



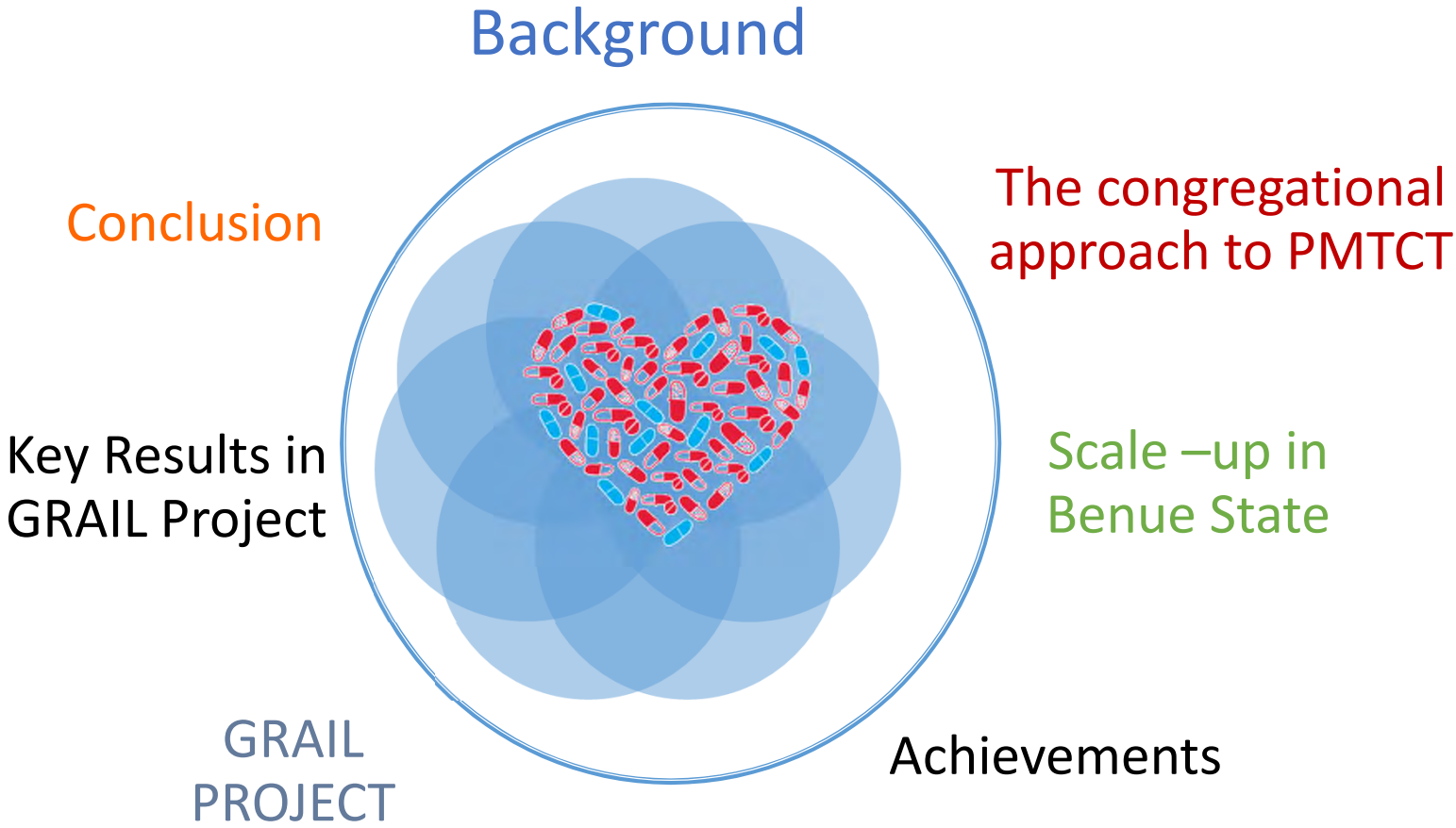
CARITAS NIGERIA

Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria

**Congregational
Approach for PMTCT
(BABY SHOWER INITIATIVE)**

DR OLANREWAJU OLAYIWOLA | ABUJA | NIGERIA

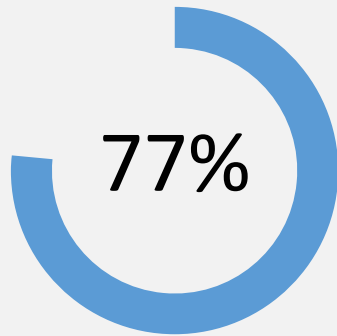
Outline



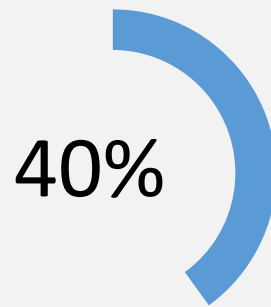
Background

Number of HIV-positive pregnant women annually	100,000
New HIV infections in children annually	24,000
Mother-to-child HIV transmission rate in Nigeria	24%

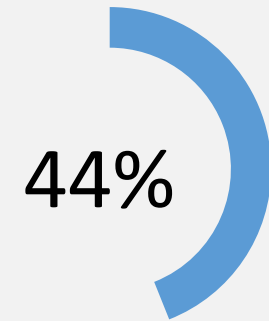
- Nigeria has high religious service attendance and strong role of religion in daily life
 - Religion: 49% Christian; 49% Muslim; 2% other



of pregnant women attend ANC¹



of pregnant women know their HIV status¹



of HIV-positive pregnant women are on ART²

¹ UNAIDS 2019 estimates

² National HIV/AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey (NAIS) 2018

Congregational Approach to PMTCT (Baby Shower Initiative)



