

ADDIS ABABA REGIONAL PROFILE

Community Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission Project (2009 – 2013)

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The five-year USAID/PEPFAR funded Community Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (CPMTCT) Project improved MNCH/PMTCT service utilization and case follow-up for HIV-positive mothers and their infants. IntraHealth led implementation with partners Pathfinder International, PATH, and International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). The project focused on improving MNCH/PMTCT service management, quality, access and demand. Between 2009 and 2014, the project scaled up to support 519 public health centers with a catchment population of 14.2 million in Addis Ababa City Administration, Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR, and Tigray.

ADDIS ABABA Results and Achievements

In Addis Ababa, the CPMTCT project provided technical, material and financial support to the regional health bureau (RHB) and to 22 health centers, with a catchment population of 770,000 people. The project supported a variety of trainings (Table 1) and provided health facilities with job aids (including ANC, labor and delivery and post natal care, birth preparedness and complication readiness posters, cue cards, danger signs during pregnancy posters, tracking wall charts and referral cards). The project strengthened networking with other agencies to secure infection prevention materials, rapid test kits and laboratory reagents (to prevent stock-outs), and provided essential newborn care equipment. An emphasis was placed on integrating family planning services within the MNCH platform.

Through annual review meetings and quarterly joint supportive supervision visits (JSS) with the Addis Sub-City Health Officials and the Health Center Medical Director, the project built the capacity of government counterparts in supportive supervision, data for decision making, and managing CPMTCT programs. JSS also identified and addressed barriers to quality MNCH/PMTCT services such as lack of drugs, water, electricity and furniture.

Addis Ababa Health Statistics (DHS 2011)

Total population:	3.1 million
HIV prevalence (women):	6.0%
Pregnant women attending at least one ANC visit:	94%
Institutional delivery rate:	82%

Table 1: CPMTCT-Supported Trainings	Participants
Comprehensive MNCH/PMTCT Training ¹	1471
BEmONC Training	41
Performance Quality Improvement and Supportive Supervision	233
Basic Mother Support Group Training	276
Community Mobilization and Demand Creation	195
HMIS and Supply Chain Management	99
Total	2,261

¹ Includes basic MNCH/PMTCT, infant and young child feeding and HIV rapid testing, CD4 and dried blood spot HIV testing. Health center providers and Urban Health Extension Professionals were trained.

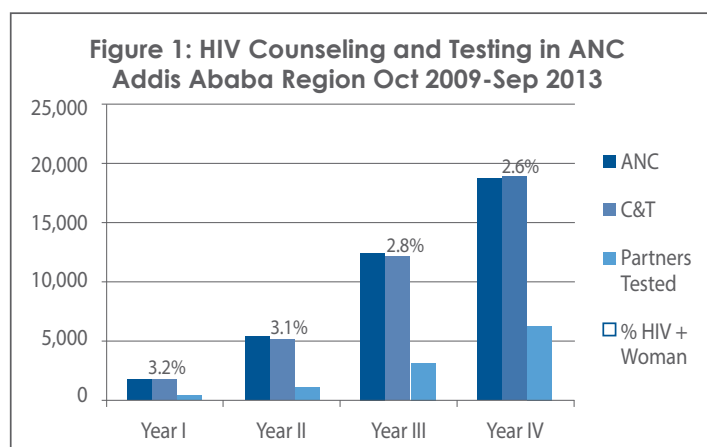


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The number of ANC clients increased annually as the project expanded to more facilities. Nearly 100% of ANC clients over four years were tested for HIV. (Figure 1)

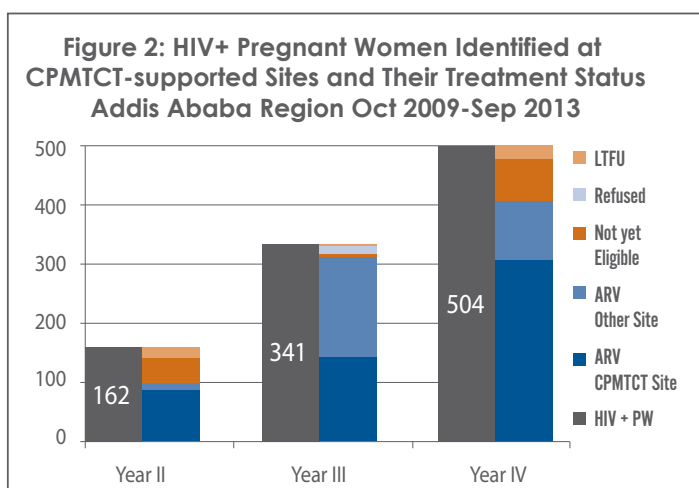


Partner testing increased from 16% in Year I to 33% in Year IV. Intensive demand creation and community mobilization (DCCM) activities implemented in 15 sites contributed to this increase. The prevalence of HIV amongst ANC clients in Addis Ababa was higher than that in other CPMTCT project regions, but still lower than the overall HIV prevalence in Addis Ababa City Administration.

During the first year, the project noted high levels of loss-to-follow-up (LTFU) and realized that women might be getting services elsewhere, but they weren't being properly tracked. To address this, wall charts to track individual HIV-positive pregnant women and their infants were implemented in Year II, wherever they were receiving services, which resulted in a dramatic drop in LTFU rates. (Figure 2) The proportion of women identified as HIV+ being cared for in CPMTCT-supported sites also increased over time. Approximately 91% of the 373 HIV-exposed infants identified in CPMTCT-supported facilities received ARV prophylaxis in Years II, III and IV.

A key success in this region was the Mother Support Groups (MSGs). Fifty seven MSGs were created, with a total of 1039 members. Community-based MSGs (as opposed to facility-based

ones) were more common because they were instrumental in tracing women lost to follow up and linking them with health facilities providing ARVs. Three hundred fifty MSG members graduated from the MSG program and 349 infants received HIV confirmatory test, out of which 348 (98.72%) were HIV negative. In an effort to sustain MSGs the project linked members with other organizations and programs, which resulted in 59 MSG members getting involved in income generating activities.



Future Directions

IntraHealth International has been working in Addis Ababa region for the past ten years, successfully introducing the first PMTCT services in the region and providing BEMONC training to midwives to maximize skilled birth attendance. IntraHealth continues to be dedicated to contributing to an AIDS-free generation, enhancing quality MNCH services and strengthening health systems in Addis Ababa Region.

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