



**ELIZABETH GLASER  
PEDIATRIC AIDS  
FOUNDATION**

# Improving the continuum of care by promoting male involvement in PMTCT in Nzega District, Tanzania

**Tatu Mtambalike**

**Program Coordinator-Community Linkages  
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation  
(EGPAF), Tanzania**

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- Background
  - Intervention (Methods)
  - Results
  - Challenges
  - Conclusion

# Background

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- The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) supports five regions in Tanzania with funding and support from PEPFAR to provide PMTCT and HIV care and treatment.
- Antenatal clinic (ANC) attendance in EGPAF-supported regions is roughly 98%; 96% of these women agree to test for HIV.

# Tanzania – EGPAF supported regions to 2011 December



# Background cont.. 2

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- Enrolment of HIV-positive pregnant women into care and treatment is 42%
- Male involvement is measured by male testing in the PMTCT clinic; male partner testing uptake in PMTCT sites was 36.3% in the first quarter of 20

# Background Cont.. 3

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- Men are traditional decision-makers and oftentimes influence HIV-positive women's access to treatment for their health the health of their infants
- Efforts to increase male involvement in EGPAF-supported PMTCT sites telling the woman '*next visit come with your partner*' as well as invitation letters from the clinic

# Background Cont.. 4

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- However where the community has been involved with meetings as shown in Mtwara (*Haba na Haba* June 2011) male testing in PMTCT had increased
- Nzega District was chosen as a pilot site for a male involvement initiative because of its high general HIV prevalence of 6.8%

# Methods

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- EGPAF staff worked with Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW) officers and prepared training and sensitization materials on male involvement
- The team trained 24 Nzega District ANC service providers on ‘male friendly’ services in PMTCT- where couples are seen first at the clinic and additional services, such as blood pressure and malaria tests, are provided to men



# Methods cont...

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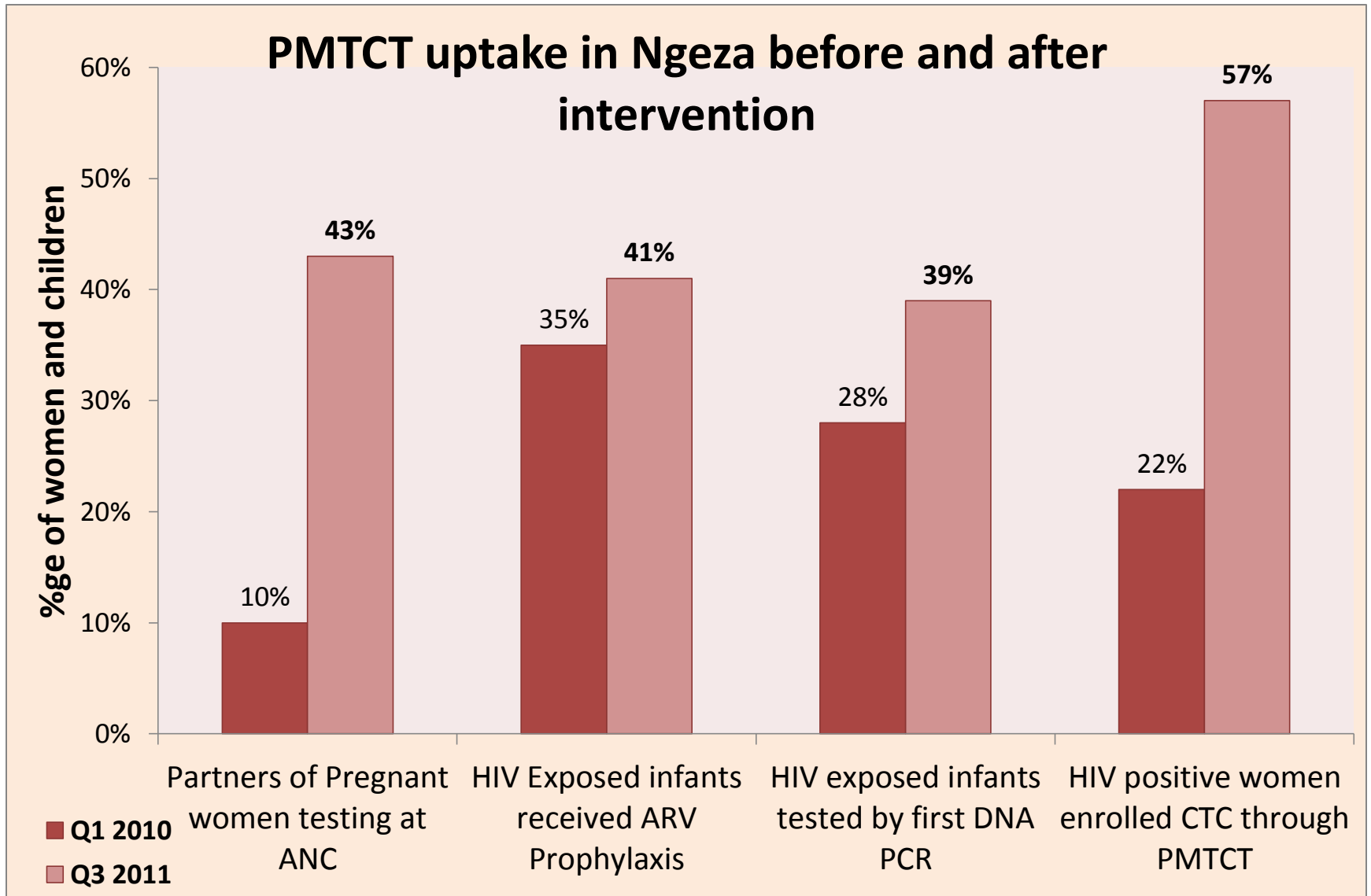
- These staff then trained 120 community volunteers on the importance of MI
- The staff also held half-day sensitization sessions with 170 community leaders in 25 villages on increasing male involvement in PMTCT
- Health facility staff and village leaders conducted public meetings in eight villages to encourage couples testing and ARV drug adherence.

# Michael at the clinic with Asha

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# Results



# Poster outside a clinic encouraging men to attend RCH the clinic



# Challenges

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- Stock-out of test kits
- Stigma
- Fear of disclosure on HIV status

# Conclusion

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- The approach used in Nzega involves the local government from the village, ward to the district level.
- Government leaders are active in supporting the male involvement initiative.
- Men showed interest and asked questions during on the health and care of the mother and baby during the community sensitization and the education.



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# Thank you



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