The congregational approach to PMTCT



Church sensitization, enrollment and training



Baby Showers: pregnant women and their partners



Baby Receptions: new parents and their babies



**Community follow-up:
Church Health Assistants support linkage to PMTCT**

Images courtesy of PBS News Hour
<https://www.pbs.org/video/why-nigeria-has-more-hiv-positive-infants-than-anywhere-else-1528930210/>

Findings From the Pilot - RCT

- **Randomized controlled trial** of a congregational approach to prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) in Enugu State, Nigeria demonstrated improved uptake of HIV testing during pregnancy²
 - HIV testing uptake: 92% in intervention group vs. 55% in controls, $p < 0.0001$
- We report here results of the **randomized controlled trial** that implemented an adapted congregational approach to PMTCT in Benue State

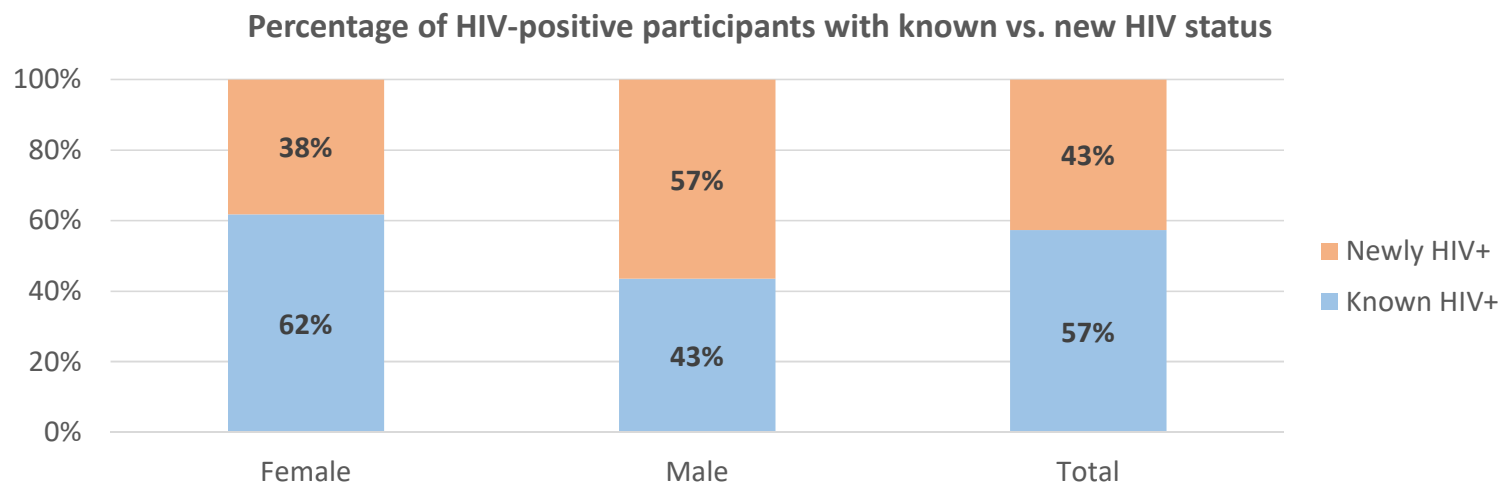
¹ Pew Research Center surveys, 2008-2017

