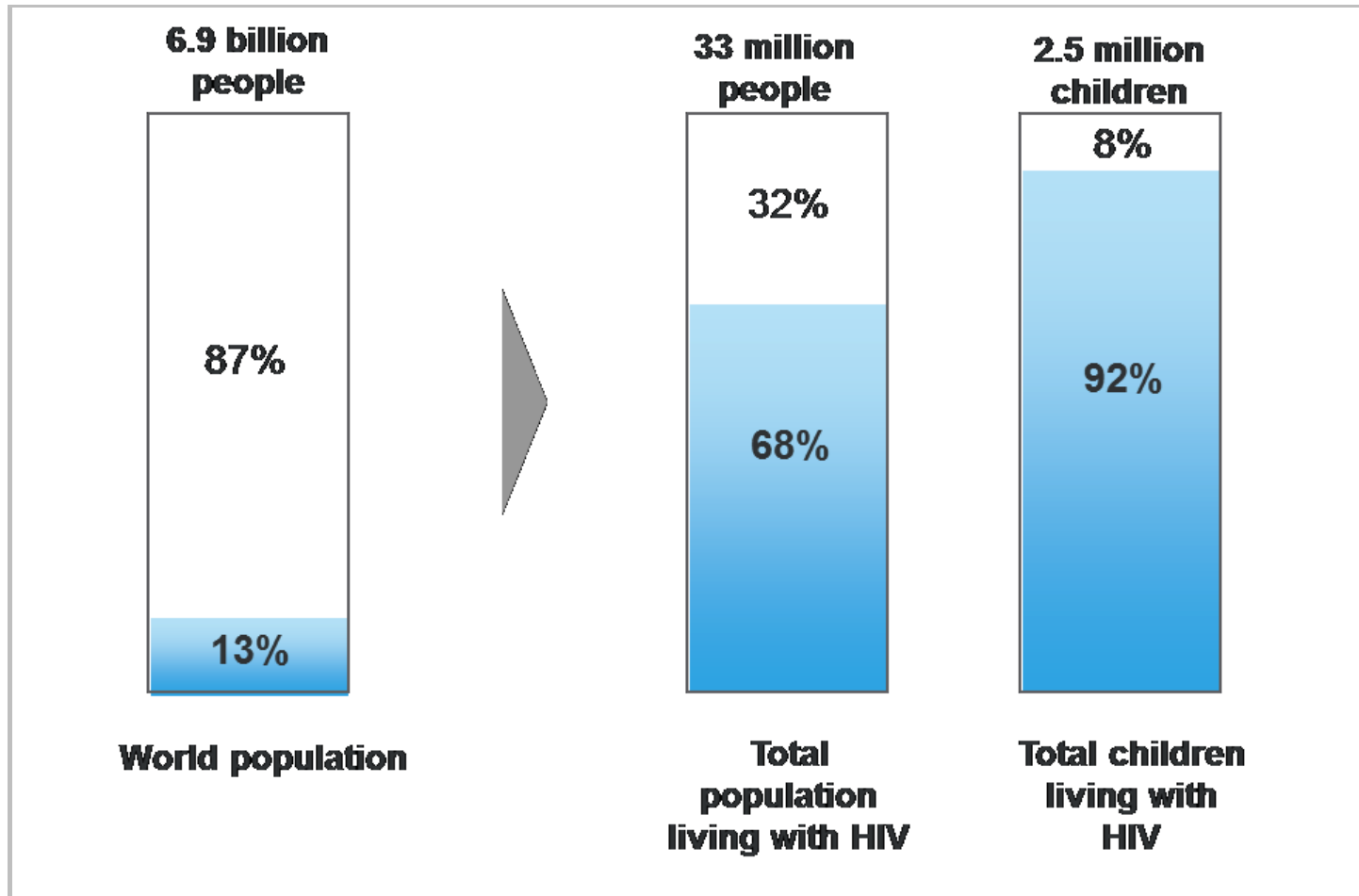




**Total: 3.3 million** [3.1 million - 3.8 million]

UNAIDS, *Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*, 2012.

Photo Credit: UNICEF

# Disproportionate Incidence in Sub-Saharan Africa



 Sub-Saharan Africa  
 Other



# Young Children are Especially At-Risk

- Children infected with HIV
- 90% of newly infected infants and children are passed on through mothers –
  - Pregnancy, labor, delivery, breast-feeding (UNAIDS, 2011)
- Children who have lost one or both parents to HIV
  - Globally 16.6 million
  - Sub-Saharan Africa 14.9 million

# Young Children are Especially At-Risk

- Children exposed (in utero) to HIV – i.e. born to a HIV positive mother but not HIV infected – often experience adverse health and cognitive outcomes)
- Between 0 to 6 years – least likely to receive any services and often left unattended at home (Messner & Marcy, 2012)
  - poorest HIV affected children are least resilient to the impoverishing impacts of HIV



Part 2: What is ECD and  
Why it is Important for HIV/AIDS?

