



PEPFAR

U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

Engaging Faith Communities to Find Men and Children

New Choices - New Treatment – New Timing – New Hope

17 YEARS OF SAVING LIVES THROUGH AMERICAN GENEROSITY AND PARTNERSHIPS

This HIV Educational Update slide deck

**will be followed by a second slide deck called
*Messages of Hope for Men and Children Tool***

This HIV Educational Update reviews the latest knowledge about HIV; the information provides essential background for understanding the basis for the key Messages of Hope for Men and Children

New Messages of Hope About HIV

NEW TREATMENT:
With HIV medication, you can live a long, healthy life!

NEW TIMING:
Start Treatment Right Away!!

NEW CHOICES:
With Life at its best, you choose how to test!

NEW HOPE: *Stay on treatment and you won't spread HIV to people you care about!*



Encouraging Accomplishments On The Way



Over 14.6 million women, men and children on lifesaving antiretroviral treatment



Nearly 95 million people received HIV testing services



Over 700,000 children on lifesaving antiretroviral treatment



Over 270,000 new health workers trained



18.9 million voluntary medical male circumcisions performed to prevent infections in men and boys



Nearly 2.4 million babies born HIV-free



Over 6.8 million orphans, vulnerable children and their caregivers provided with critical care support

Looking to the Future, Our Goal Is:

95%
Diagnosed

This means that 95% of people living with HIV know their status.



95%
On Treatment

This means that 95% of people that know they have HIV are also taking treatment (ART).



95%
Virally
Suppressed

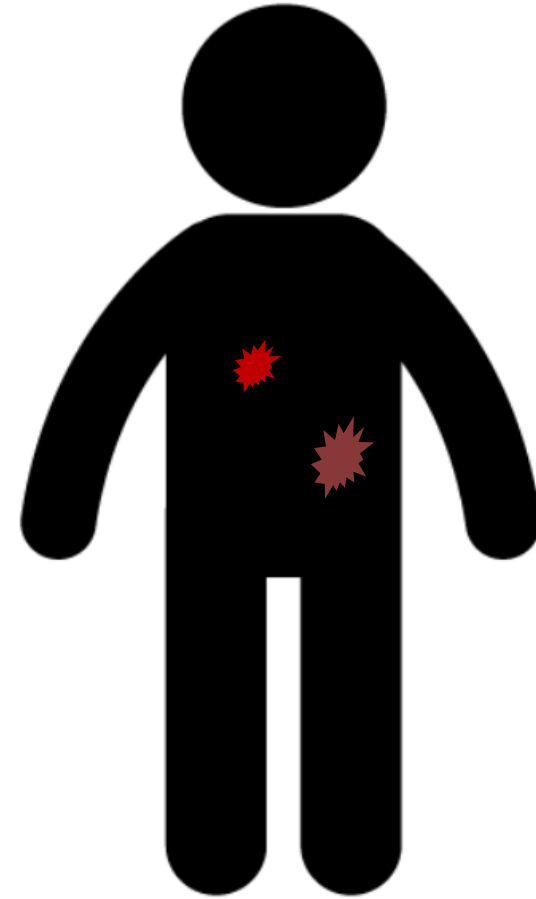
This means that 95% of people on HIV treatment are virally suppressed.



HIV: the Basics

What is HIV?

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is a virus that attacks the cells that help the body fight infections. This then, makes it easier for a person to get sick from infections and diseases.



What is AIDS?

AIDS stands for Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome. AIDS is the late stage of the HIV infection that occurs when the body's ability to fight off infections is badly damaged because of the virus.

HIV progresses to AIDS when people living with HIV don't take their medication to control the amount of HIV in their blood.



Ways HIV Can Be Passed From One Person to Another



Unprotected sex with someone who has HIV



From a mother to her child during pregnancy, delivery or breastfeeding



Sharing needles, or other injection or skin-piercing equipment with someone who has HIV



Transfusion with HIV-infected blood

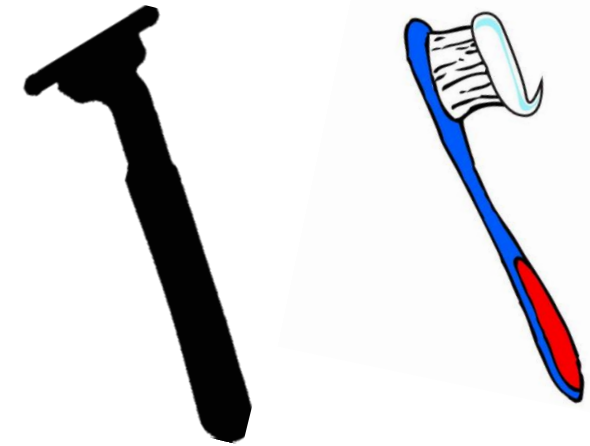
REMEMBER: HIV is NOT Passed Through....



