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HIV Impact Network for Vertical Transmission Elimination

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Delivering Differently for Mothers & Infants: Prioritizing Vertical Transmission Prevention in a Shifting Landscape

Elaine J. Abrams, MD
Professor of Pediatrics & Epidemiology, Columbia University
Senior Director for Research, ICAP
Principal Investigator, HIVE Network

CQUIN 9th Annual Meeting | Delivering Differently: Prioritize. Adapt. Sustain

Prioritizing Vertical Transmission Prevention in a Shifting Landscape

- Achievements and challenges in VTP through 2024
- VTP services, Jan - Oct 2025
- Prioritizing and preserving VTP services

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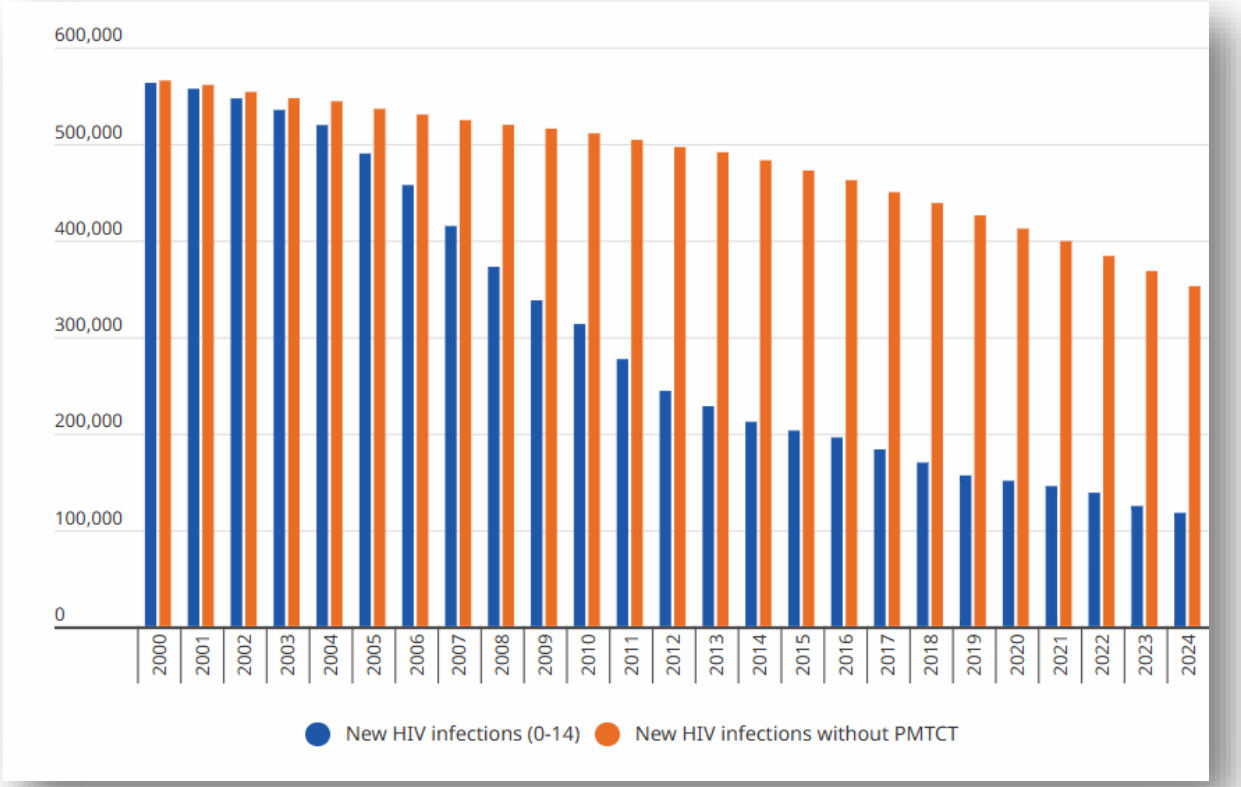
Remarkable achievements preventing new pediatric HIV infections

Over 4.4 million new pediatric HIV infections have been averted between 2000 and 2024

62% decline in new pediatric HIV infections, 2010-2024

- **Largely attributable to the scale-up of effective interventions to prevent vertical transmission**



Annual number of new pediatric HIV infections (blue) and averted pediatric HIV infections (orange)

Source: UNAIDS 2025 estimates

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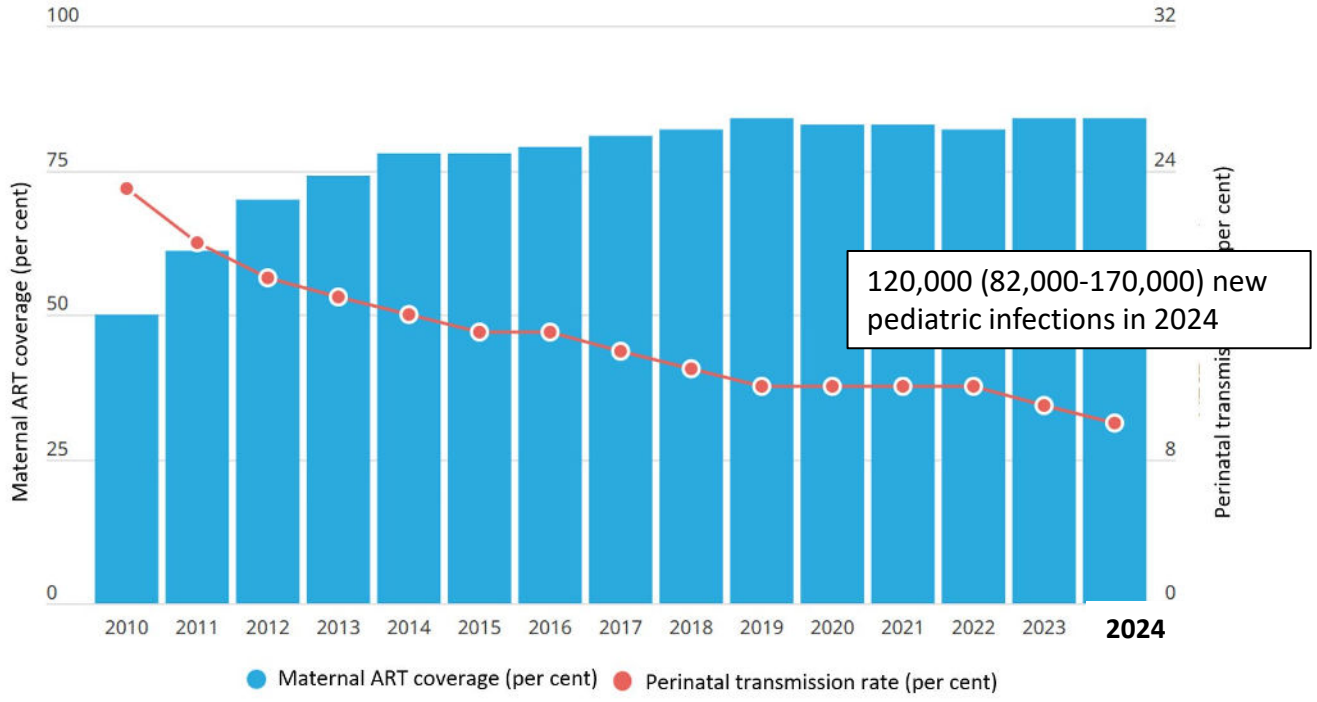
New HIV infections among children (0-14 years) and ART coverage among pregnant and breastfeeding women, globally, 2010-2024



