

**THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY
MOM TO MOM
VOLUNTEERS IN BRINGING
MORE PREGNANT WOMEN
AND LACTATING MOTHERS
TO PMTCT SERVICES;
PASADA's EXPERIENCE**

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OUTLINE

- Introduction :
 - ✓ Tanzania
 - ✓ PASADA
- Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV [PMTCT] Services – PASADA
- Achievements
- Challenges
- Current PASADA PMTCT services

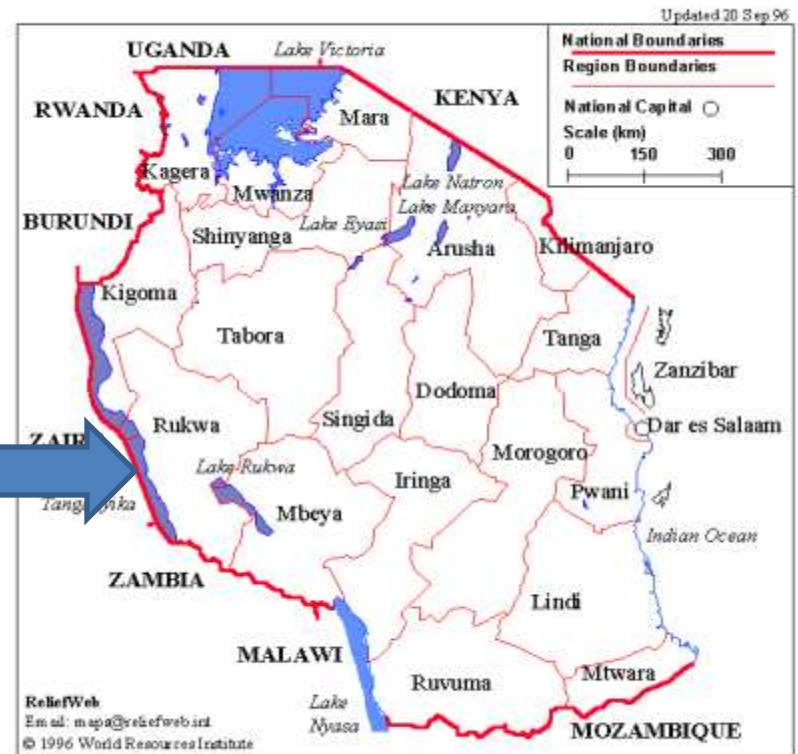
Introduction: Tanzania Profile

- One of the 5 East African Countries
- Population: 38.7m (38,710,723)
- Above 15 yrs: 21.7m (21,710,169)
- Under 5 yrs: 7.2 m (7,215,011)

Introduction: Tanzania Profile



TANZANIA with administrative boundaries



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Introduction: Tanzania HIV status

- The national HIV prevalence among the sexually active populations (between 15 and 49 years of age) is reported to be 5.7 %
- Females 6.7% and males 4.7% [THMIS 2007-08]

Introduction: PMTCT services in Tanzania

- Four elements of a comprehensive approach
 - ✓ Primary prevention of HIV among women of childbearing age and their partners
 - ✓ Prevention of unintended pregnancies among women living with HIV
 - ✓ Prevention of vertical transmission of HIV from mothers to their infants
 - ✓ Provision of treatment, care and support to women living with HIV and their partners, infants and families

Introduction: PMTCT services in Tanzania

- Tanzania has adopted Option A of WHO 2010 recommendations
- Only 55% of women who were found to be HIV+ received any prophylaxis in 2010
- This means that 45% of HIV+ pregnant women who have not accessed PMTCT services
- The 55% who did receive treatment still have a MTCT transmission rate of around 20%

INTRODUCTION : PASADA

- **PASADA** stands for **P**astoral **A**ctivities and **S**ervices for people with **AIDS** **D**ar es salaam **A**rchdiocese
- Faith Based Organization [Catholic Church] operating in Dar es salaam and Coast Regions in Tanzania
- Found in August 1992

INTRODUCTION

- A range of services including;
 - ✓ Voluntary counseling and testing
 - ✓ Antiretroviral therapy [Adults and Children]
 - ✓ Tuberculosis/ HIV treatment
 - ✓ Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV [PMTCT]
 - ✓ Home Based Palliative Care[Children Palliative Care]

INTRODUCTION

- ✓ Family centered care
- ✓ Research Activities
- ✓ Kaposi's sarcoma screening
- ✓ Most Vulnerable Children Services
- ✓ Community Education Services