Tears, sweating, coughing or sneezing



Caring for someone with HIV



Touching or sharing objects such as razors or toothbrushes



Shaking hand or hugging



Touching or sharing surfaces or objects such as toilets, dishes or clothes



Addressing Gaps to Control HIV

**Trusted faith leaders can take
innovations and solutions
to their communities,
to address the core gaps
in our programming**

There are Gaps in Treatment for Men

Globally, antiretroviral treatment (ART) coverage for men 15 years and older was 55% in 2018, compared with 68% among adult women. (UNAIDS, 2018)



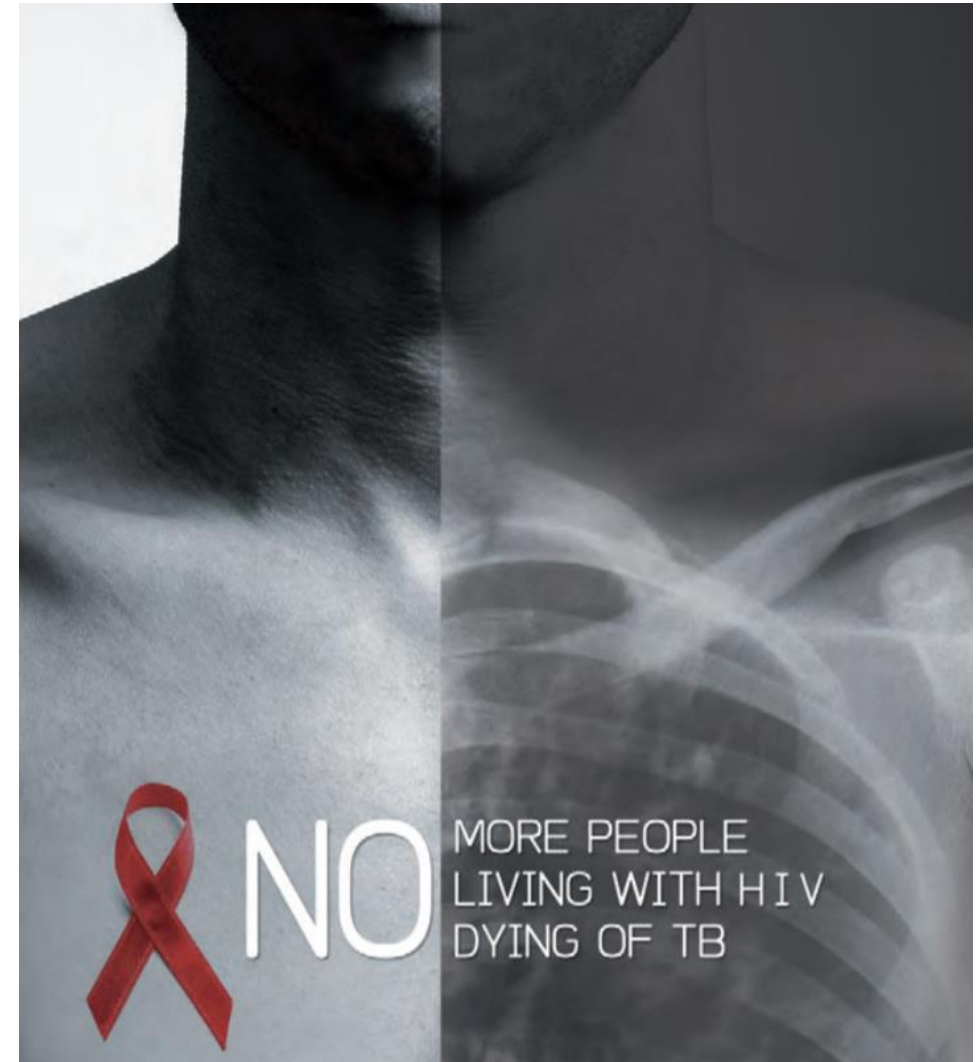
There are Gaps in Treatment for Children & Adolescents

Globally, only about half the children and adolescents living with HIV are receiving Treatment.



There are Gaps in Treatment for Tuberculosis

- **People living with HIV are still dying from tuberculosis (TB) - it is the leading cause of death in people living with HIV**
- **But TB is both preventable and totally curable; EVERYONE WITH TB SHOULD LIVE CURED and NO ONE SHOULD DIE FROM TB**



Barriers That Keep Men From Accessing HIV Services

- Fear of testing positive and disclosure of status
- Fear that others will no longer view them as masculine and strong
- Stigma
- Lack of access
- Lack of trusted health care
- Lack of male-centered care



Strategies to Engage Men

- Deliver messages of hope!
- Integrate HIV with other health care
- Offer accompaniment and support
- Offer choices in testing
- Offer support groups for HIV-affected individuals
- Remove gender inequality, stigma and discrimination
- Engage faith leaders to encourage couple's and family testing



Lesotho: EGPAF Program Offering Male Friendly Services

Reaching Children With Lifesaving Testing & Treatment

- Encouraging pregnant women to:
 - get antenatal care and get tested for HIV
 - and if positive, to take their ART
- HIV testing for infants exposed to HIV within first 2 months of life
- HIV testing for children of adults living with HIV or whose parents may have passed away



New Messages about HIV Treatment of Children Children With Lifesaving Testing & Treatment

- All children with HIV can take treatment
- We have better and better medications for children
- Most children who start ART right away can look forward to growing and developing normally, going to school, and making friends



How to Address Gap in Care for Adolescents

- Youth engagement and support groups
- Address and reduce gender-based violence
- Mobilize community for change (schools, churches, etc.)
- Education programs for caregivers
- Support appropriate disclosure
- Prevention efforts to reach youth before age 12



Ending HIV-related TB

We can end death from TB by ensuring that people living with HIV:

- **Get tested for HIV and start ART at once**
- **Receive TB preventive therapy**
- **Get screened for TB regularly so they can be diagnosed and treated early**

YOU can help by referring people with these symptoms of TB disease to a clinic:

- **persistent cough; unexplained weight loss; fevers; extreme sweating at night**





New Choices About HIV Testing

New Messages of Hope About HIV

*NEW TREATMENT:
With HIV medication,
you can live a long,
healthy life!*

*NEW TIMING: Start
Treatment Right
Away!!*

***NEW CHOICES:
With Life at its
best, you choose
how to test!***

*NEW HOPE: Stay on
treatment and you
won't spread HIV to
people you care
about!*



New Choices for HIV Diagnostic

An HIV diagnostic test is the initial testing that individuals take if they want to know if they are HIV positive or negative.