²Ezeanolue EE, Lancet Global Health 2015

Results of the Original Randomized Trial, presented at IAS: HIV testing

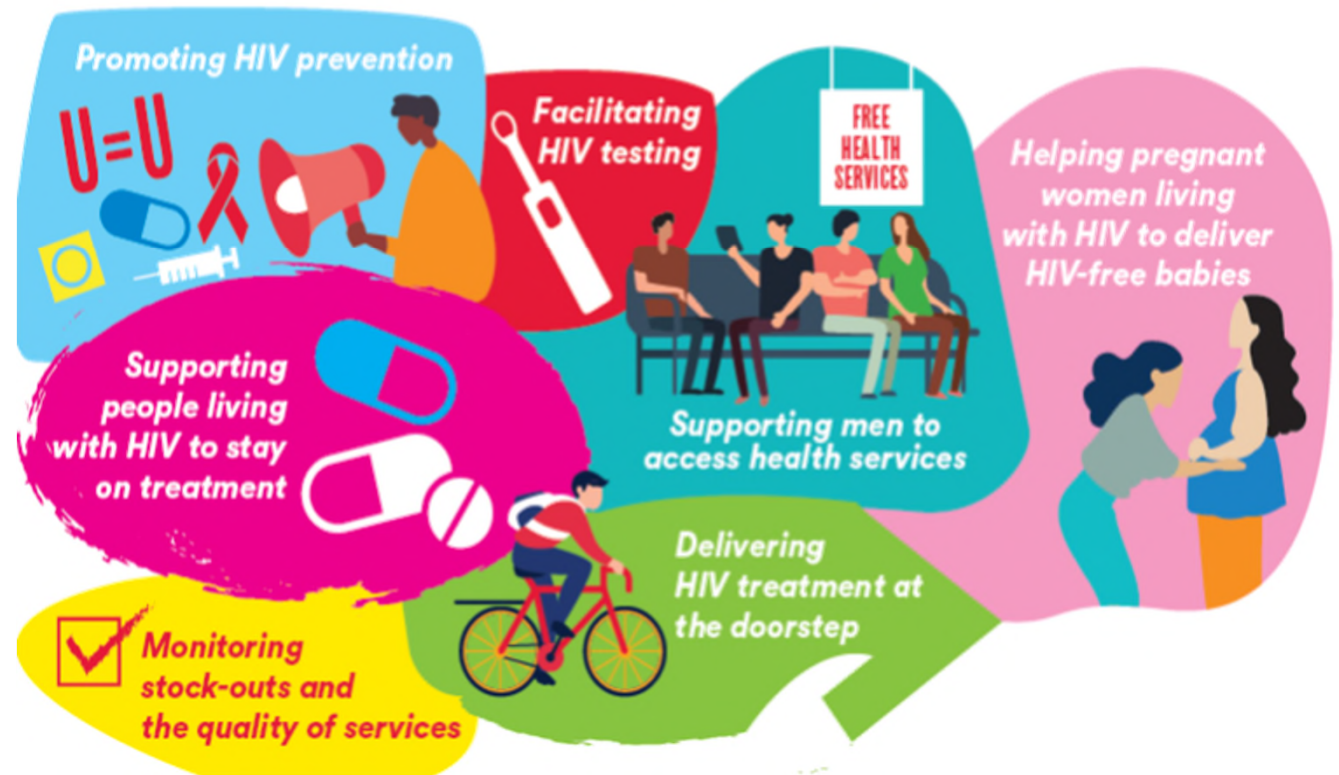
HIV positivity by gender

	Females	Males
HIV positive, n (%)	696 (7.3%)	223 (4.0%)
Newly diagnosed, n (%)	226 (2.8%)	126 (2.2%)
Previously known, n (%)	470 (4.5%)	97 (1.8%)



COMMUNITIES ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF A MODERN HEALTH SYSTEM

THE SCALE UP IN BENUE STATE NORTH CENTRAL NIGERIA





