




# ***Not Just Mothers:***

**Engaging HIV positive mothers and traditional  
birth attendants to eliminate vertical  
transmission**

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# Background

- HIV prevalence in Kenya is high among women of reproductive age
- With PMTCT, HIV positive women can bear HIV negative children
- Only 43% give birth at health facilities; majority seek unskilled services of the traditional birth attendants (TBAs) (Kenya service provision assessment survey, 2010)
- Real or perceived stigma from the health workers and fear of disclosure to partners cited as reasons for seeking unskilled services
- This works against the global plan towards eliminating of new infection among children, and millennium development goals four and five



## Method

- Involving and engaging TBAs, HIV positive women who have undergone PMTCT and their partners in: interventions and training on maternal and child health; advocacy; and public campaigns to reach out to women in the community
- This intervention allows TBAs and PMTCT champions to conduct awareness sessions in the community and at the health facilities, and to make appropriate referrals from the community to the health facilities within Nairobi.




# Results

- Participants have gained better understanding on the importance of seeking skilled services for prevention of vertical transmission and enhancing maternal health.
- As a result they are conducting over 20 community education sessions monthly to mothers in the support groups, health facilities and community forums.
- Average of 50 referrals are made to health facilities every month by this group, thus enhancing good working relationship with the District health teams.



# Conclusion

- TBAs engaged in the project feel included as an important part of the solution. Making referrals to health facilities have had a positive impact to those who seek their services.
  - Tapping into the experience of HIV positive women has been demonstrated to be essential, not only at the facility level but also in the community and national level.
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**ASANTE SANA !**