Source: UNAIDS 2025 estimates

84% of pregnant women with HIV received ART in 2024

70% were already on ART before their current pregnancy

1 in every 10 infants born to mothers with HIV acquired HIV infection in 2024

120,000 new pediatric HIV infections in 2024

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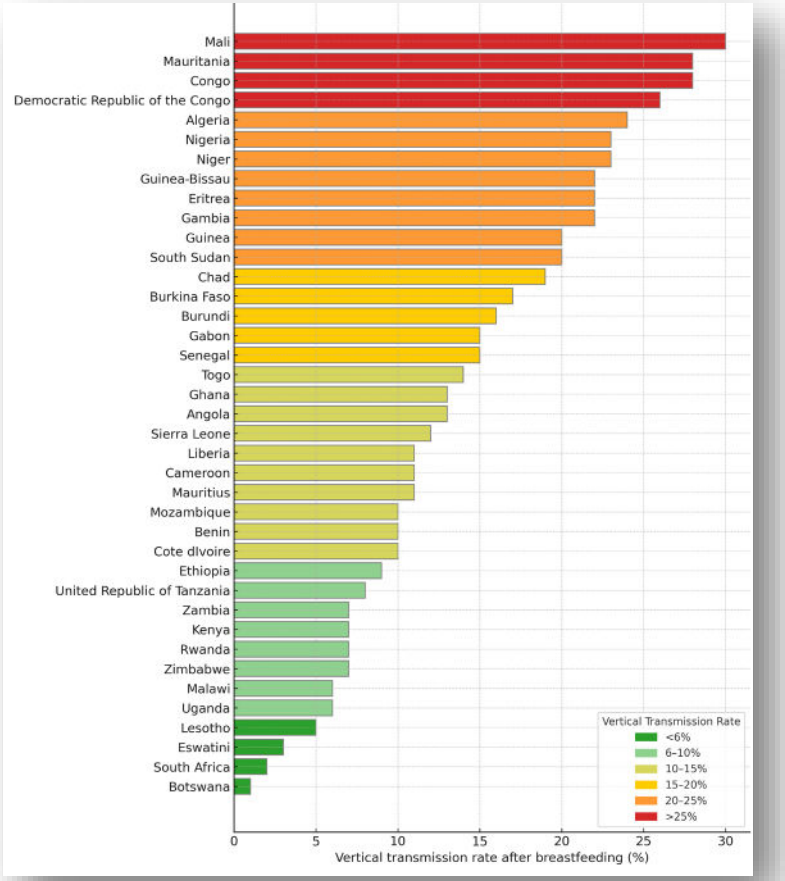
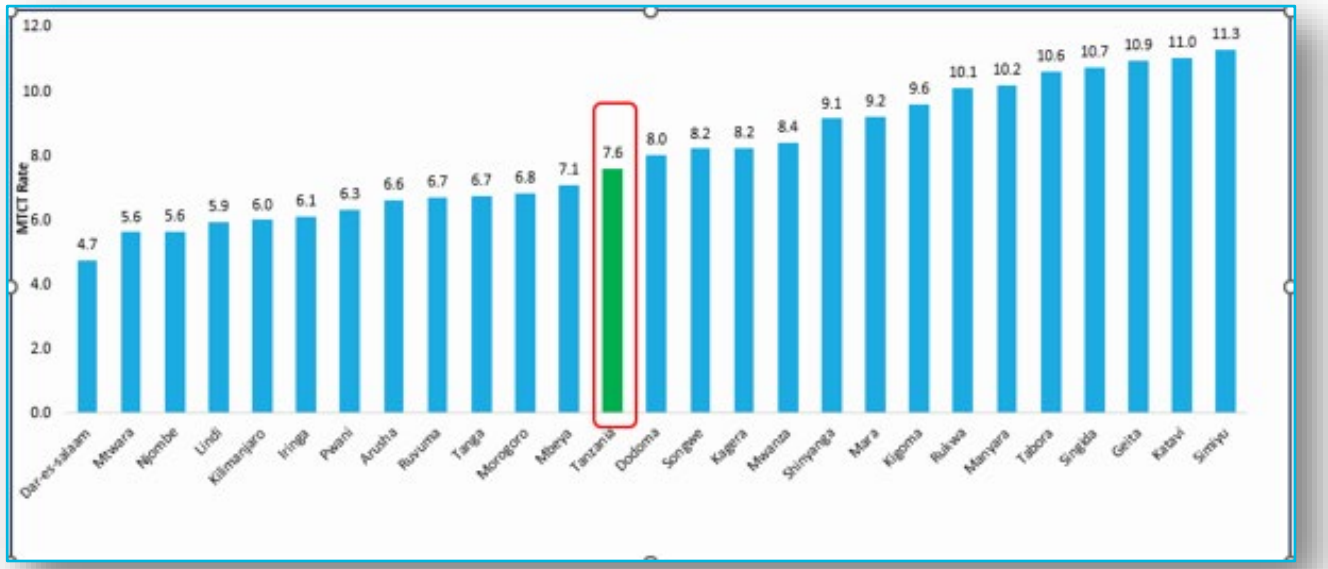
Large variations in vertical transmission by region, country, and within countries by county/province



WHO/AFRO HIV scorecard 2023: Vertical transmission rates after breastfeeding



Vertical transmission rate, national and by regions, Tanzania, 2024 (UNAIDS Spectrum 2024)

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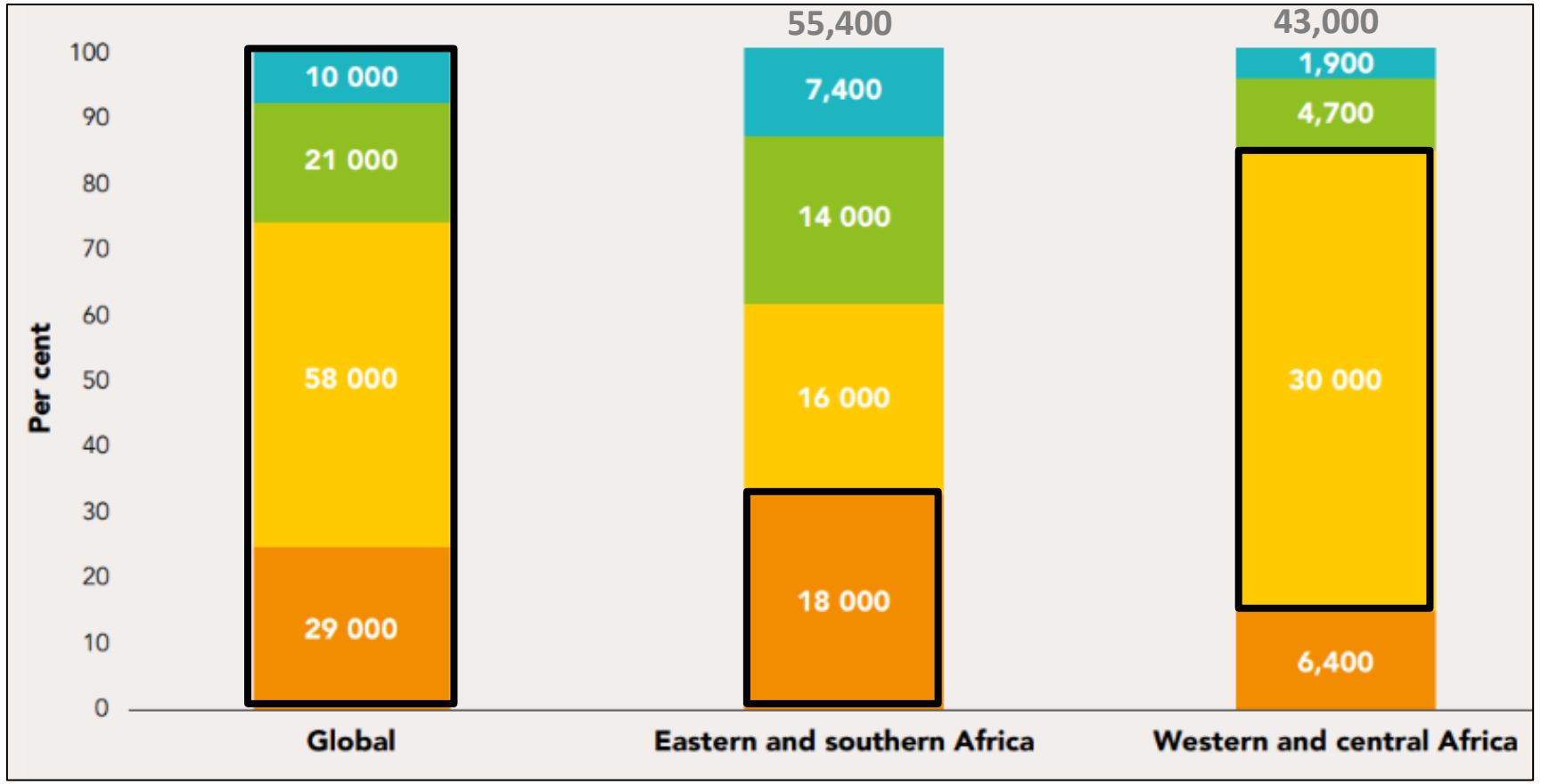
Causes of new pediatric infections globally and by region, 2024



Source: UNAIDS 2025 estimates

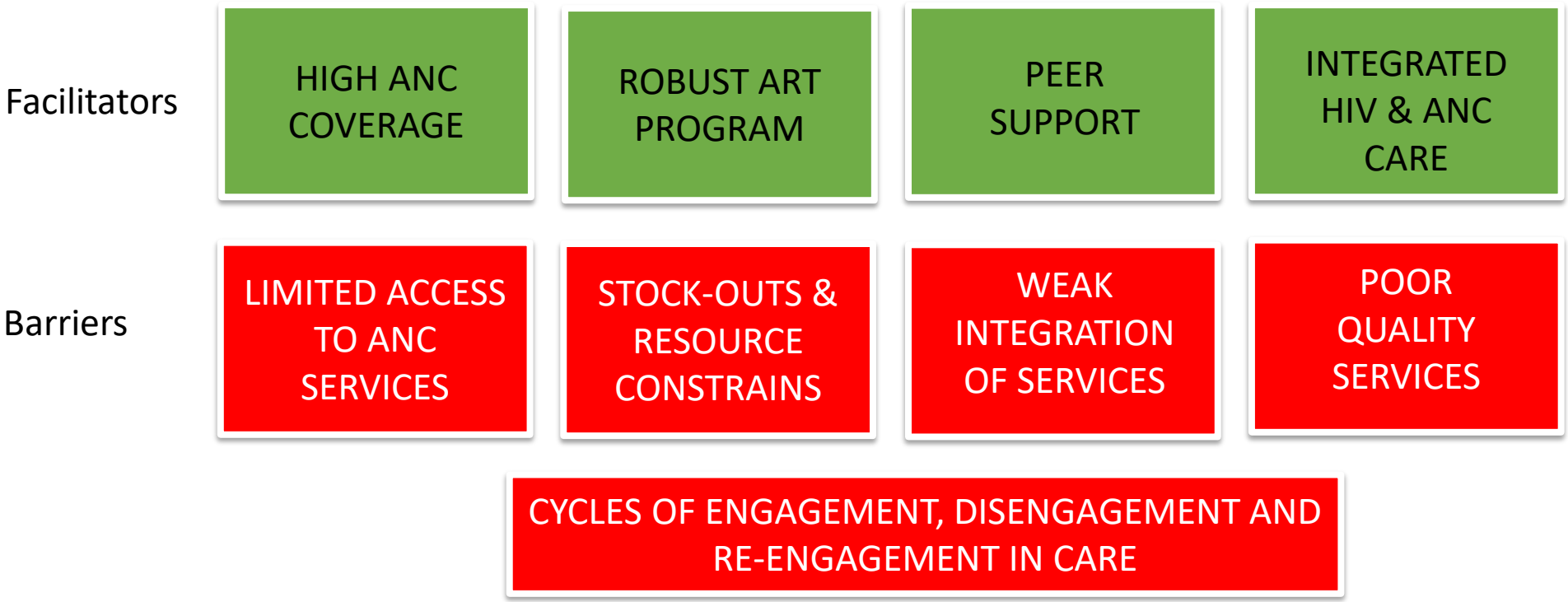
A third of new pediatric HIV infection are attributable to **women acquiring HIV during pregnancy or postpartum**

70% of new pediatric infection attributable to **women not diagnosed and receiving ART**