Congregation Engagement

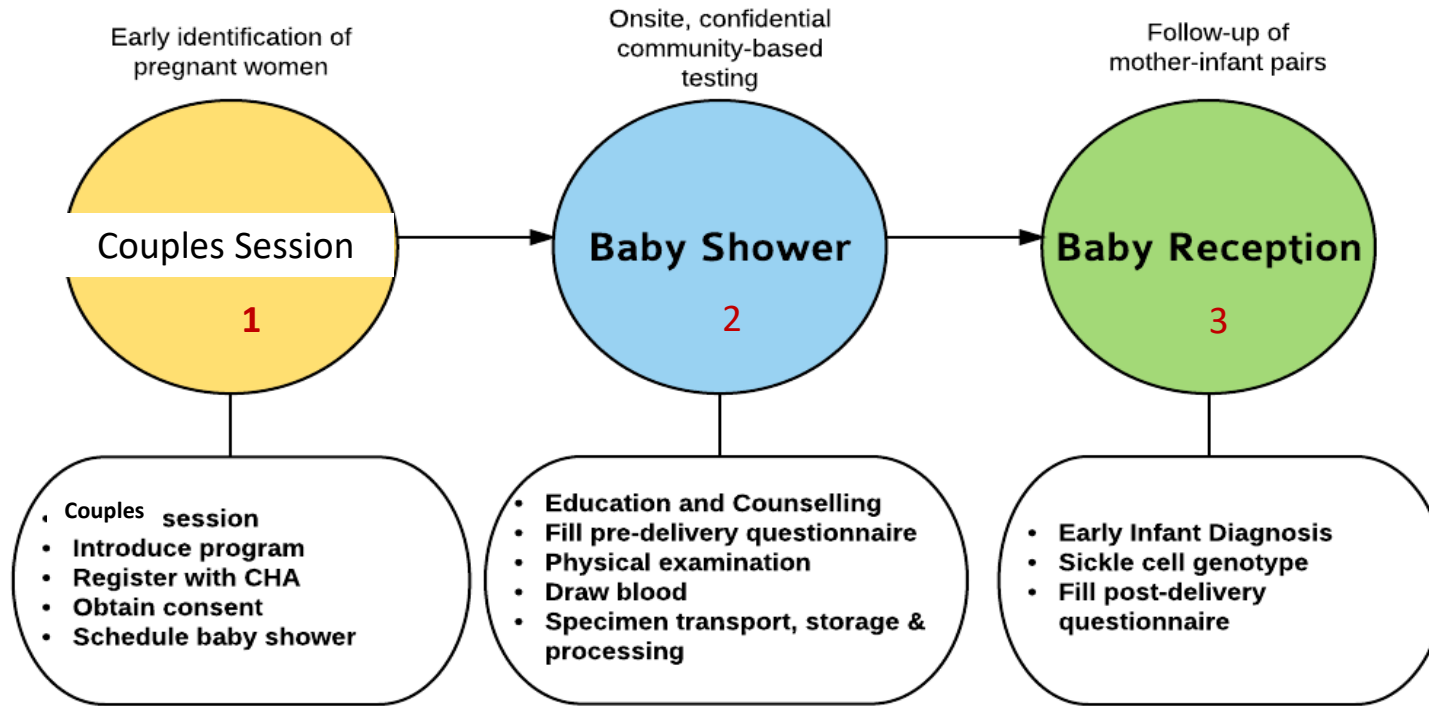
- Mapping of congregations (faith communities)
- Advocacy visit to religious & community leaders
- Assessment of communities using a checklist
- Formation of a church health team (priest, women leader, men leader, church-based Health Advisors and youth representative)
- Activation of communities for “Baby Showers”
- Hands-on mentoring
- Data collection and analysis