# What is Early Childhood?



# Why is ECD Important?

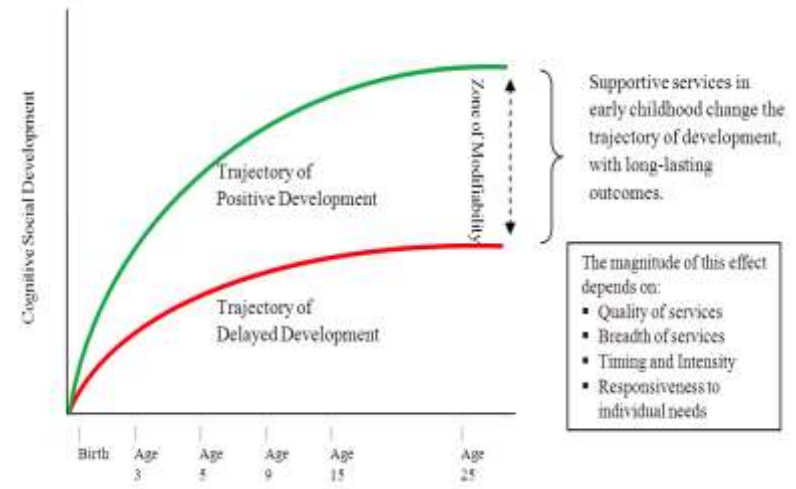
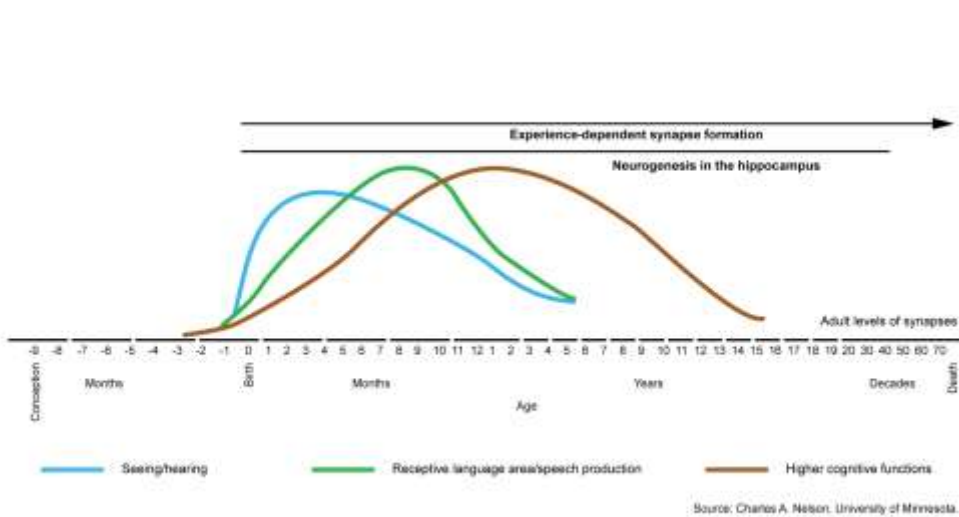
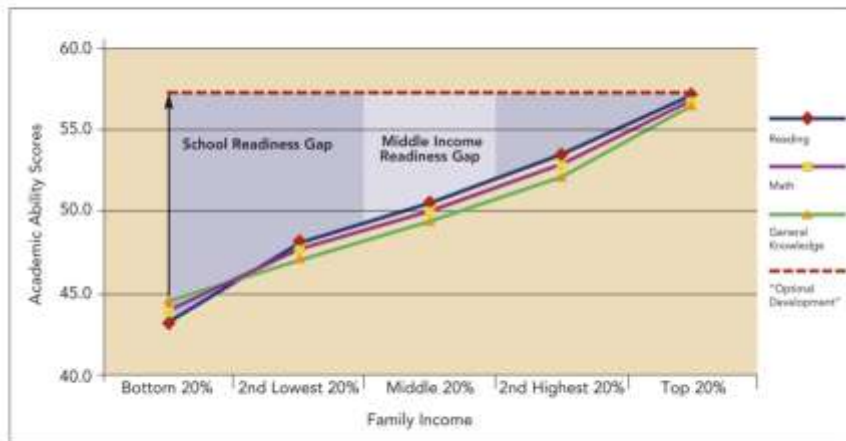
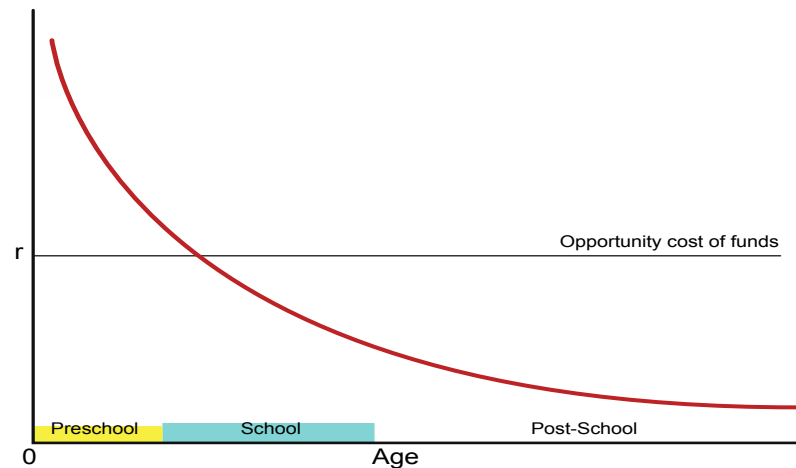


