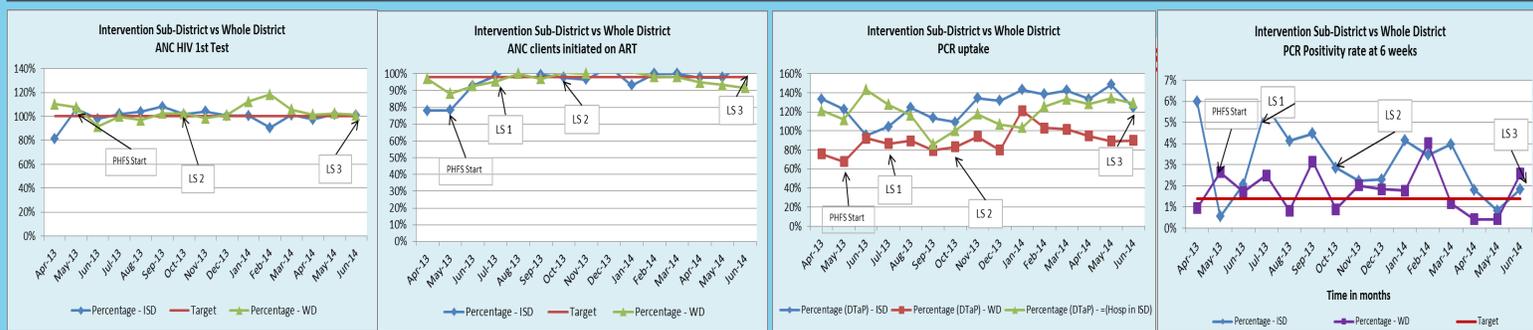


# Eliminating MTCT at scale: A six country collaboration using performance improvement methods

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## Context

An ambitious goal has been set to eliminate Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (eMTCT) in HIV high-burden countries and to improve nutritional outcomes for the mother baby pair. To achieve this goal, health systems must deliver complex eMTCT and nutritional protocols at high coverage levels. Methods exist for improving programme performance at national scale. We describe a six-country learning network (Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Tanzania, South Africa and Uganda) to apply those methods to test and rapidly scale-up effective eMTCT programmes.

## Problem

While the 2010 WHO PMTCT guidelines, including on HIV and Infant Feeding, provide normative guidance on how the continuum of care can be strengthened and improved for HIV-infected mothers and their infants, but many countries have been struggling to identify an effective way to rapidly and comprehensively implement these guidelines.

## Intervention

Using Quality Improvement (QI) methods; ministries, funders, NGO partners and multilateral organizations in six countries are collaborating under the Partnership for HIV-Free Survival (PHFS) to rapidly improve national eMTCT programming, accounting for WHO recommendations, focusing on postnatal eMTCT pathways and maternal/child nutrition. The two-year intervention aims for a 90% reduction in HIV transmission through breast-feeding (from 15% to 1%) with a proportionate improvement in child survival. Using these QI methods, partners have developed a scalable district-based model of reliable eMTCT in two districts of each country. A cross-country learning plat-

form (based on a successful model developed in South Africa for "Accelerated Plan for PMTCT") is accelerating knowledge spread among the six countries. By project end, each country will have the knowledge and capability to spread their context-adapted model nationally. In South Africa, 20000+ Partnership is doing this work in one sub-district of a district in KwaZulu Natal Province.

## Measurement of Improvement and Results

Using specific quality of care indicators on the continuum, information and results are being shared by country teams across the PHFS global Learning Platform via the PHFS listserv, social media, monthly country updates, Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) calls, newsletters and via general email correspondence. Teams are able to access others' change ideas, data, tracking tools and stories shared in these platforms.

## Challenges & Lessons Learned

Data is not easily shared as it involves approvals from multiple Ministries with different data policies. Country specific indicators are defined differently although they are collecting similar data. However, cross country learning has been taking place with regular sharing of best practices.

## Message for Others

Learning networks can be used for multiple countries to achieve specific goals.