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TECHNICAL  
**BRIEF. 6**

Community Strategy

**Clinical Services**

Health Communication

Monitoring & Evaluation

# Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV

## Four prongs of PMTCT interventions

1. Prevention of HIV among women of reproductive age .
2. Providing counselling and support, and family planning to women living with HIV.
3. HIV testing and counselling and access to ART for HIV-positive women.
4. HIV care, treatment and support for women, children living with HIV and their families.

Prevention of HIV transmission from mother to child (PMTCT) is an essential component of the Government's national antenatal care policy and service package. APHIAplus Nuru ya Bonde will work with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to integrate PMTCT interventions into existing maternal, newborn and child health services at all levels of the health system and the community.

## Key objectives

APHIAplus Nuru ya Bonde works closely with the MOH to support PMTCT services at more than 600 sites. The program focuses on integrating PMTCT with HIV prevention, malaria, TB, family planning and maternal, neonatal and child health (MNCH) services. The PMTCT package will be offered, strengthened and monitored at all supported sites.

The program's technical approach include the following activities:

- Providing routine "opt out" counselling and testing with same-day results for all pregnant women attending antenatal care clinics and their partners.
- Integrating the provision of highly efficacious prophylactic ARVs and highly active antiretroviral treatment (HAART) for those eligible within the MNCH services where feasible.
- Strengthening PMTCT services at all levels.
- Addressing the unmet need for family planning among HIV-positive women and strengthening linkages between PMTCT services and FP as part of the continuum of care;
- Linking PMTCT services to medical male circumcision as part of the family approach to HIV care and an entry point to male circumcision for newborns, siblings and partners.
- Evaluation of all HIV-positive pregnant women for eligibility for HAART using both clinical staging and CD4 counts, and providing comprehensive HIV care and support to mothers, children and their families.
- Strengthening PMTCT services and follow-up care and support by establishing and promoting of post-natal clinics and services, infant feeding counselling, community follow-up and support and mother-infant tracking through MNCH clinics, including early infant diagnosis (EID) using dried blood spots (DBS) analysis. [The program aims to ensure that all 642 sites have access to DNA PCR for early infant diagnosis (EID). ]
- Utilizing community health workers to mobilize pregnant women to access PMTCT services and form mother-to-mother support groups.
- Enhancing primary prevention of HIV in young people by supporting counselling and testing for and education on risk reduction.
- Recruiting and training traditional birth attendants (TBAs) in three pilot districts to work as lay PMTCT counsellors and to provide prevention education, adherence, support and mother-baby follow-up in the community.

## Key Activities

In all supported facilities, APHIAplus Nuru ya Bonde undertakes the activities listed below.

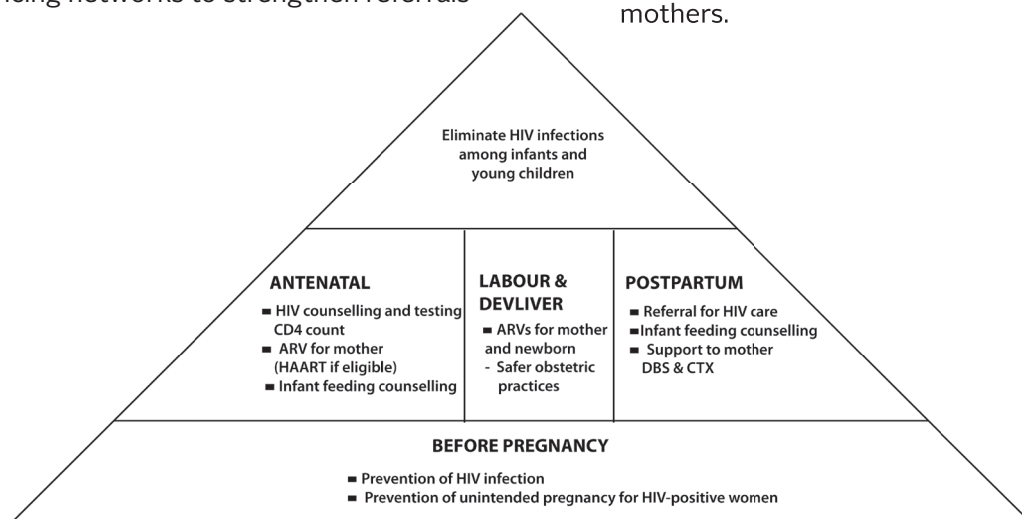
### At the facility

- Providing orientation, mentoring and support supervision of health care workers (HCWs) and supervisors in PMTCT and family planning. HWCs targeted include doctors, midwives, nurses, clinical officers, public health officers and laboratory and pharmacy staff.
- Offering routine counselling and testing in ANC using the “opt out” strategy and giving same-day results.
- Strengthening referral systems for the HIV-infected clients to ART, clinical care and other appropriate facility- and community-based services. [This will be done through referral tracking and escorted referrals as well as laboratory samples.]
- Providing HAART within the MNCH, where feasible, to eligible HIV-positive pregnant women.
- Providing comprehensive technical assistance — including commodity management orientation to address reporting, forecasting and requisition. [The program will ensure a reliable supply of HIV test kits, prophylactic ARVs and other drugs as well dry blot spot (DBS) consumables in liaison with national programs.]
- Providing incentives to promote delivery by skilled attendants at health facilities for the HIV-infected women.
- Integrating PMTCT with HIV prevention, malaria, MNCH, TB and family planning services by strengthening primary prevention and TB case finding, building capacity for health care workers involved in counselling and testing and PMTCT to provide family counselling and emphasizing the importance of malaria prevention interventions.
- Facilitating need-based, minimal refurbishment of PMTCT rooms and creation of testing corners within MNCH clinics.
- Referring HIV-negative pregnant women to prevention programs in the community.
- Orienting health workers on the revised data collection tools for effective documentation of the interventions, monitoring and quality improvements.
- Implementing the use of the national Quality Assessment/Quality Improvement (QA/QI) tools at all the supported sites.
- Develop or adapt job aids for use by health care workers.
- Strengthening male involvement in PMTCT activities.

### Interventions at community level

APHIAplus Nuru ya Bonde focuses on creating demand for services by:

1. Increasing awareness and mobilizing the community for increased access to and use of PMTCT services
2. Enhancing networks to strengthen referrals between the facility and community in collaboration with district health medical teams.
3. Scaling up PMTCT services provided at all ART satellite sites, through ANC and mobile outreach to hard-to-reach and mobile populations.
4. Expand the role of PMTCT community counsellors to include establishing and supporting support groups for HIV-positive mothers.



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