INTRODUCTION

- Most of the programs are funded by United States Agency for International Development [USAID]
- Other donors include:
 - ✓ German Leprosy and TB Relief Association [GLRA]
 - ✓ The Norwegian Heart and Lung Patient Organization [LHL]
 - ✓ Princess Diana Memorial Foundation
 - ✓ Steven Lewis Foundation

Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV [PMTCT] Services

- Started in 2002 as **AIDS Free Newborn** program [**AFN**]
- Mainly Counseling and testing pregnant women for HIV
- Few sites covered and small number of women counseled and tested and given feeding counseling

Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV [PMTCT] Services

- In 2005 the program changed to PMTCT
- To increase the number of pregnant women and lactating mothers counseled and tested;
- ✓ Increased the number of sites providing PMTCT services
- ✓ Use former mothers gone through the PMTCT services to reach more pregnant women and lactating mothers

Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV [PMTCT] Services

- The program recruited and trained 70 mom to mom volunteers
- From different from the localities near the sites
- Supervised by local site RCH and LW nurses trained on PMTCT

Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV [PMTCT] Services

- Their roles include;
- ✓ Encourage and bring pregnant women in their communities to attend the RCH clinics and test for HIV
- ✓ Sensitize and create awareness in their communities on issues of mother to child transmission of HIV and its prevention
- ✓ Follow up pregnant women and lactating mothers in their homes when they don't show up during their appointments
- ✓ Make supportive visits to pregnant women and lactating mothers

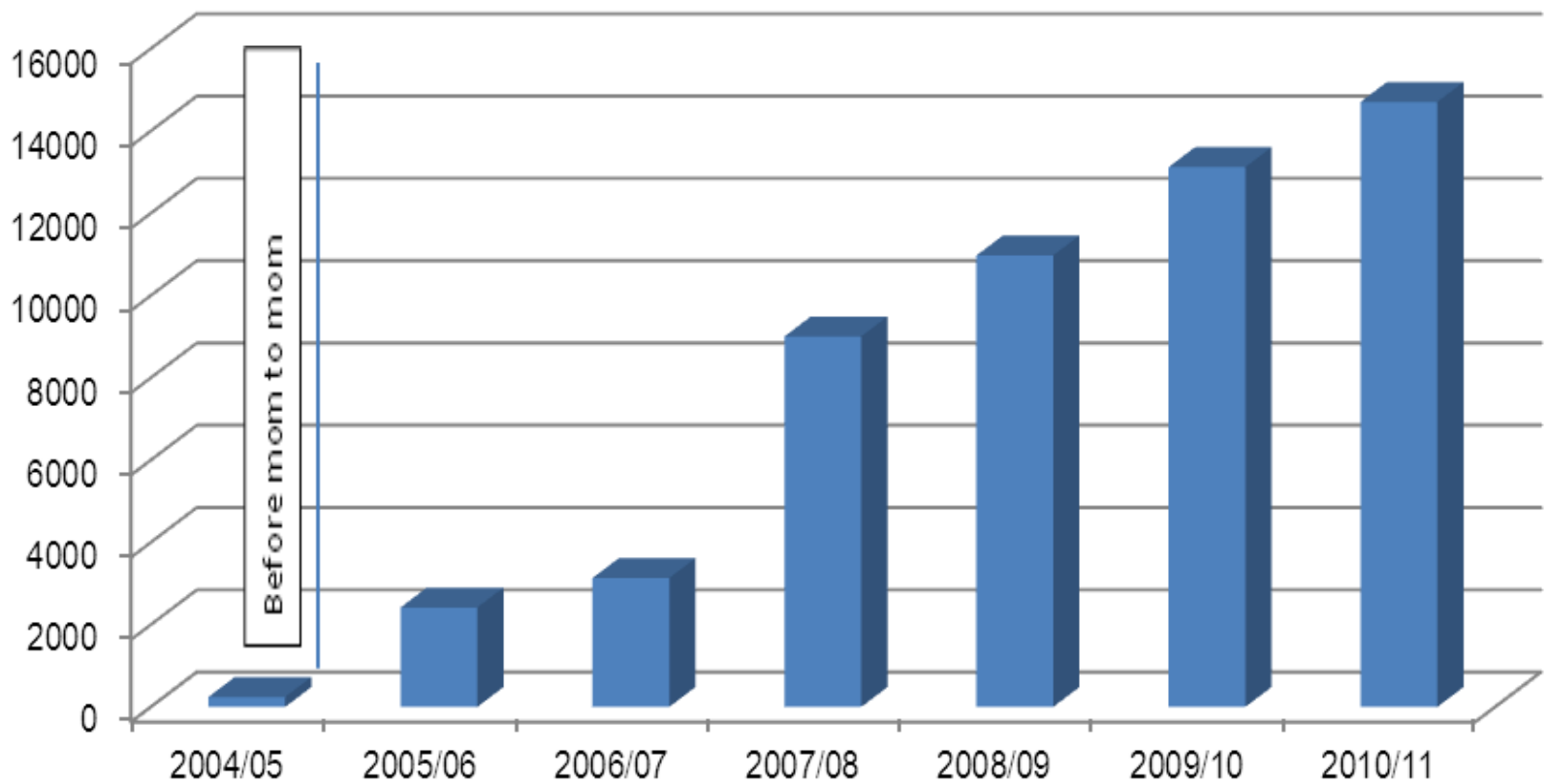
Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV [PMTCT] Services