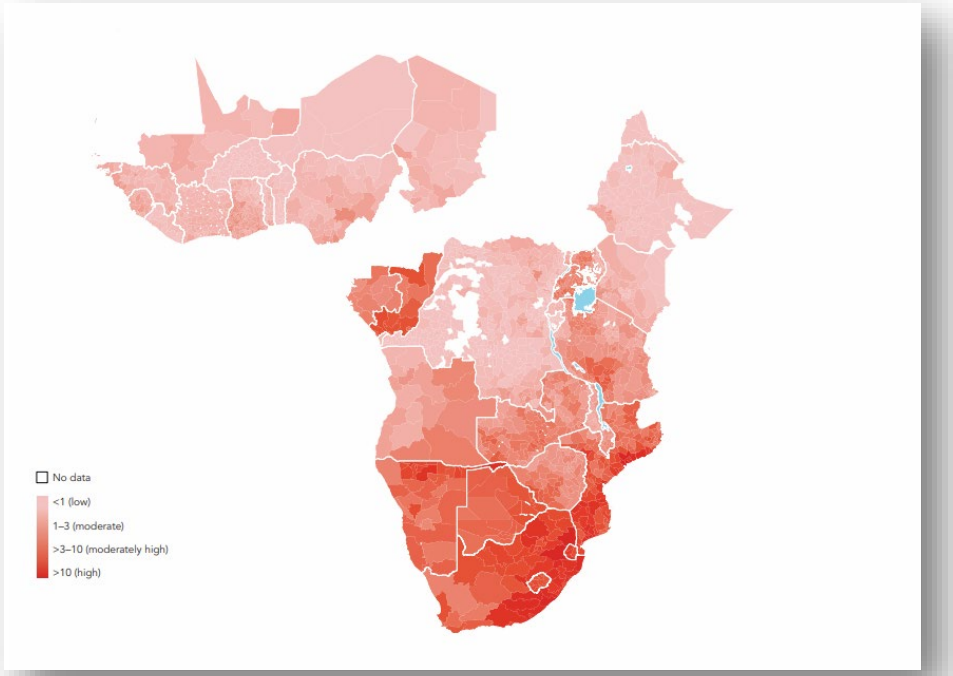
Globally 58,000 new child infections – nearly 50% - still occur because pregnant women are not diagnosed and started on ART

- Mother was on antiretroviral therapy but did not have a suppressed viral load
- Mother did not continue antiretroviral therapy during pregnancy or breastfeeding
- Mother did not receive antiretroviral therapy during pregnancy or breastfeeding
- Mother acquired HIV during pregnancy or breastfeeding

Facilitators and barriers to HIV testing and ART during pregnancy and breastfeeding



Mothers newly acquiring HIV during pregnancy and breastfeeding



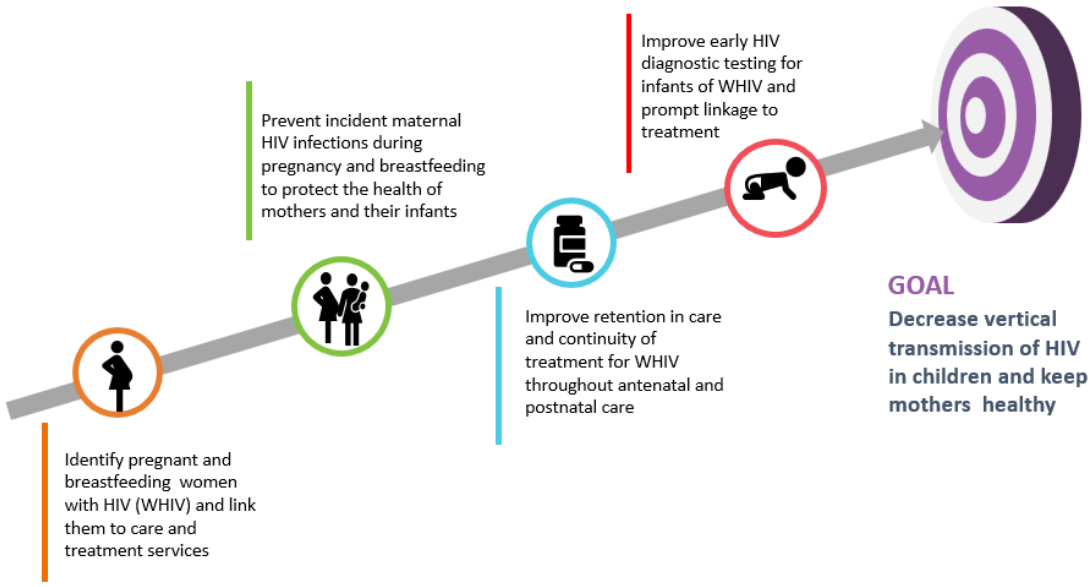
HIV incidence among adolescent girls and young women, 15-24 years, subnational levels, sub-Saharan Africa, 2024

Source: UNAIDS 2025 estimates

- **Persistent high HIV incidence among adolescent girls and young women, including pregnant and breastfeeding women**
  - **Slow PrEP scale-up; poor persistence on PrEP**
  - **HIV prevention relies heavily on donor funding**
- **>250 million women globally who want to avoid pregnancy are not able to use effective modern contraception**

HIV Impact Network for Vertical Transmission Elimination (HIVE)

- A knowledge exchange platform to catalyze advancement in **coverage and quality** of impactful services designed to **prevent the vertical transmission of HIV**
- The network **convenes health system leaders** from six countries, **Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia, Tanzania,** and global stakeholders to participate in joint learning, exchange of best practices, and co-creation of tools and resources to support country priorities
- HIVE provides **platforms for experience-sharing and peer-to-peer learning** for rapid adoption of best practices and impactful interventions to address gaps
- The network supports **collaborative problem-solving,** and enables member countries to request technical assistance from **ICAP and PATA**



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HIVE Vertical Transmission Elimination (VTE) CMM

Kenya

	dHTS Policy: L&D	dHTS Policy: Infants		
	dHTS Policy: PN/BF period	Differentiated ART		
	Scale-Up Plan	VL Monitoring: PBFW	Coordination	
dHTS Policy: ANC Period	Procurement	Community Engagement	Facility Coverage: Testing	
Operational Guidance	Linkage to ART	M&E System	Testing Coverage	PrEP for PBFW
Training	ART Coverage	Continuity of ART	Neonatal Syphilis	Postnatal Prophylaxis
Service Quality	Impact	Data Quality	Neonatal Hepatitis	EID
Most mature				Least mature

Tanzania

Completed in Q4, 2024

Coordination				dHTS Policy: ANC Period
Community Engagement	dHTS Policy: L&D			PrEP for PBFW
Training	dHTS Policy: PN/BF period			Differentiated ART
Procurement	dHTS Policy: Infants	Scale-Up Plan		VL Monitoring: PBFW
ART Coverage	Postnatal Prophylaxis	M&E System		Operational Guidance
Service Quality	Linkage to ART	Continuity of ART	Facility Coverage: Testing	EID
Neonatal Syphilis	Impact	Data Quality	Testing Coverage	Neonatal Hepatitis
Most mature				Least mature

Mozambique

				dHTS Policy: ANC Period
				dHTS Policy: Infants
dHTS Policy: L&D				Differentiated ART
dHTS Policy: PN/BF period				Scale-Up Plan
Operational Guidance				Community Engagement
Coordination				Testing Coverage
Training		Postnatal Prophylaxis		Linkage to ART
Procurement		VL Monitoring: PBFW	PrEP for PBFW	Continuity of ART
Facility Coverage: Testing		M&E System	ART Coverage	EID
Neonatal Syphilis	Impact	Data Quality	Service Quality	Neonatal Hepatitis
Most mature				Least mature

South Africa

					dHTS Policy: ANC Period
					PrEP for PBFW
					Postnatal Prophylaxis
					Differentiated ART
					VL Monitoring: PBFW
					Community Engagement
					Facility Coverage: Testing
					Testing Coverage
					Linkage to ART
				dHTS Policy: PN/BF period	ART Coverage
Coordination	dHTS Policy: L&D			dHTS Policy: Infants	Continuity of ART
Training	Operational Guidance	Scale-Up Plan		M&E System	EID
Procurement	Neonatal Syphilis	Neonatal Hepatitis		Service Quality	Data Quality
Most mature					Impact
					Least mature

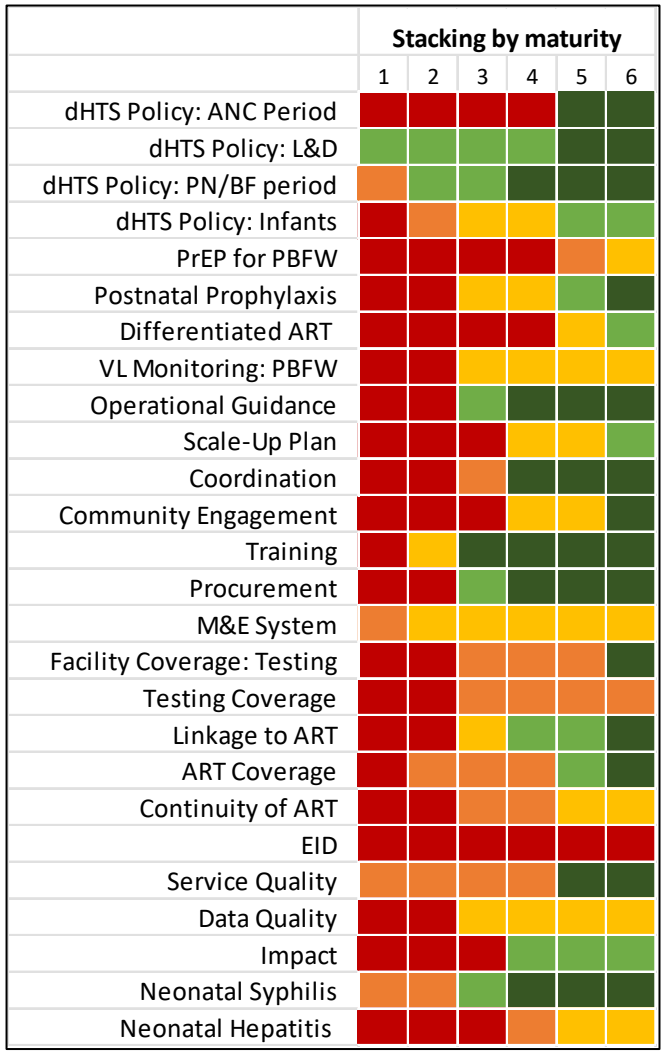
Nigeria

				dHTS Policy: ANC Period
		dHTS Policy: Infants		PrEP for PBFW
		VL Monitoring: PBFW	Facility Coverage: Testing	Scale-Up Plan
		Community Engagement	Testing Coverage	Coordination
dHTS Policy: L&D		Training	ART Coverage	Procurement
dHTS Policy: PN/BF period		M&E System	Continuity of ART	EID
Postnatal Prophylaxis		Linkage to ART	Service Quality	Impact
Operational Guidance	Differentiated ART	Data Quality	Neonatal Syphilis	Neonatal Hepatitis
Most mature				Least mature