Couples Session

- Congregational leader calls a session for pregnant women & their male partners
- Church leader introduces the baby shower program and church health advisors (CHAs)
- CHAs meet with each interested pregnant woman and her partner
- CHAs explain the baby shower program to pregnant woman and partner
- Couple opts in and give consent
- CHAs enrolls couple for the baby shower and fill [Demographic Form](#) and [Baby Shower Scheduling Log](#)

Steps in a typical Baby Shower Session



Congregational Approach Achievements in the Field

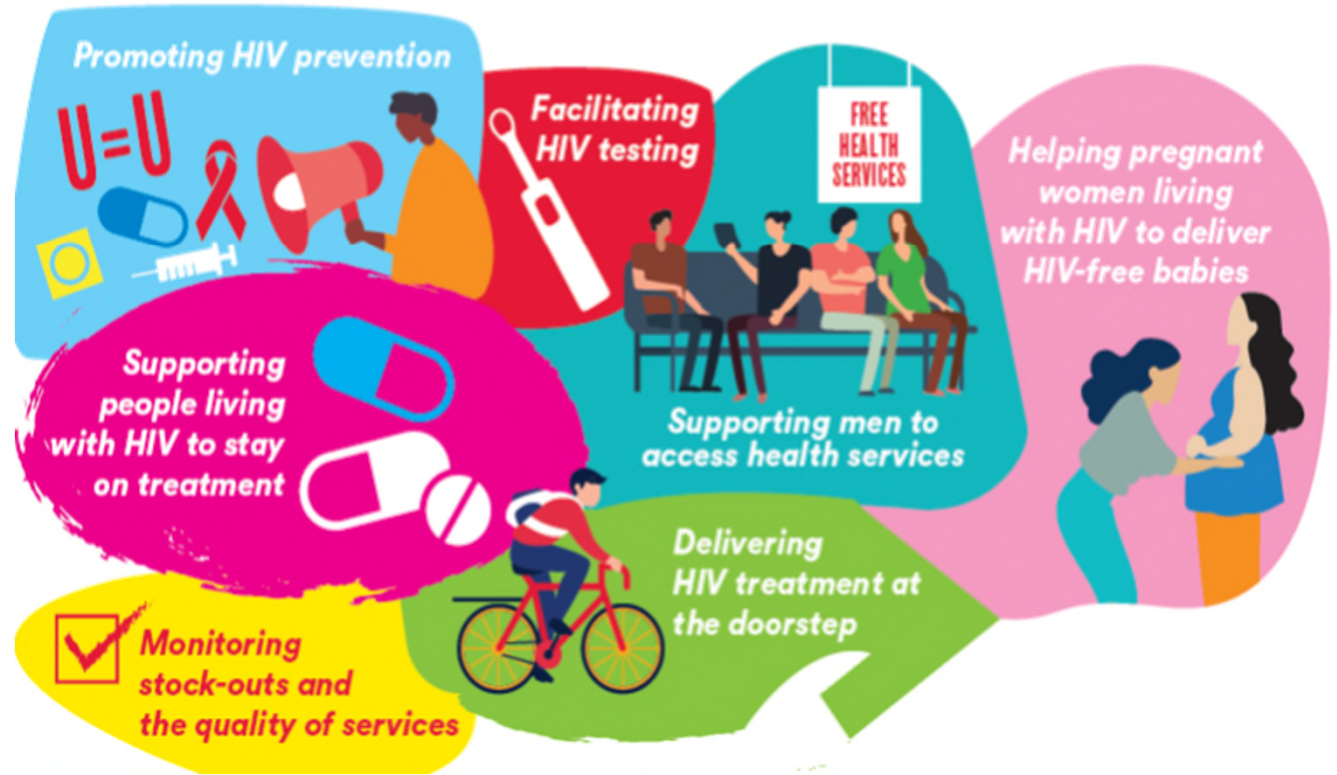
No. LGAs	Congregations	Baby Showers	No. Tested	No. Mothers Tested	Partner Testing	Mothers/ Spouses (Positivity)	Naïve HIV+	Tx_New	Linkage
12	81	519	14,847	9,382	61%	7% vs. 4%	164	136	82.9%