- ✓ Provide health education and testimonials during RCH clinics
- ✓ Transportation of samples of dry blood samples from the sites to the PASADA laboratories
- ✓ Report to the PMTCT program officers

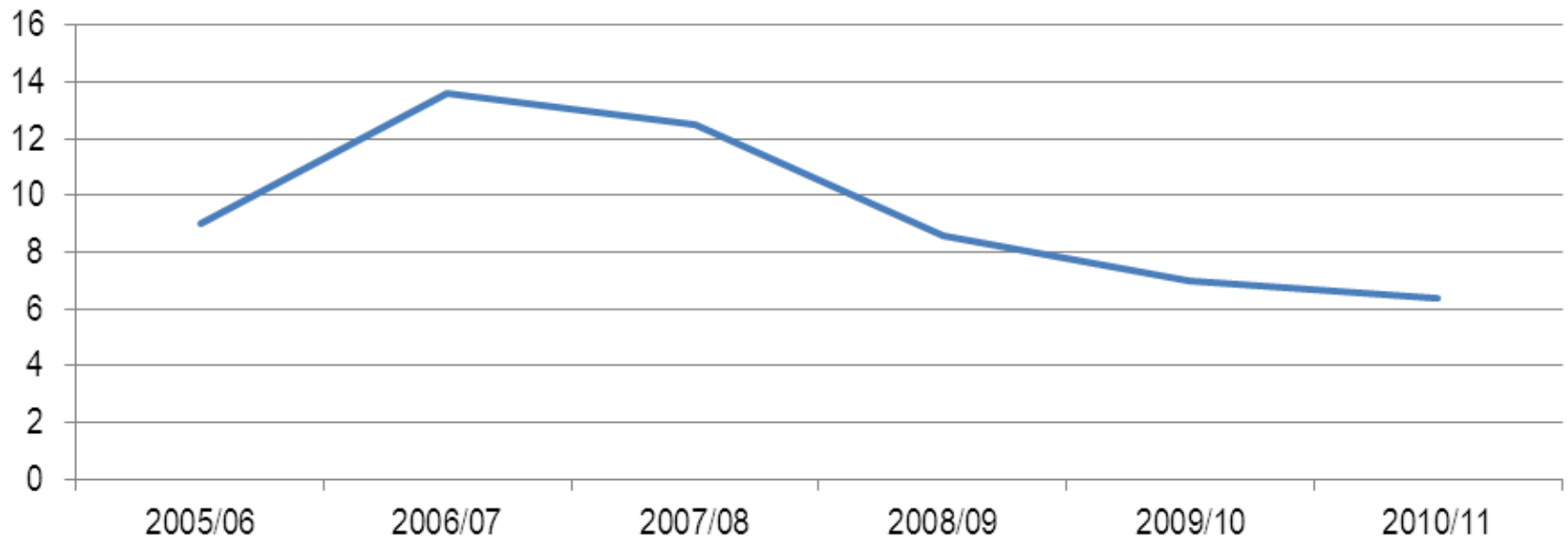
Achievements

- ✓ The number of women testing and collecting their results which has since risen;
- ❖ from 243 women before the volunteers were recruited in 2005/06 to 14706 women in 2010/11
- ❖ the proportion of children under PMTCT testing positive has declined from 9% in 2009/2010 to 5.7% in 2010/2011.

