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

DANIEL MAGESA
PASADA
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 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%

[UNAIDS Country Progress Report, Tanzania Mainland March 2012]
INTRODUCTION : PASADA

• **PASADA** stands for **Pastoral Activities and Services** for people with **AIDS** Dar es salaam **Archdiocese**

• 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

- Before mom to mom
- 2004/05: 1
- 2005/06: 150
- 2006/07: 1000
- 2007/08: 3000
- 2008/09: 5000
- 2009/10: 7000
- 2010/11: 15000
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