



UNICEF

**Prevention of Mother To Child
Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV/AIDS
Western Tanzania**

**Opportunities and
Challenges**

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Map of Tanzania



Refugees program

- Location: Western Tanzania: Kigoma Region; Ngara District of Kagera Region
- 500,000 Refugees:
 - 350,000 Burundians
 - 150,000 Congolese
- 12 camps
- UNHCR Coordinator
 - UN Agencies: UNICEF, WFP
 - Health Implementing partners
 - Other Implementing partners



Introduction

- **1999 UNICEF support to Tanzania to start 5 PMTCT pilot projects**
- **2000 expansion to refugees.**
- **Funding from BPRM**
- **Technical support - National level PMTCT**
- **Linkage with ASRH, orphan support**

Objectives

- **To prevent mother to child transmission of HIV in refugee communities in the camps and the host community surrounding them.**
- **Specific: Reduce MTCT by 50% within 3 years.**
- **Increase antenatal uptake to 100%**
- **Provide counseling to 100% ANC, offer VCT to 80%.**
- **Offer VCT to 50% of partners**
- **Improve the quality of care**

Health Services existing

- **Curative, Nutrition and Preventive health,**
- **HIV/AIDS**
 - **Health education**
 - **Universal precautions**
 - **Condom promotion**
 - **VCT,**
 - **STI case management**
 - **Home Based Care**
 - **Management of opportunistic infections**
 - **School health, ASRH**

HIV Risk factors

- **High prevalence of STI and HIV in host community**
- **Risky sexual behavior**
- **Social Interaction with local community**
- **Sexual and Gender Based Violence**

Needs Assessment

- **Existing reproductive health services**
- **Feasibility of PMTCT activities**
- **Low prevalence rate (3%) in camps**
- **High in host community (>10%)**
- **Pilot site -Lukole camps**
- **Health NGO in camps –NPA**
- **Population: 100,000**

Preparations

- **Funding- early 2002**
- **Mobilization and Sensitization,**
- **Modifications of structures- MCH clinics, flow pattern**
- **Staffing,**
- **Study visits.**
- **Training, IEC materials, guidelines**
- **Additional materials and supplies**
- **Official launching - October 2002.**

Integration of PMTCT into MCH Services

- **Few modifications,**
- **Access ANC, natal and postnatal**
- **VCT,ARVs,Modified obstetric care,
FP, Infant feeding counseling**
- **Growth monitoring and testing at
15&18 months.**
- **Referral to HBC**
- **Supplementary Feeding**
- **Male involvement, stigma reduction.** ¹¹

Strategies

- **Active community participation**
- **Linkages & integration**
- **Rapid on site HIV Testing**
- **Training everybody.**
- **Support social mobilization**
- **Encourage partner involvement**
- **Partnership with others**
- **Supplies-continuous**
- **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Achievements

- **7393 pregnant women attended ANC (6 months).**
- **97.6% of the above accepted counseling.**
- **90.1% of those counseled tested for HIV.**
- **3.5% of those tested were found to be HIV positive.**

Achievement ct.

- **Of those tested positive who reached 34 weeks, 93.3% took Nevirapine.**
- **35 women delivered in this period**
- **28, 80% were Hospital delivery,**
- **27 took Nevirapine**
- **(7)20% delivered at home where (5)71% took Nevirapine.**
- **32 deliveries were by SVD,3 by C/S**

Cont.

- **One abortion, one IUFD.**
- **Infant feeding; 34- EBF**
 - **1 replacement feeding**
- **9.3% partners were counseled**
- **93.6 tested**
- **2.3% were positive**

Achievements cont,

- **631 attended ANC from host community**
- **80% accepted counseling**
- **85% tested for HIV**
- **>6% tested positive**
- **67% mothers accepted Nevirapine**
- **3 delivered at Hospital, mother and baby took Nevirapine**
- **Partner involvement was 0.6%**

Challenges/constraints

- **Repatriation**
- **Follow up**
- **Confirmation**
- **Stigma**
- **Privacy and confidentiality**
- **Partner involvement**
- **interruptions**
- **Short term funding**



Lessons identified

- **Community participation**
- **Technical support**
- **Integration**
- **Commitment**

Way-Forward

- **Sensitization**
- **Increase partner involvement**
- **Proper follow-up**
- **Prophylaxis**
- **Strengthening HBC**
- **More Studies**
- **Development of Data management tool**