There are different kinds of HIV tests including blood tests and saliva tests. Some tests are performed by healthcare workers. In many countries, there are HIV tests that individuals can do themselves in their home.



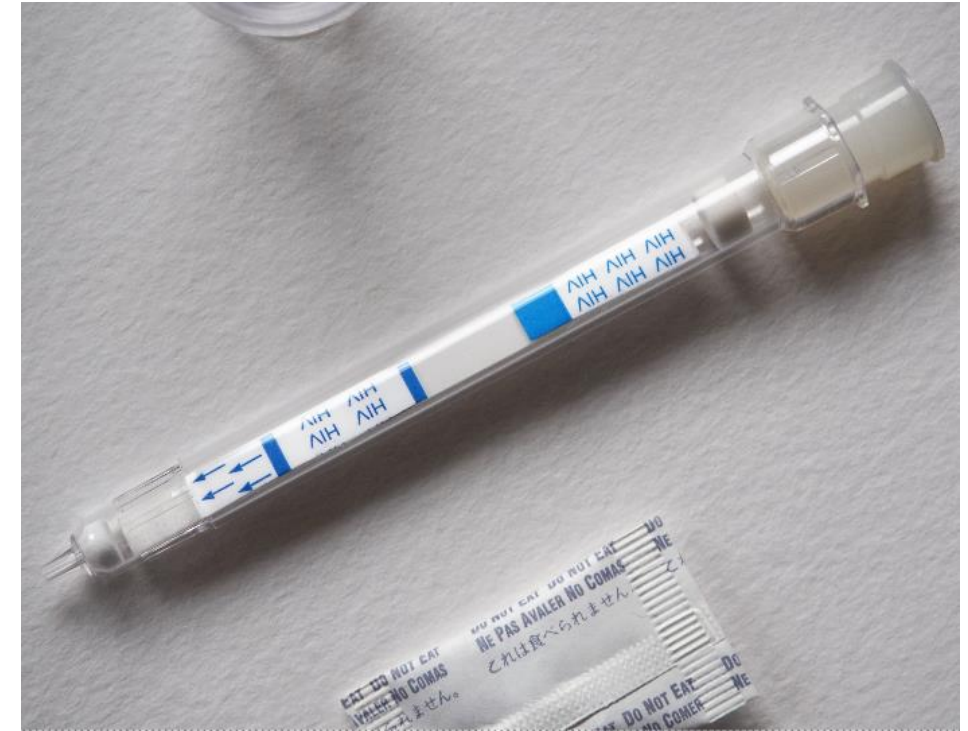
HIV Self-testing

Many men avoid HIV testing because:

- Fear of discrimination, and
- Concerns about confidentiality

Now, in many countries, there are tests called self-tests, that people can take in the privacy of their own homes.

- HIV self-testing is safe, accurate, and easy to use!



PEPFAR and FBOs Work to Increase HIV Self-Testing

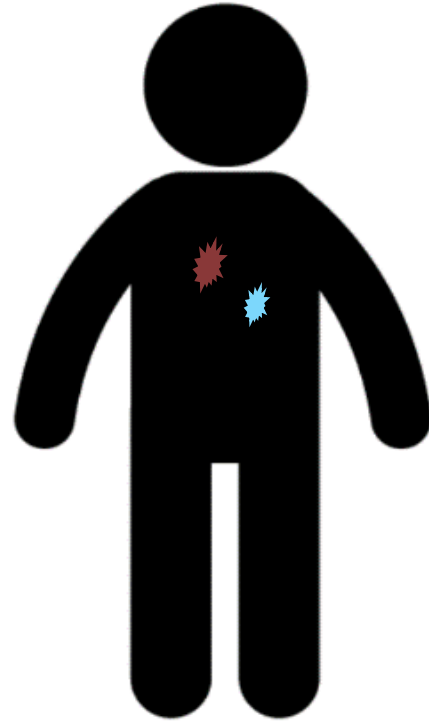
- Faith community leaders, and FBOs can help reach people who may feel more comfortable with using a HIV self-test for initial testing, with confirmatory testing taking place at the clinic. In addition they can support those testing with “buddies” who accompany them to the clinic.
- PEPFAR is helping to train local leaders and organizations on how to use HIV self-tests