Number of pregnant women tested for HIV



Percentage of HIV positive pregnant women



Achievements

- ✓ The program is now reaching the grass root level of the community
- ✓ The mom to mom volunteers have enhanced ownership of the program by the community
- ✓ More women from the rural communities are now reached

Achievements

- ✓ Easy passage of PMTCT messages to the communities
- ✓ Opening of new sites to increase coverage of PMTCT services

Challenges

1. Reduced funding
2. Stigma
3. Infrastructure
4. Workload
5. Over-expectations

Monthly meetings with mom to mom volunteers



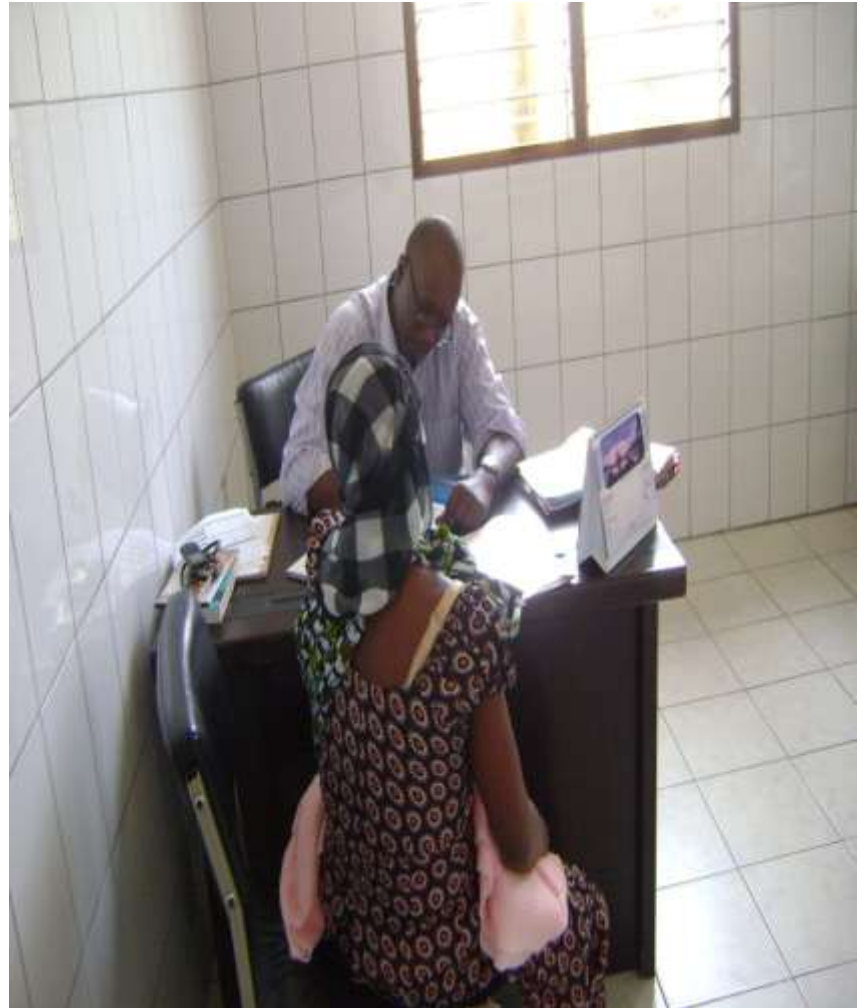
Current PASADA PMTCT services

- The program currently provides the following services in 19 sites:
 - ✓ Counseling and testing of pregnant women and lactating mothers for HIV
 - ✓ Testing of children for HIV [DBS]
 - ✓ Running of PMTCT clinics [once monthly]

HIV Testing of women in rural areas



PMTCT Clinics



Current PASADA PMTCT services

- ✓ Provision of opportunistic infection drugs
- ✓ Provision of ART and prophylaxis
- ✓ Health education
- ✓ Covering delivery costs for those who can not afford
- ✓ Nutritional support for children

Health Education



Current PASADA PMTCT services

- ✓ Male partners support groups
- ✓ Nutritional support for children
- ✓ Special clinics for couples and discordant couples support groups
- ✓ Now that you know meetings

Male partners support groups



Current PASADA PMTCT services

- ✓ Collaboration with traditional birth attendants
- ✓ Natural family planning
- ✓ Support minor renovations of LW and RCH clinics at sites
- ✓ Contribute in costs of running the sites

Quarterly meetings with TBA's



Thanks for listening



Karibuni Tanzania