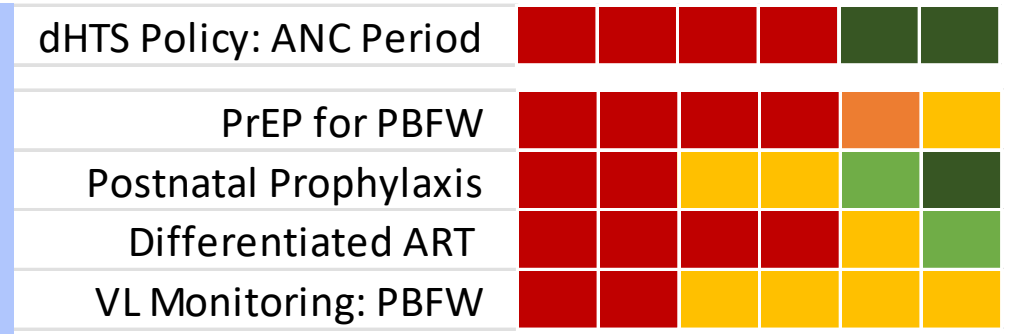
Zambia

				Differentiated ART
				Operational Guidance
				Scale-Up Plan
				Coordination
				Community Engagement
				Training
		PrEP for PBFW		Procurement
dHTS Policy: ANC Period		Postnatal Prophylaxis	Testing Coverage	Facility Coverage: Testing
dHTS Policy: PN/BF period		VL Monitoring: PBFW	ART Coverage	EID
Linkage to ART	dHTS Policy: L&D	M&E System	Continuity of ART	Data Quality
Neonatal Syphilis	dHTS Policy: Infants	Neonatal Hepatitis	Service Quality	Impact
Most mature				Least mature

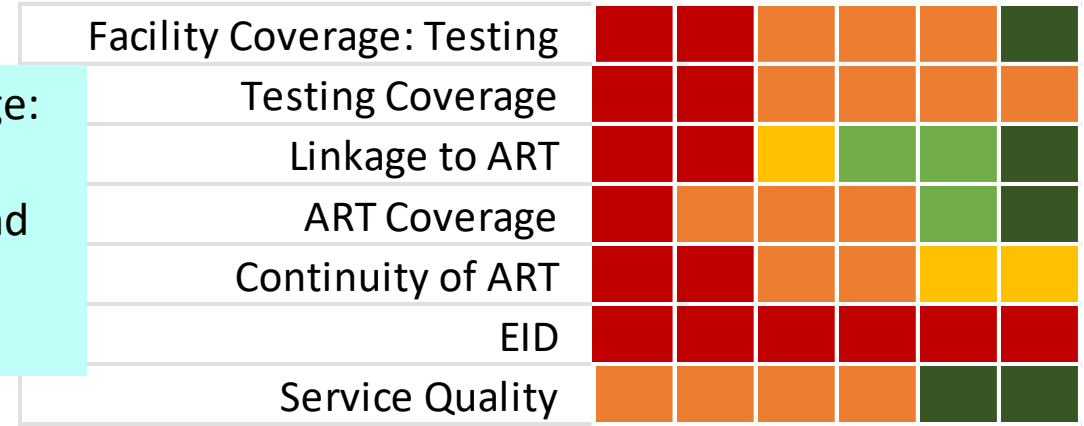
HIV VTE CMM, Baseline Results
6 countries*, Q4 2024



Policies and guidance: Shortcomings in dHTS testing in ANC period, PrEP and VL monitoring for PBFW, PNP, and differentiated ART.



VTP services and coverage: Deficiencies in facility testing, ART coverage, and early infant diagnosis.

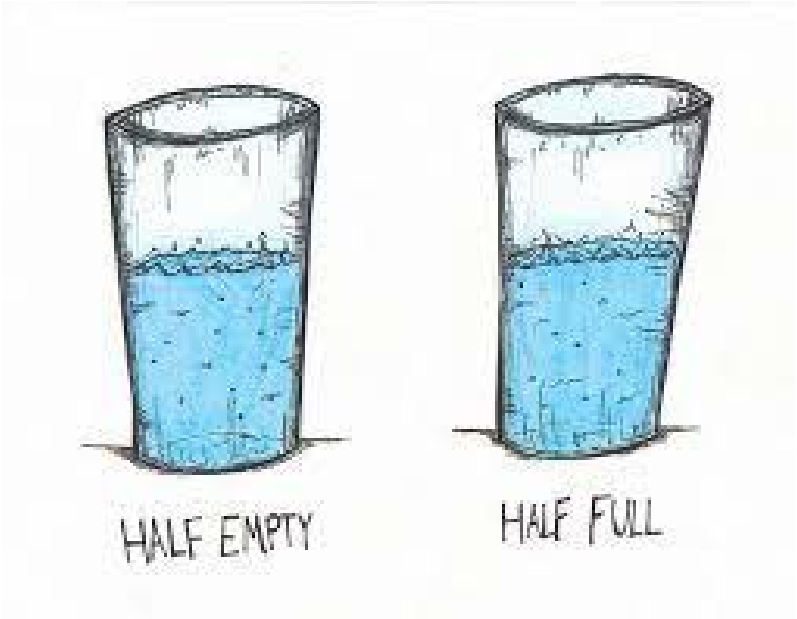


*Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia

Twenty years later…..

Successful scale-up of interventions to prevent new pediatric infections and keep mothers healthy

- **1 million pregnant women receiving ART annually**
- **Reduction in vertical transmission rates in many countries**
- **4.4 million pediatric HIV infections averted**



Progress has stalled - for mothers & children

More than **1.4 Million** Children are Living with HIV worldwide

120,000

new pediatric HIV infections 2024

1 in 5

pregnant women with HIV are **not on antiretroviral therapy**

585,000

new HIV infections annually among **women & girls**

75,000

HIV-related child deaths annually worldwide

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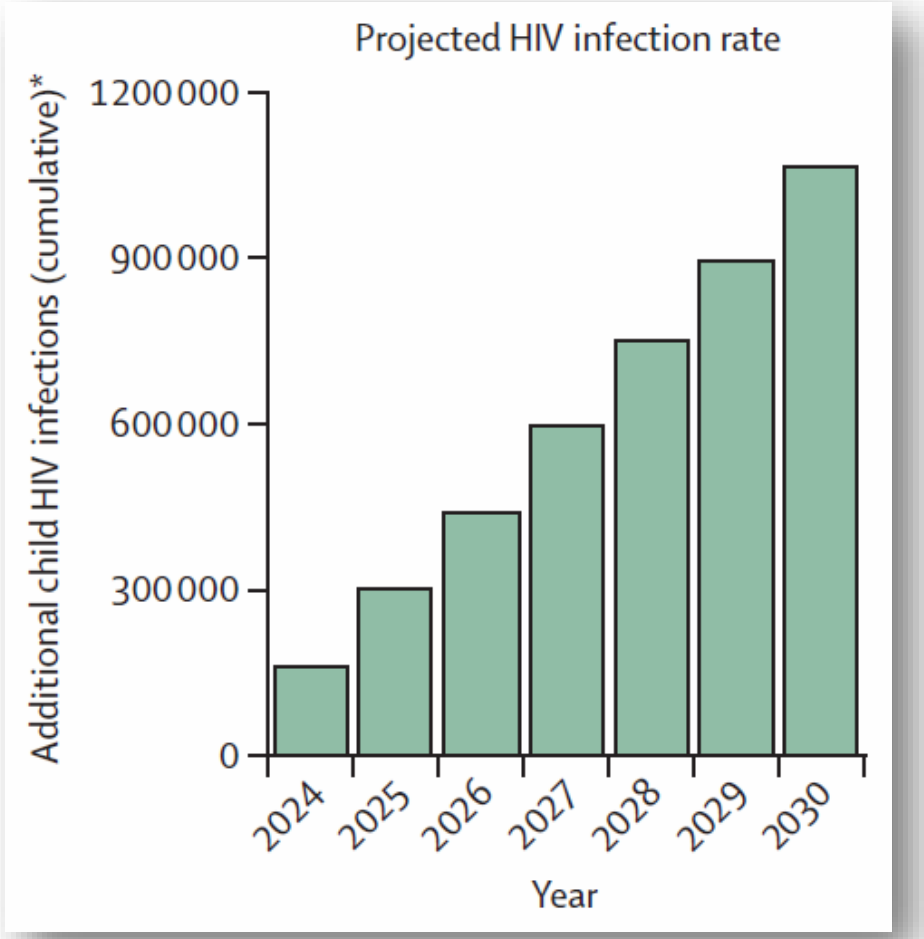
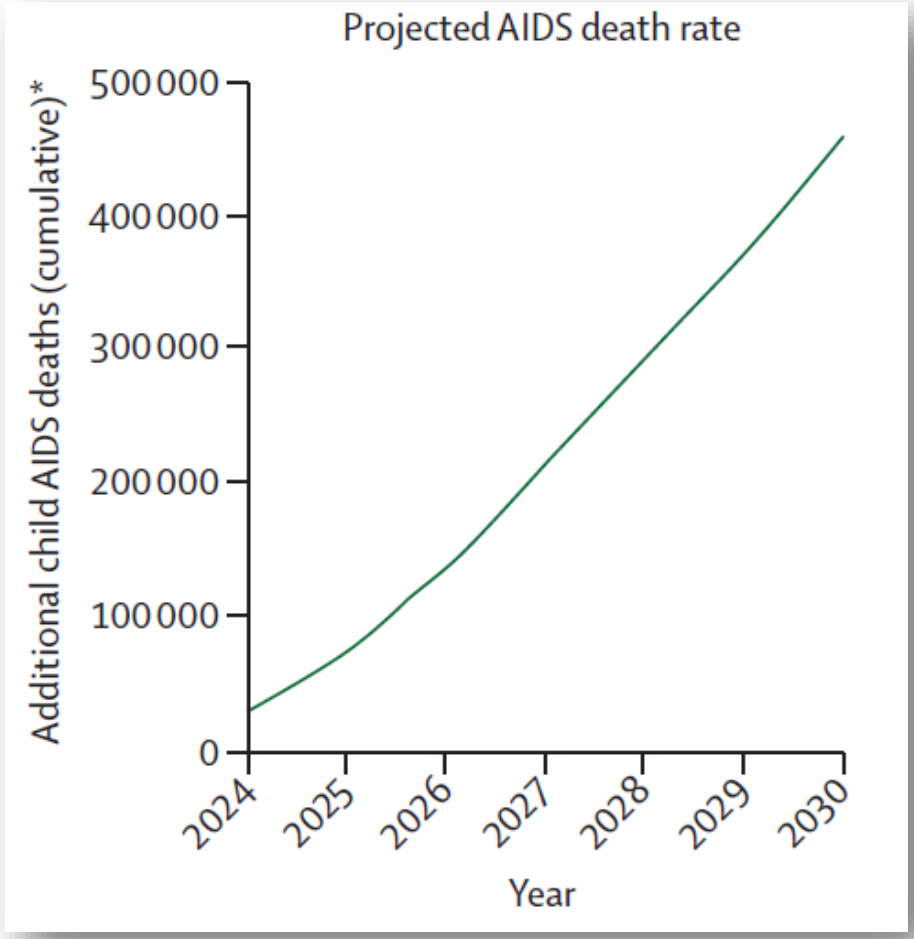
Staying the course, VTP services, Jan - Oct 2025