Figure 1. Academic Abilities of Entering Kindergartners by Family Income



## Rates of Return to Human Capital Investment



# ECD & HIV/AIDS: Symbiotic Relationship

- Young children are the most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS
- For children affected by HIV/AIDS – lack of ECD has worse consequences
- ECD offers an entry point to reach families through interventions that are evidence-based
- ECD can break the cycle of poverty and disadvantage



## Part 3: Innovation: Family focused interventions

# Importance of Families: Lessons from ECD

- Provide the proximal environment for development
- Buffer the impact of risk factors
- Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
- Increase knowledge and awareness
- Empowerment of mothers

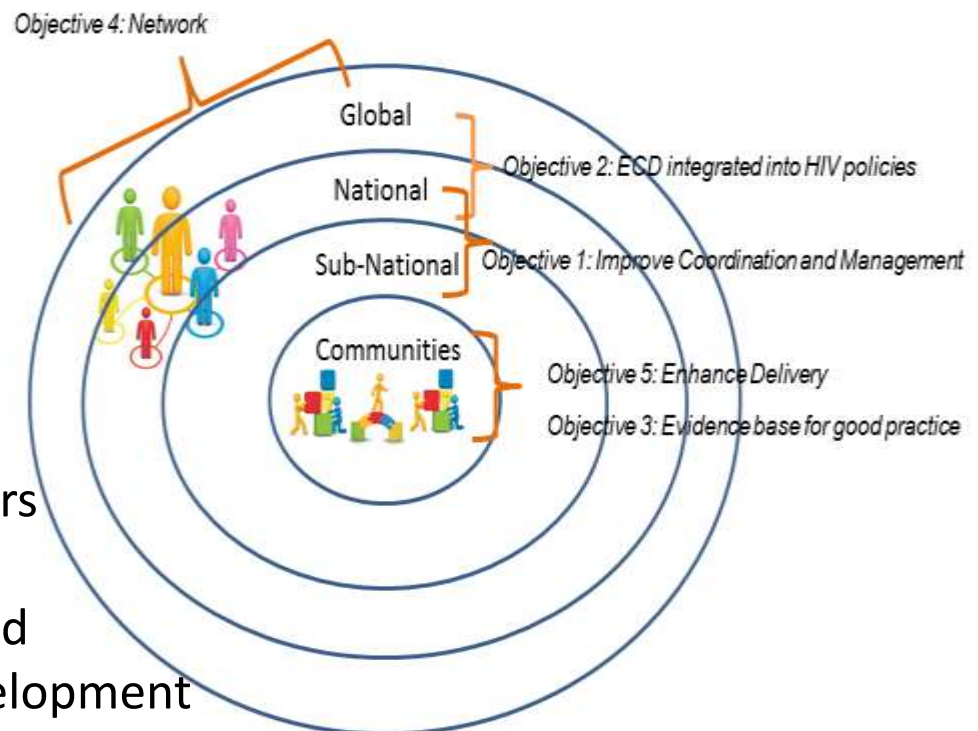


# UNICEF & Hilton Foundation: Multi Country Project for Children Affected by HIV/AIDS

*Tanzania* - 58 mother support groups have been formed around 58 health facilities that are providing PMTCT services. Through mother groups children are being assessed for malnutrition and HIV at early stage is increasing.

*Zambia* – caregivers and parents of HIV affected children in high HIV/AIDS prevalence communities are receiving information and being empowered with skills through social mobilisation and community awareness meetings

*Kenya* – KSRAT is being used with teachers and primary caregivers in high prevalence HIV/AIDS areas to understand Expectations for childcare and child development



# THANK YOU