No. Hosp. Deliveries	No. Newborns	Baby Receptions	No. EID
4,181	4,216	271	228



Going a Step
Further-
The
GRAIL
Project

COMMUNITIES ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF A MODERN HEALTH SYSTEM



The GRAIL Project

“We Cannot Make A Priest Into A Doctor In A Three Day Training” “But We Can Capitalize on their pastoral leadership, training and compassion to address public health problems”

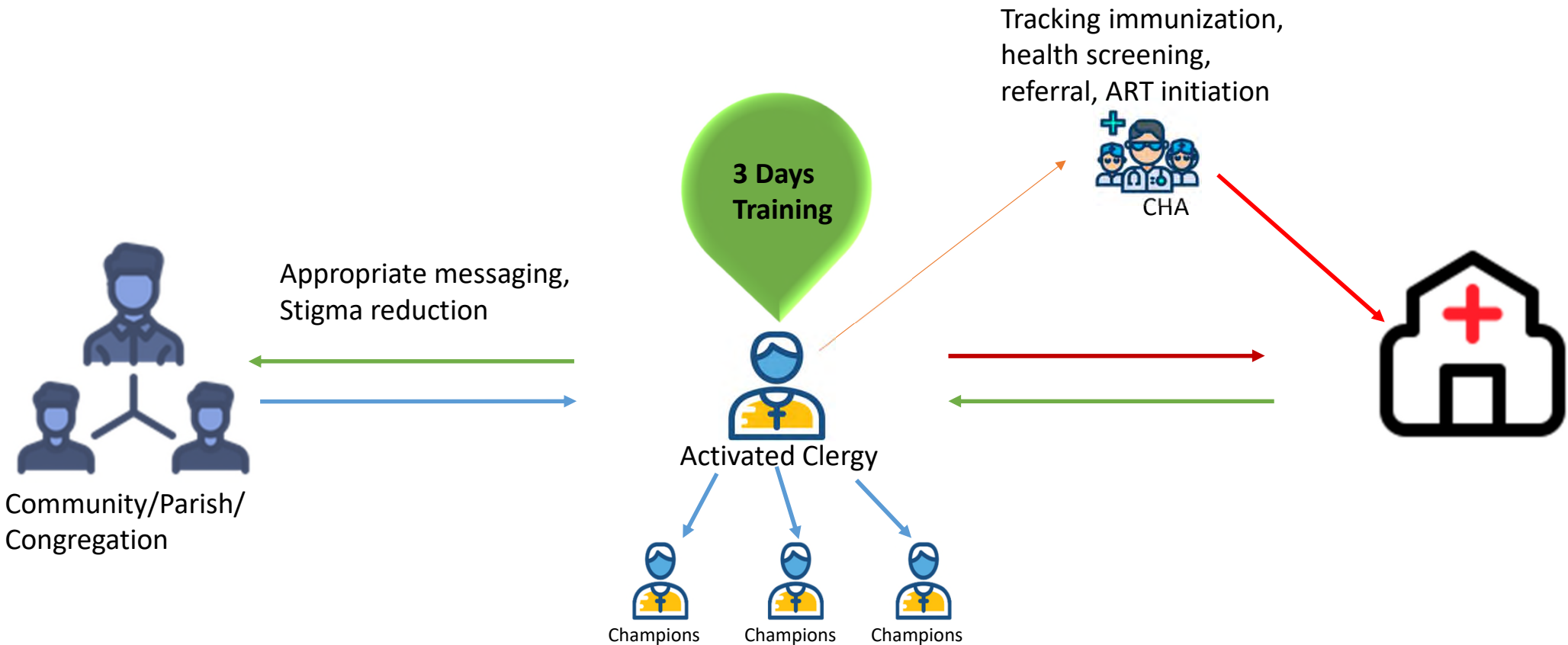
GRAIL = **G**alvanizing **R**eligious **A**ctors for **I**dentification & **L**inkage to Pediatric ART