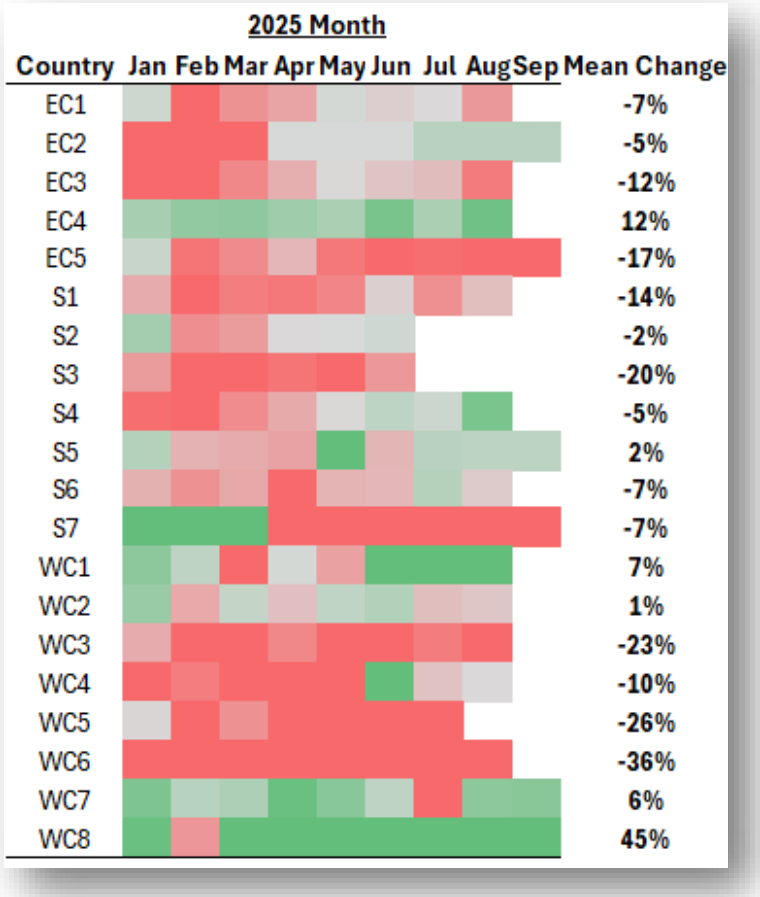




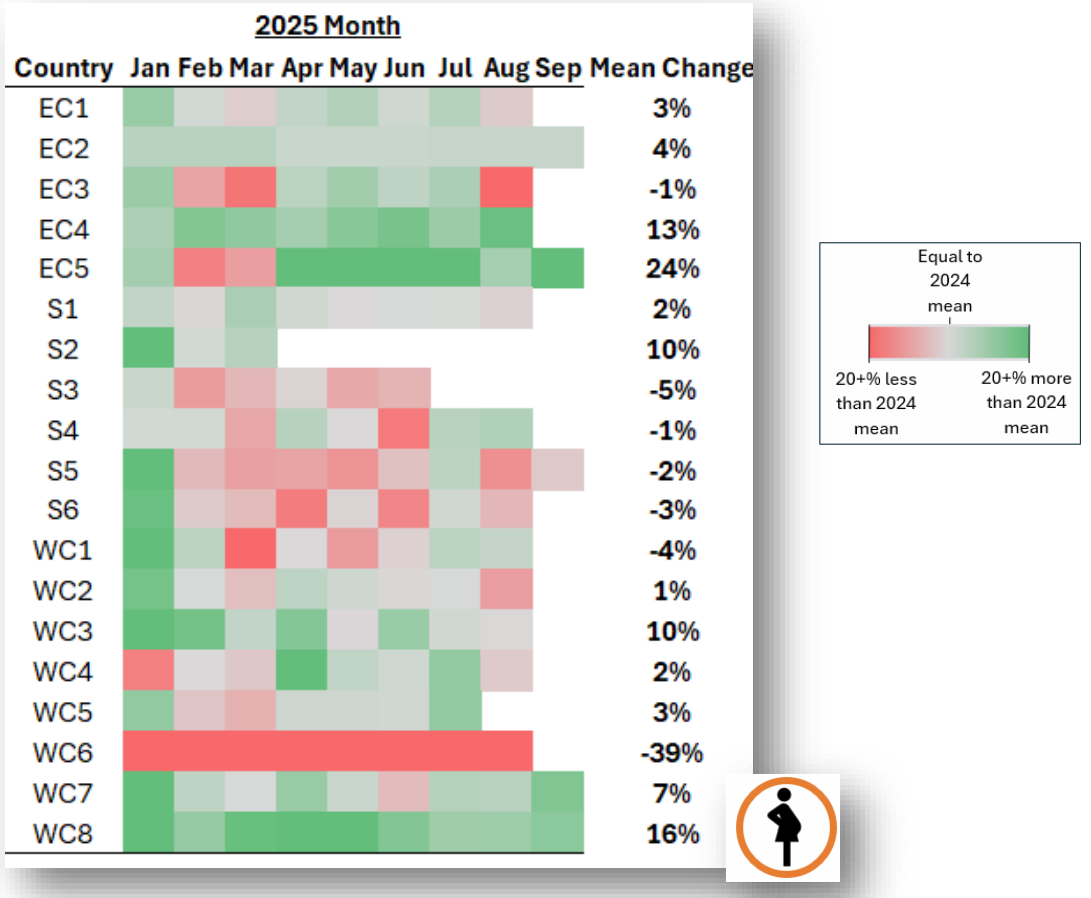
Without PEPFAR, 1 million new child HIV infections and 460,000 child deaths projected by 2030

Cluver et al, l https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(25)00401-5

Gains in testing of pregnant women compared to general population, 2025 vs 2024

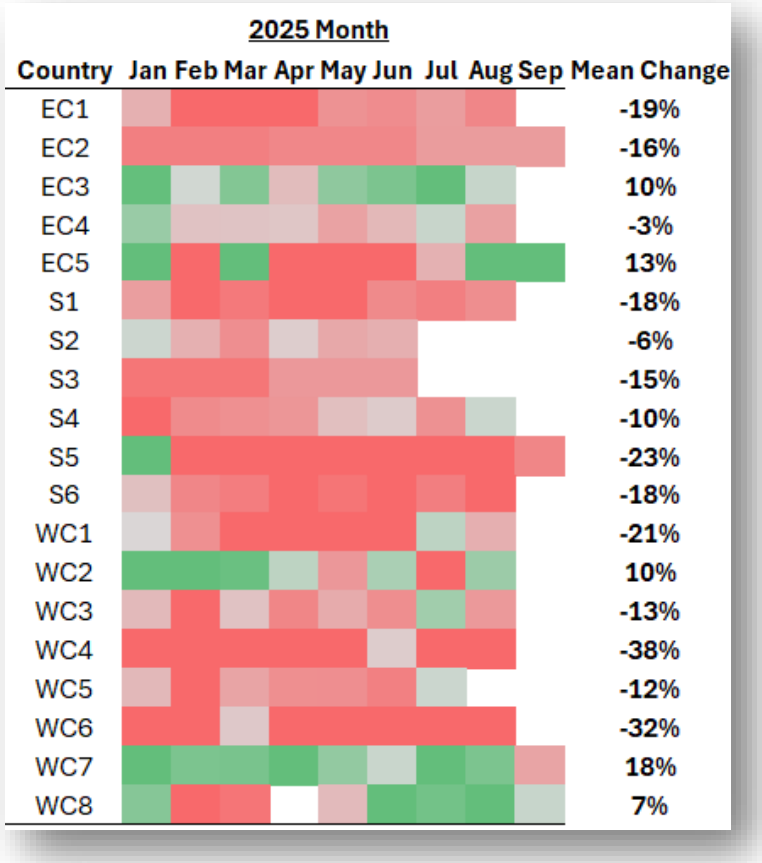


Percent difference in **number of people tested for HIV** by month (vs. 2024 mean)