Index Testing



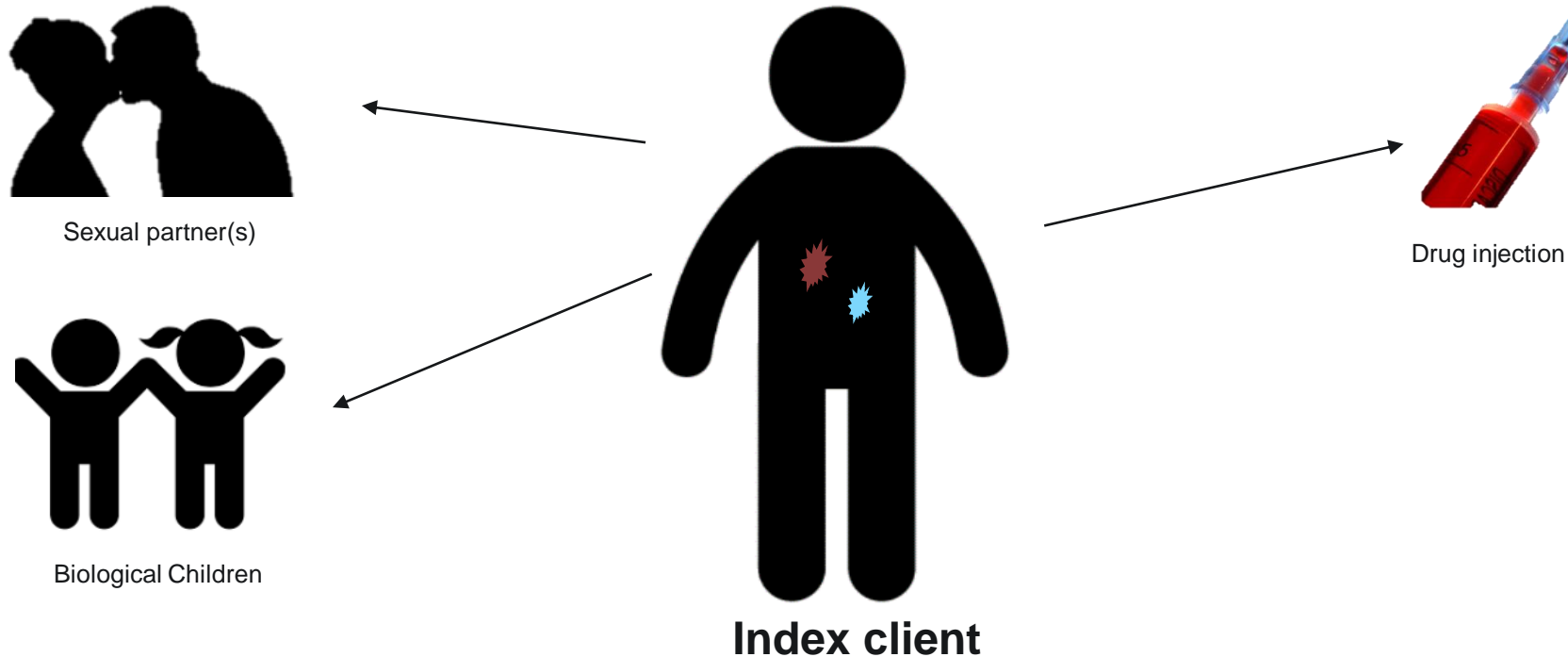
Who is the Index Client?



Anyone who tests positive for HIV

What is Index Testing?

Index testing is a voluntary process whereby counsellors or health care workers ask people who test positive for HIV to list all of their sexual partners, injecting drug partners, and biologic children . This is a list of contacts. The goal is to then test these contacts. If the person who tests positive for HIV is a child, a health care provider will also list their biological parents and siblings as well.



Why is index testing important?

Index testing is an important way to help identify those who were exposed to HIV and link them to care quickly if they test positive.

This strategy has proven to be very effective in finding, testing and treating HIV positive individuals in communities. Ultimately, using this strategy can help us reach out first 95, bringing awareness of HIV status to those who are HIV positive.





New Treatment: Easier, Better, Safer

New Messages of Hope About HIV

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New Treatment: Easier, Better, Safer

THEN



- Many pills
- Multiple times/day dosing
- Food restrictions
- Severe side effects
- Could stop working

NOW



- Often as a single pill
- Once daily dosing
- Few food restrictions
- Side effects uncommon
- Keep working
- Faster viral load reduction

More Convenience: HIV Treatment on Your

THEN



- Frequent (monthly) visits to the clinic
- Long wait times, which kept men away
- Seen as spaces only for women, not men

NOW



- Treatment supplies given for 3 to 6 months
- often taken to communities for easy access
- Tailored men-only clinics
- Faster viral load suppression

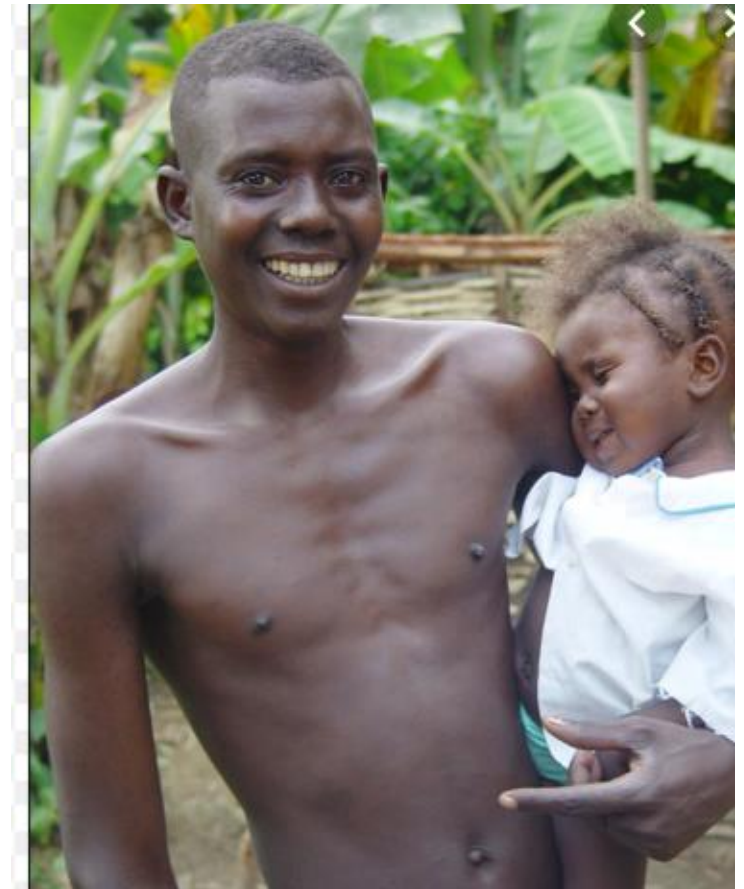
Images from: <http://www.ihl.org/resources/Pages/ImprovementStories/TheBloodUpdatesonProjectsInSouthAfricaToImproveHIVAIDSTreatmentAndAccessOfMenAndWomenToMenOnlyClinicsInZimbabwe>