Justification for GRAIL Project - *“Allow the Children to Come To Me” Luke 18: 16*

- The Congregational Approach to PMTCT (aka Baby Showers)
 - **Implementation Location: Nigeria, Congo DR**
- Nigeria is the largest single contributor to the 2.6 million children living with HIV (CLHIV)
 - Estimated 320,000 CLHIV requiring ART
 - **ART coverage (CLHIV) 52,000 (21%)**



How GRAIL Project Works



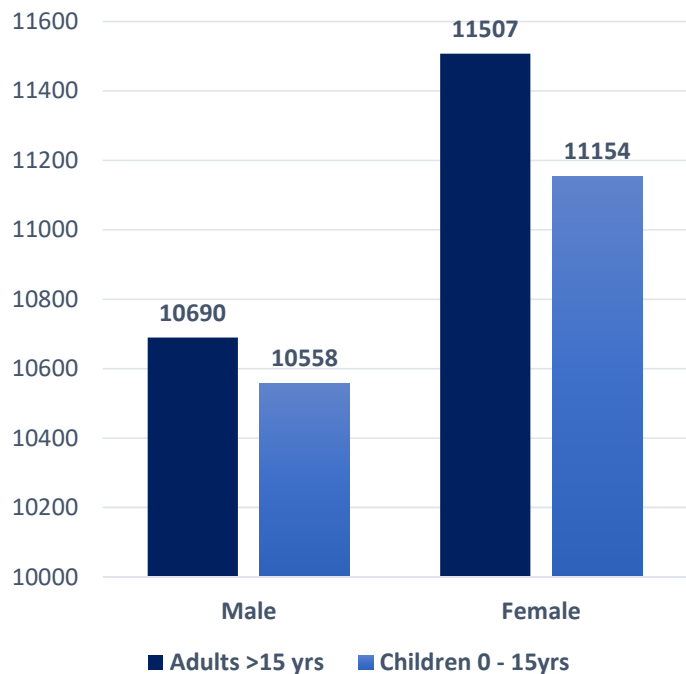
Key Results and Impact

- Training of 179 religious leaders (including 89 priests) covering 21 states in Nigeria (including the 6+1 UNAIDS priority states).
- Reaching out to over 21,712 adults > 15 years with age-appropriate HIV messaging promoting diagnosis and treatment of children living with HIV.
 - Female - 11,507
 - Male - 10,690 and
 - 22,197 children aged 0 – 15 years [F 10.558; M 11.154].
- Referral of 21,142 children for HIV testing with 21,130 being tested for HIV and 106 of those diagnosed HIV-positive were commenced on ART [F 49; M 15 – less than 5 years; and F 29; M 13 – 5 to 10 years].