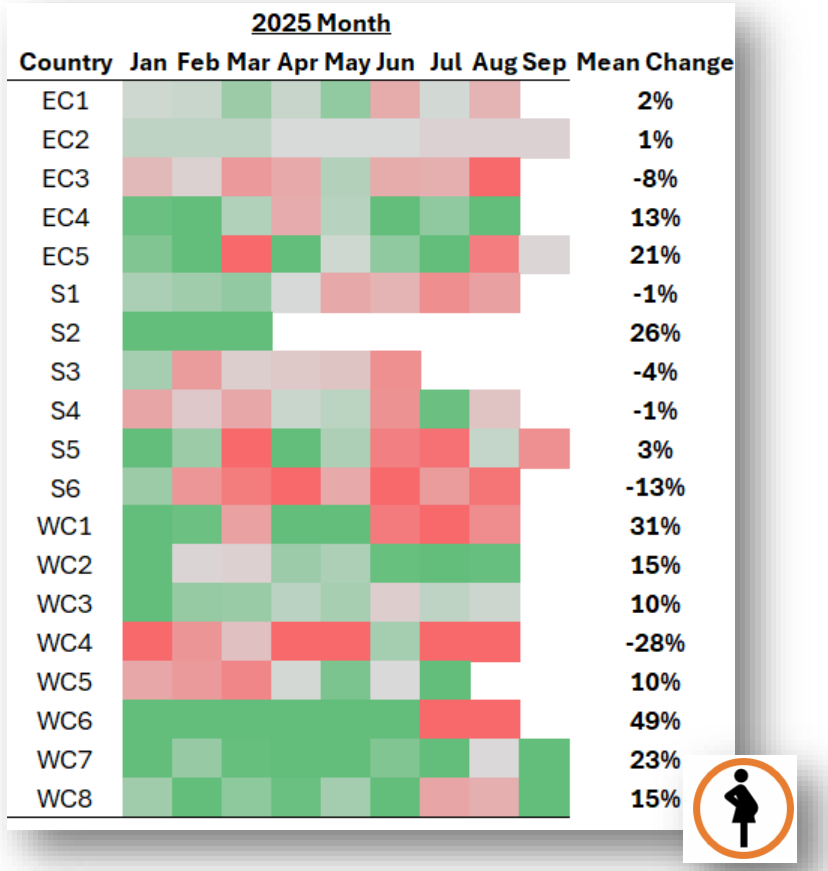


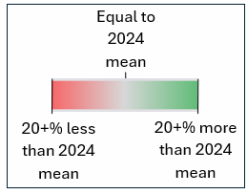
Percent difference in **number of pregnant women (PW) attending ANC1 tested** for HIV by month (vs. 2024 mean)

Gains in number of pregnant women testing positive compared to general population, 2025 vs 2024



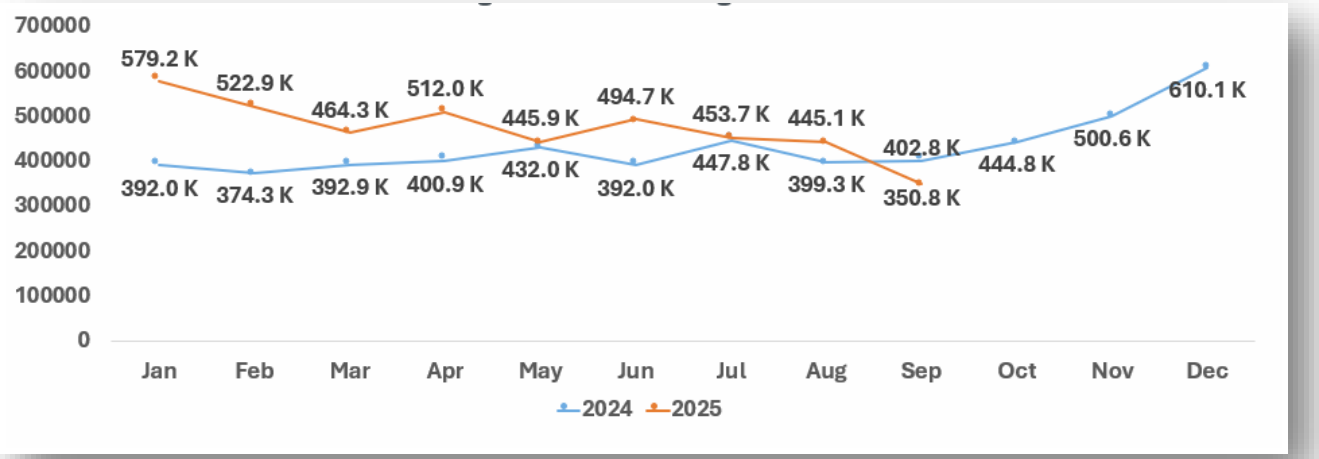
Percent difference in **number of people tested HIV positive** by month (vs. 2024 mean)





Percent difference in **number of PW attending ANC1 tested HIV positive** by month (vs. 2024 mean)

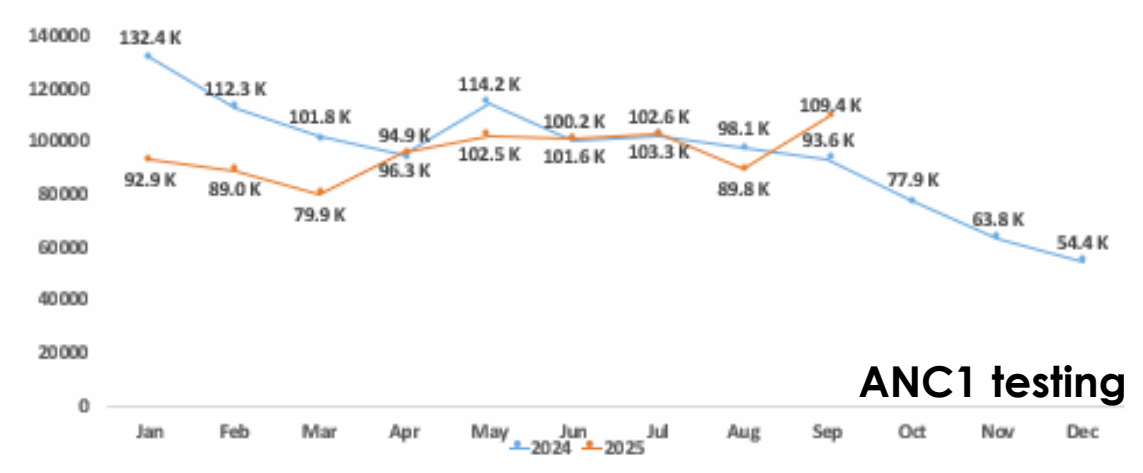
HIV testing at ANC1, Nigeria, 2024-2025



Nigeria maintained high coverage of HIV testing at ANC1 in **2025** vs. **2024**

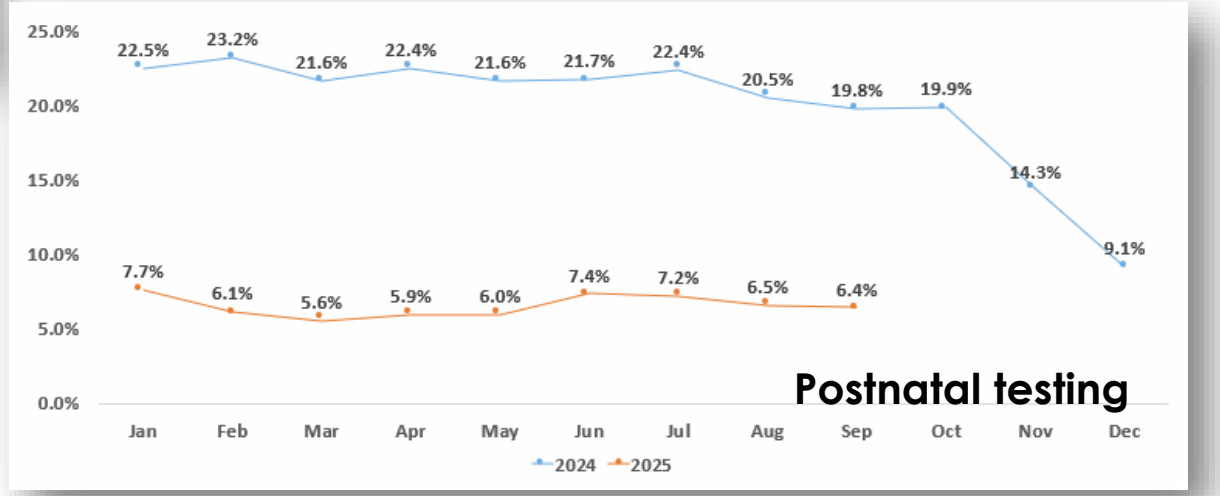
4.2 million pregnant women (84%) were tested for HIV, Jan-June 2025, despite periodic stockouts of HIV test kits

Kenya attained high HIV testing coverage at ANC1, but post-natal HIV testing coverage declined in 2025 vs. 2024