TB Prevention and Treatment for TB

TB preventive treatment is:

- Now widely available for all persons living with HIV
- Available as a short regimen - just once a week for 12 weeks, with few side effects

The ‘after treatment’ picture to the right shows that new medicines for treating TB disease are now very effective, and build strength and health.





New Timing: Early Initiation of Treatment

New Messages of Hope About HIV

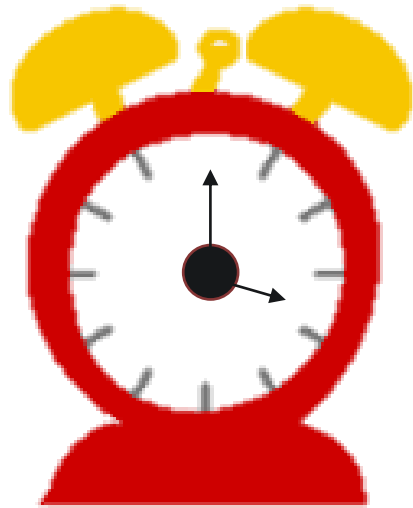
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New Timing: Starting HIV treatment (ART) at once for All People Living With HIV

Test and Start

- *Test and Start* means that we start ART as soon as someone tests positive for HIV.
- Early treatment allows people living with HIV to have a long, healthy life and protects their partners from getting HIV
- People with HIV should also receive treatment to prevent TB disease.





**New Hope: With ART People
Living with HIV Can Live Healthy
Lives and Protect Their Loved
Ones**

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A Long, Healthy Life -- with HIV Medication & Undetectable Virus!



#Undetectable=Untransmittable.
It's in your control

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Dial *573# or visit www.ZambiaEndingAIDS.org



42 16 YEARS OF SAVING LIVES THROUGH AMERICAN GENEROSITY AND PARTNERSHIPS

Undetectable Viral Load= Untransmissible HIV (U=U)



In country after country, leaders are adapting this new message about HIV to their local contexts

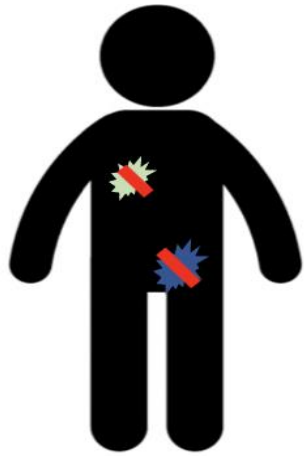
Viral Load Test & Undetectable Viral

- A viral load test measures how well a person with HIV is responding to treatment by looking at how much HIV is present in their blood.
- This viral load test is a different test than the one that shows whether someone is infected with HIV or not.
- If a person takes their HIV medicine correctly every day as prescribed, HIV treatment makes the amount of HIV in their blood go down until a viral load test shows that there is not enough HIV in the blood to be measured.
- When the viral load test shows no measureable HIV in the blood, this is called “undetectable viral load” or “viral suppression”.
- ***Being undetectable does not mean a person’s HIV is cured!***