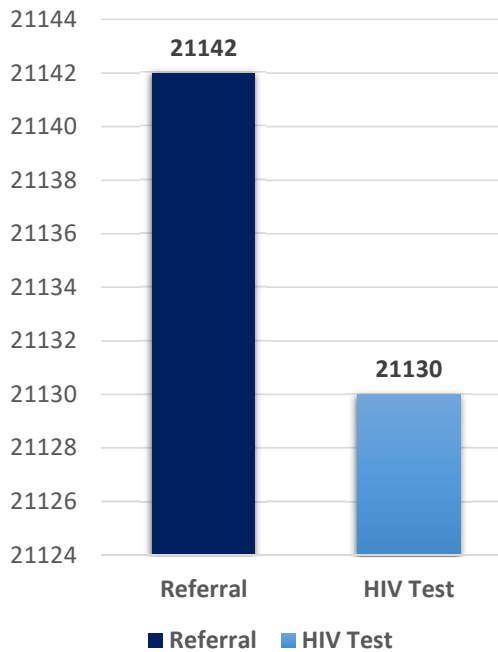


GRAIL Results: Expanded Messaging and Testing, with Low Yield

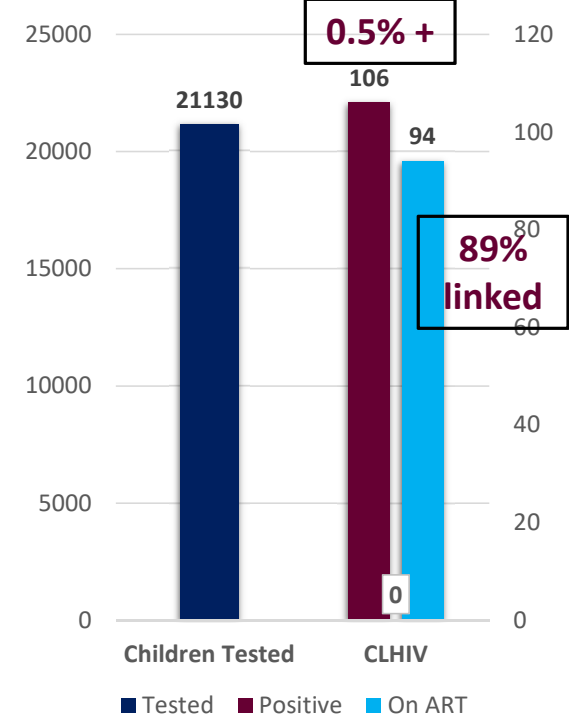
Individuals Reached with HIV Messaging



Children Referred for HIV Test



HIV Testing Outcomes



CONCLUSION



Congregational Platform

represents an innovative approach of using Faith-based Platforms to increase uptake of HIV testing services among the underserved (pregnant women, their partners, pediatrics & adolescent populations)

APPENDICES

Tools

Laboratory Results

Healthy Beginning Initiative



Test	Result	Interpretation
Blood Pressure		
Hepatitis B		
HIV		
Sickle Cell Genotype		
Height		
Weight		

If you see a '+' in any row, one of your measures is abnormal and you should see a doctor. Bring this result to the doctor. If you do not understand your result or have any questions, contact your CHA.

Tools

Specimen Log Hepatitis B and HIV



Site: _____

Date : _____

S/N	Member ID	Gender	Hepatitis B		HIV	
			NON- REACTIVE	REACTIVE	NON- REACTIVE	REACTIVE
1		<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Completed by:Date: Sign:

Test Performed by:Date: Sign:

Reviewed by:Date: Sign:



4
YOUR

THANK YOU 
ATTENTION