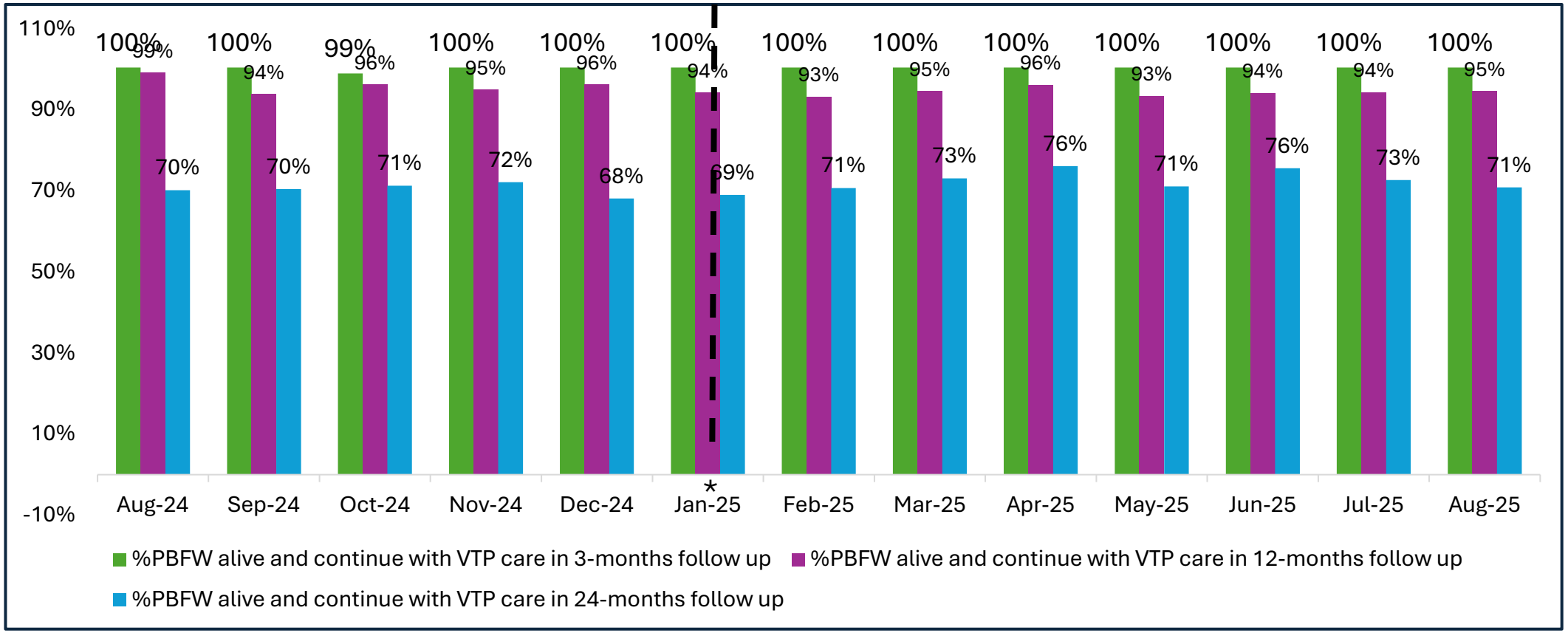


Dip in **ANC testing** in late **2024** due to transition to national health insurance fund and revised data reporting. Increased testing coverage post-SWO in early **2025**.

Significant gap in **postnatal testing** uptake in **2025** attributed to the reduction in number of counselors doing HIV testing in MCH



No decline in high retention rates at 3, 12 & 24 months among PBFW, Aug 2024-Aug 2025, Tanzania



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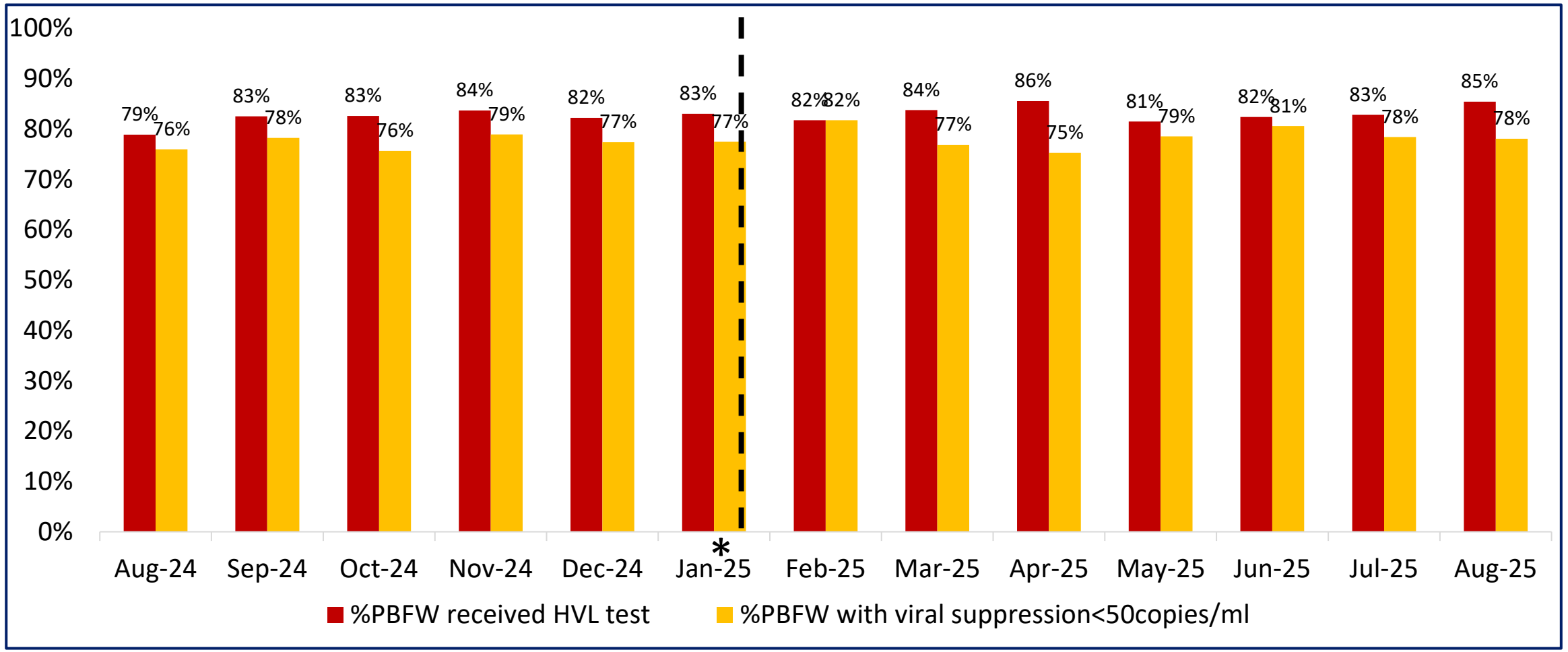
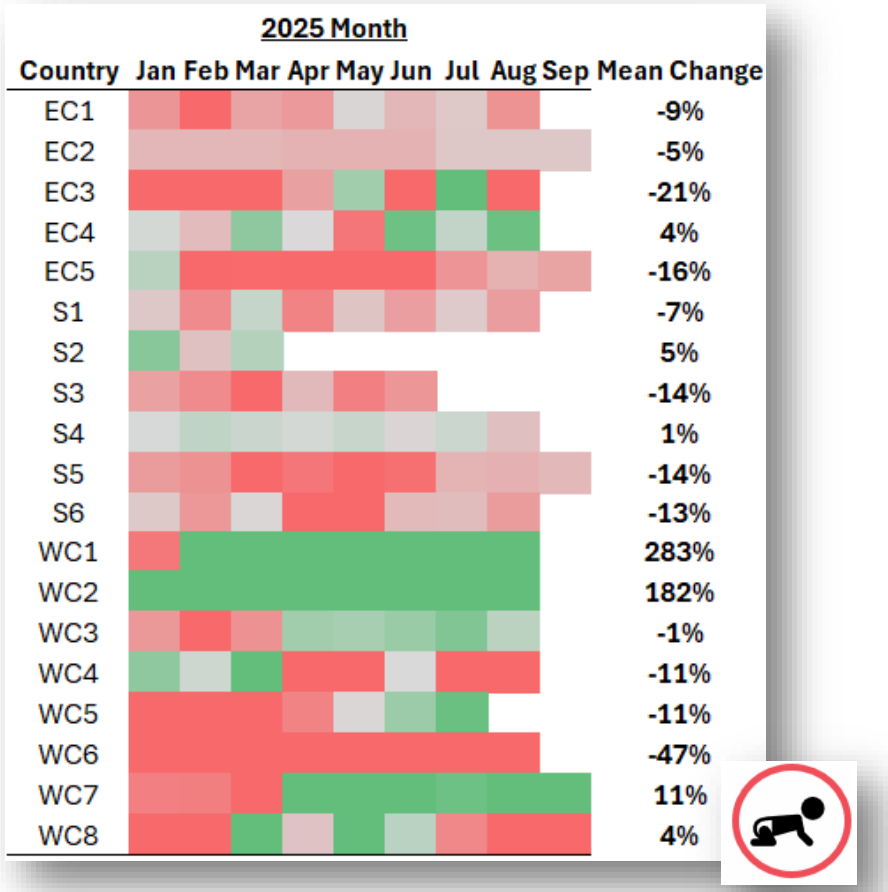
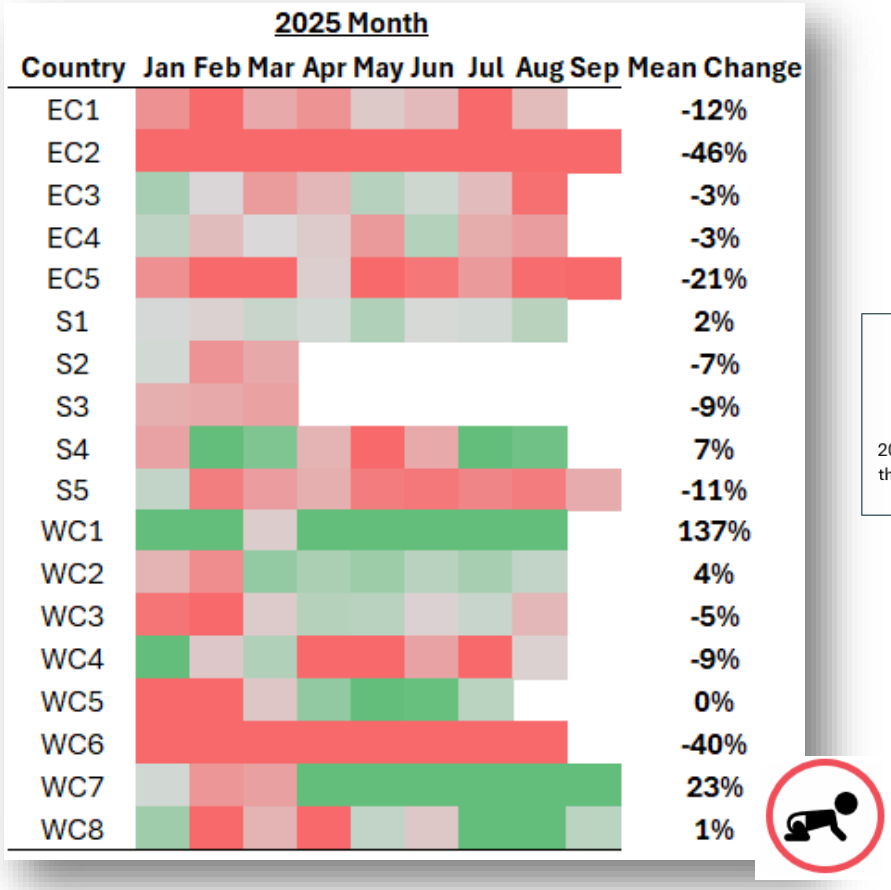
No decline in viral load coverage and suppression among PBFW, Aug 2024 – Aug 2025, Tanzania