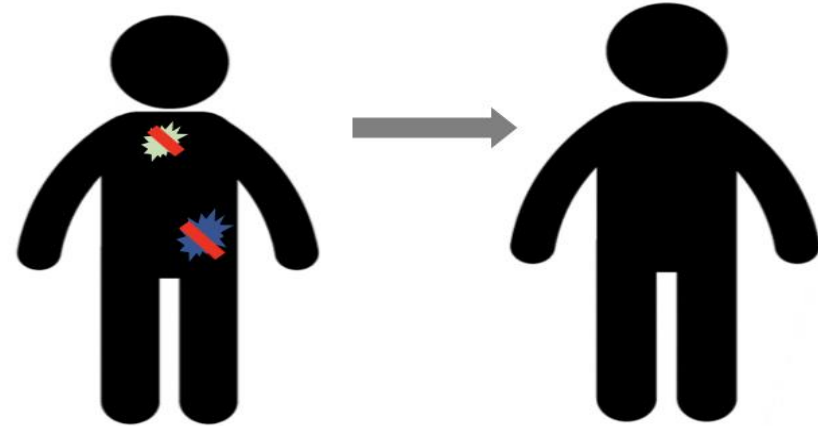


Undetectable Viral Load= Viral Suppression

Undetectable Viral Load= Untransmissible HIV



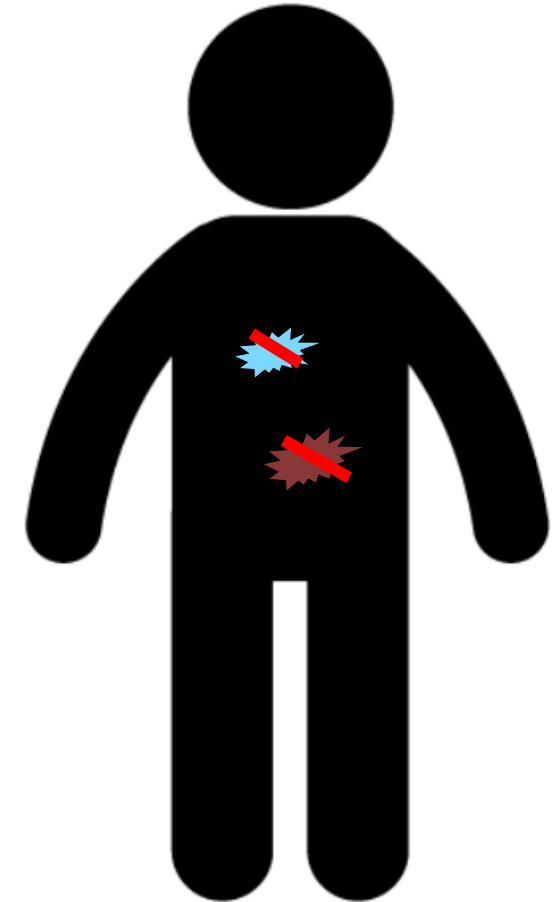
People who take their medicine daily, as prescribed, can achieve an undetectable viral load.



Untransmissible: People living with HIV who take their medicine daily and maintain an undetectable viral load will not pass HIV to their partners through sex.

Benefits of Taking ART to Keep an Undetectable Viral Load

- Helps people with HIV live a normal, healthy life, and to stay strong and productive
- Prevents serious illnesses
- Helps keep the brain healthy and the memory strong
- Decreases the number of clinic visits for a person living with HIV
- Undetectable HIV cannot be passed to partners through sex
- Mothers who reach an undetectable level before pregnancy have a reduced risk of transmitting HIV to infant during birth or through breastfeeding



An Illustration to Help Faith Leaders Talk about Life Saving Treatment

I will help you!!



Get in! I can help you.



HIV Treatment, Adherence & and Faith Healing

Faith leaders can build health for their communities by spreading these essential facts about treatment for those living with HIV:

- If people **DO** take their medicine daily as prescribed, they will be healthy, live a long life, and won't give HIV to their partners.
- If people **DON'T** take their medication, they will become sicker and die.

Faith Leaders have an important role in stopping the spread of HIV:

- Encourage people to get tested
- Encourage people living with HIV to take their medication
- Advocate for care and prevention for those living with HIV
- Pray for physical and emotional strength of those affected by HIV
- Call on communities and families to support those living with HIV



Messages Faith Leaders Can Use to Share the U=U News

Remember! - Treatment stops the virus from passing to anyone else

Your life matters! Live productively, strong & long with HIV treatment for life

The church and community need men and women like you , so live well with ART—start and stay on treatment!

Diagnosis improves couples' communication so they can encourage each other and talk about health issues





Best News: Helping People Who Test Negative, Stay Negative

PREVENTION: Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision



- **Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC):**
 - lowers the risk of men acquiring HIV through sex
- **Other benefits of VMMC:**
 - Lowers a man's chances of getting or transmitting sexually transmitted infections or getting penile cancer
 - Lowers a female partner's chances of getting cervical cancer

PREVENTION: Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)



- Can be used according to national policy, and is recommended for people at substantial risk of getting HIV (in addition to other prevention services)
- Only for people who are HIV-negative, including those whose partner or partners have positive or unknown HIV status
- Should be taken once a day at the same time and takes 7 days of treatment for men and 21 days for women *to be fully protected from acquiring HIV*
- Is considered very safe
- Can be used in combination with any type of contraception

New Messages of Hope About HIV

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A person wearing a blue hoodie is seen from behind, with their arms raised in a gesture of triumph or celebration. They are standing on a beach or near water, with a bright sunset or sunrise in the background, creating a warm, golden glow. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon.

As leaders in your communities and places of worship, YOU can help spread the GOOD NEWS about epidemic control

New Choices

New Treatment

New Timing

New Hope

This *HIV Educational Update* slide deck is complete

[An optional Appendix follows for those interested in types of programs that work for reaching men, adolescents, and children living with HIV.]

This slide deck will now be followed now by a second slide deck called
Messages of Hope for Men and Children Tool



Appendix: Model Programs

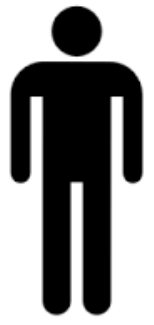
Nigeria Baby Shower Initiative: A Church Congregation-Based Approach to Preventing Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) Service Delivery

PBS News Hour Video on HIV Program in Nigeria



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guPobd1-cTg>

THE BACKGROUND IN NIGERIA:



Low rates of testing amongst men, contributing to high mortality



Low rates of ART coverage amongst pregnant women attributable due poor uptake of pregnancy care and facility based deliveries

THE IMPLEMENTATION



Participant recruitment and arrival



Education based and social activities



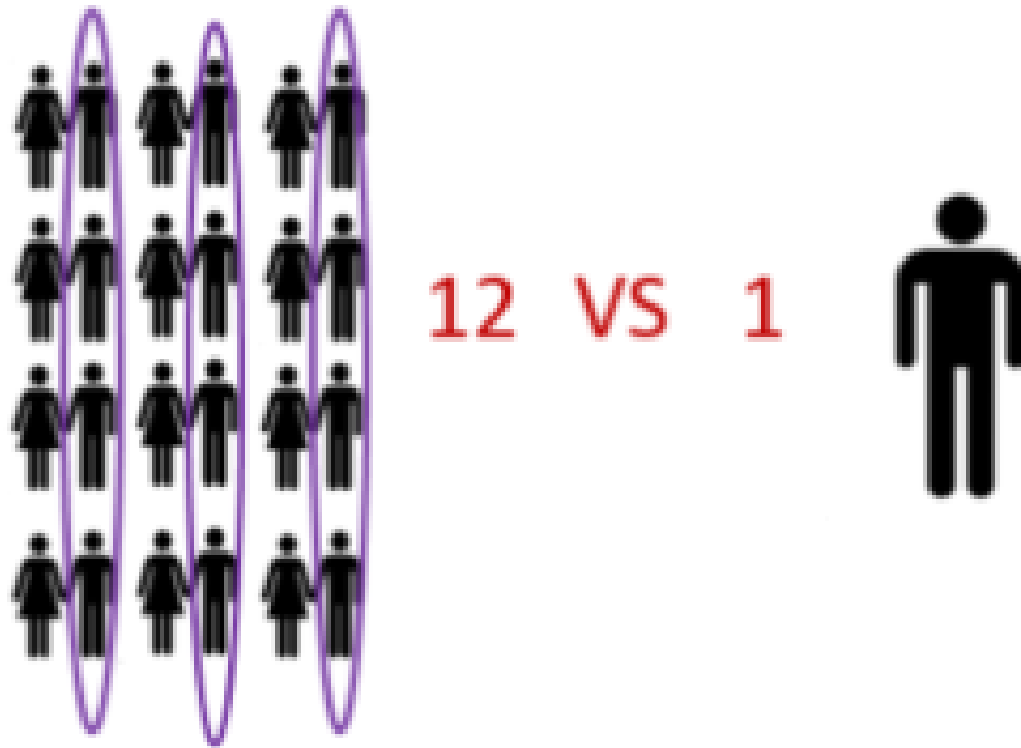
Health evaluation and testing



Sharing results and counseling

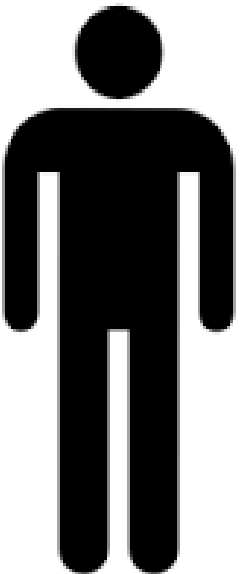
THE OUTCOMES

Male partners in the baby shower group were **12 times more likely** to have had an HIV test compared to male partners of pregnant women in the control group.



Circle of Hope
is an initiative that partnered with
faith-based communities in a city
with high rates of HIV, to increase
HIV testing, care, and treatment

THE BACKGROUND IN ZAMBIA



It is estimated that 8.8% of men aged 15 and over are infected with HIV



Studies found that men were less likely to test for HIV when testing was offered through household testing campaigns, because they were away from home or out at work.



In 2017, 72,000 children (aged 0-14 years) were living with HIV



In 2017, only 64% of HIV infected children were on ART

**“Working with local
communities
& the
faith Community :
from 20 a month to 70 a
day”**



Circle of Hope

Gibstar Makangila
Executive Director
Circle of Hope, Lusaka Zambia
PEPFAR CDC Presentations,
Lusaka
August 2019



THE IMPLEMENTATION



Decentralization of HIV Services From Facility to Community Posts

- This includes: HIV counseling, testing, treatment initiation and viral load testing
- Primary Health Care
- TB screening
- And many more..