Testing of infants for HIV infection (EID) and initiation of postnatal prophylaxis (PNP) declined substantially, 2025 vs 2024



Percent difference in number of HEI receiving first EID test <2 mos of age by month (vs. 2024 mean)



Percent difference in number of HEI started on ARV PNP at birth or < 6 wks by month (vs. 2024 mean)

Essential services for HIV-exposed infants are highly vulnerable

Trends among HIVE countries:

- In Zambia, **fewer infants had EID testing** in 2025 vs 2024
- In Kenya, **fewer infants received PNP** monthly in 2025 vs 2024
- In South Africa, **linkage to ART for infants determined to have HIV infection declined** from > 75% in FY23/24 to 50% by Q4 FY24/25
- In Mozambique, EID positivity rates remained **stubbornly high** throughout 2024 and 2025, 1-2% at <2 months, 9-11% at >2 months

Staying the course, VTP services, Jan - Oct 2025

Catastrophic predictions not (yet) realized

CQUIN/HIVE data suggest:

- **HIV testing ANC1 and ART initiation in pregnancy has been maintained**
- **Testing, postnatal prophylaxis and possibly ART have declined for infants**

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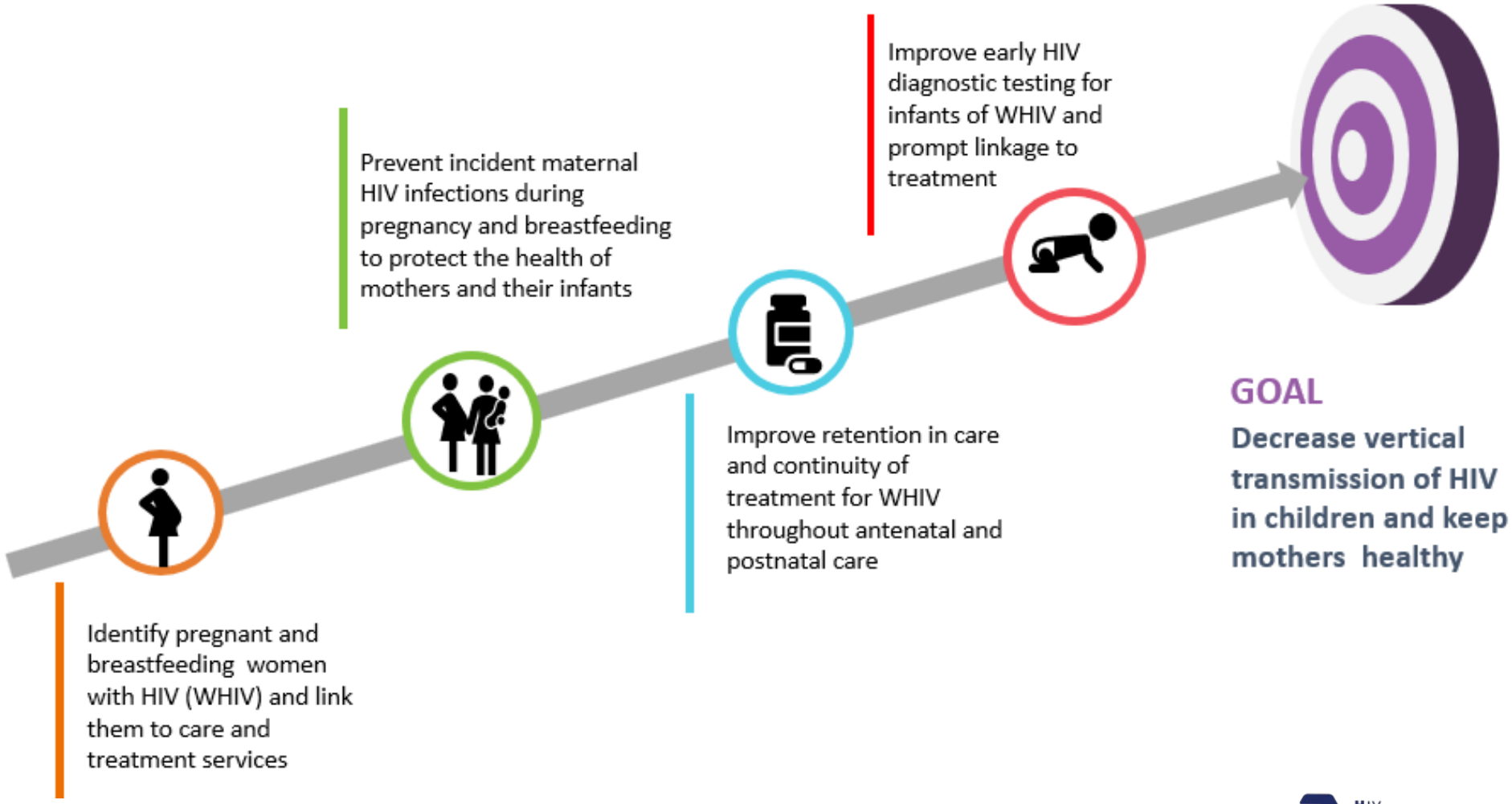
Prioritizing and preserving VTP services



Integration – a key to success

Integration of HIV care in the ANC has been key to the successful scale-up of HIV testing and treatment for pregnant women

- **Resilient to funding shifts**

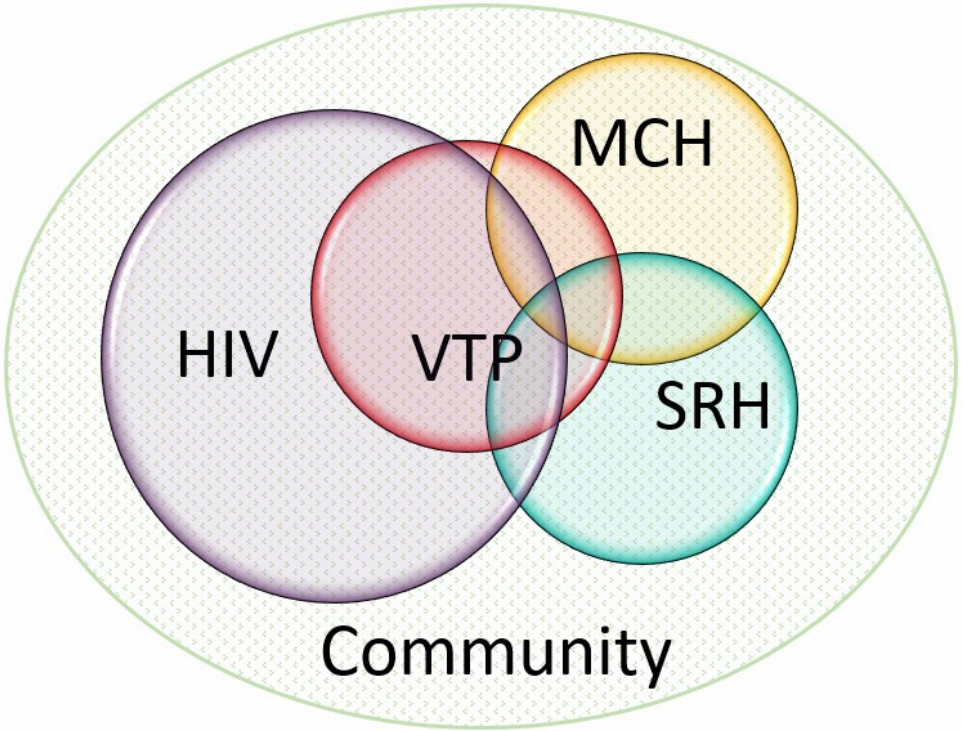
Integration has been more difficult to achieve postpartum during breastfeeding

- **Mother-child HIV care postpartum often siloed within the MCH**
- **'Integration' includes routine infant care (growth monitoring, immunizations), infant HIV care (EID, PNP), maternal HIV care (ART, VL monitoring) & maternal SRH**

VTP within a complex ecosystem

VTP programs and services do not exist within a vacuum but are situated within the ecosystem of HIV, health programs, and community

- Negative impacts on other HIV services will have a downhill impact on VTP
- The ecosystem includes SRH and MCH services
  - Both maternal and child survival are threatened by cuts to family planning and immunization programs



New innovations and technologies

Employing existing and new tools and technologies has the potential to accelerate achieving VTP goals

- Long-acting injectables have generated much excitement
- Continue investment in all tools in the prevention toolkit
- Strengthen FP and SRH services

New guidance for PNP can provide an extra layer of protection for the breastfeeding baby

- Compensate for decreasing maternal VL monitoring

Innovations in service delivery should not be overlooked

- Using national postal services to transport EID samples
- Expanding POC testing for EID & VL monitoring

All things community…

Keeping community and ROC front and center:

- **Integral role of community workers across the VTP cascade**
  - Mother mentors have been critical to improving maternal and child health outcomes across the VTP cascade
  - Multiple studies have demonstrated efficacy of community and peer support
  - Peer and lay workers are highly vulnerable to funding cuts
- **Critical importance of providing community-based VTP services**
- **Community-led monitoring provides critical data and insights to inform VTP**

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Thank You!