Community Posts in Busy Urban Settings

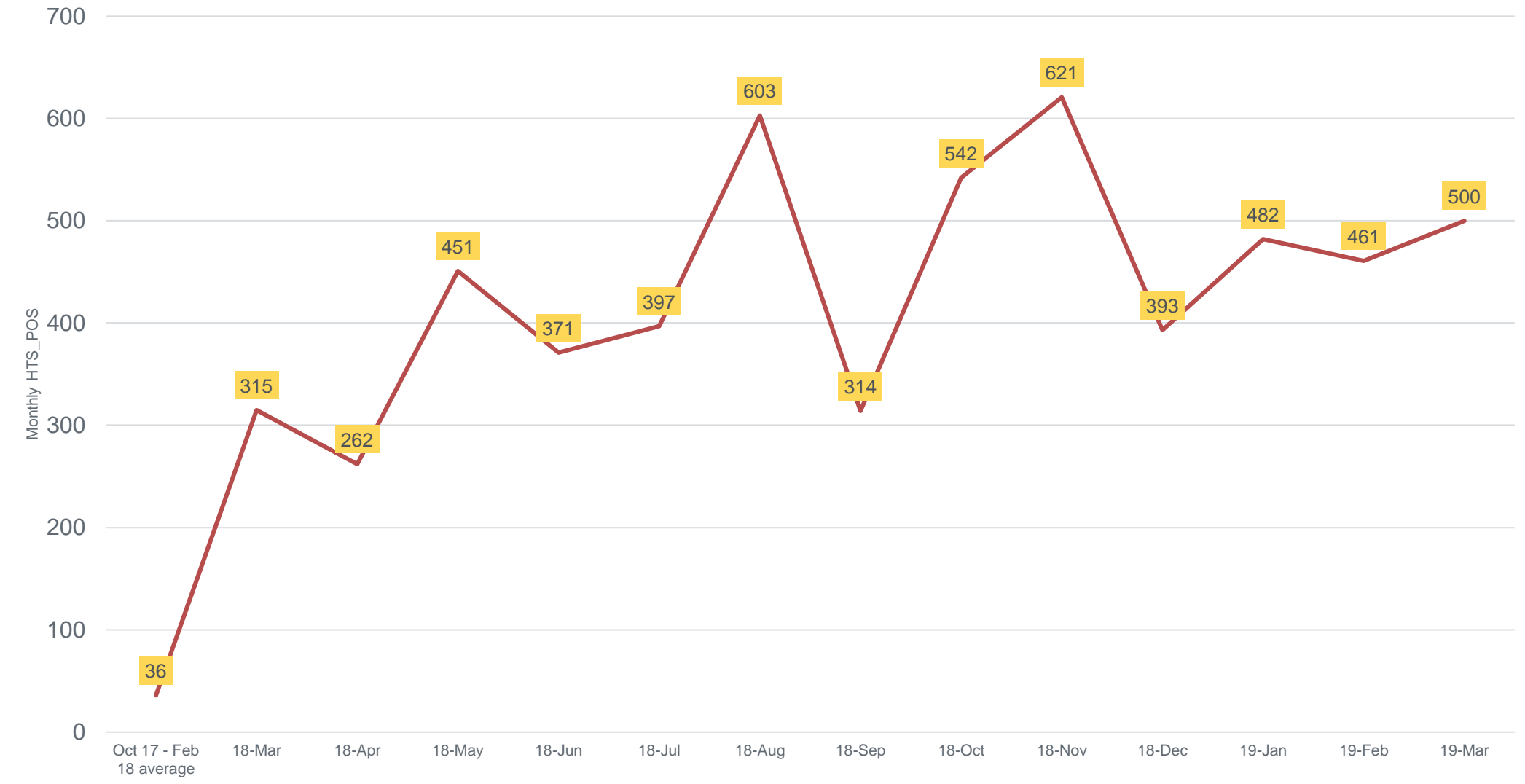
- In settings such as markets, bus stations, etc. that are accessible and time efficient, making them more appealing to men
- Minimal marketing or signs on door to ensure privacy and anonymity of service delivery



Key Components of Model

- >90% of staff are trusted leaders and individuals from faith community
- Daily feedback to team on progress: incentives through daily support and celebration
- Targeting individuals based on sociologic risk "markers" known through church relationships. Sociological risk "markers" include: attends healing services, recent family death and marriage problems

Monthly HTS_POS reported by Circle of Hope to PEPFAR before (October 2017 – February 2018) and after (March 2018 – March 2019) the introduction of community posts



THE OUTCOMES

- After COH implemented Community Posts, there was a immediate and sustained increase in case identification
- Unprecedented yield – this program found more HIV positive individuals than any other strategy before COH.
- Nearly all those who were identified as HIV positive were linked to HIV treatment



Zimbabwe: Community Adolescent Treatment Solution (CATS)



This program provides tailored care for children, adolescents and young people living with HIV (YLHIV) - aged 6–24 years. CATS offers a comprehensive range of services:

- CATS facilitators act as positive role models to strengthen existing networks of social protection.
- Monthly community-based support groups facilitate learning, confidence building, and socializing. Community outreach teams provide more advanced care in the homes of YLHIV.
- Centers provide safe spaces for clinical and social services, linking adolescents to other forms of assistance, while educating individuals on sexual and reproductive health and life skills.

Kenya: Operation Triple Zero



- Operation Triple Zero engages adolescent and young people living with HIV by promoting a responsive service delivery model.
- Operation Triple Zero clubs offer a comprehensive HIV treatment literacy package, empowering members to take charge of their health, take control of their decisions, receive support from fellow peers, and identify with peers who are doing well.
- They commit to a simple treatment goal of achieving “three zeroes”: zero missed appointments, zero missed drugs/medications, and zero viral load (VL).

Eswatini – Promising Model to be evaluated in FY2020

Analyzing distribution of HIV self-tests through existing FBO Mother Body and inter-faith structures to enhance HIV case-finding, care, treatment, adherence, and prevention

Phases of the program and evaluation, Eswatini

- **PHASE 1:** Train
 - Faith leaders in Messages of Hope and targeted HIVST kit distribution
 - Expert clients and community health workers within faith communities on Messages of Hope, case finding, linkage, retention, data collection
- **PHASE 2:** Disseminate Messages & HIVST kits
 - Messages of hope in talks for congregation and interest groups; and
 - HIVST kits to participants in faith community activities
- **PHASE 3:** Posttest ecological evaluation of MER & program indicators, compared to baseline values



Eswatini-specific sources to monitor referrals to facilities of those using self-tests (positives- confirmation and ARV initiation; negatives- PrEP/VMMC)

- **Added to national program activities:**

- *HTS Register* - added a FBO-specific question to the national HTS register
- *Custom reporting tool* for Expert Client (ECs)/community health worker -Intake form will capture distribution, linkage, and retention, for use by denomination specific EC/community health worker

- **Under consideration:**

- *SMS or WhatsApp messaging* as part of the communication strategy, including national toll-free line (hotline)
- *Development of an FBO sticker to paste on HIVST kits* with information for reporting during confirmatory testing

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