



The Contribution of Empowered  
Communities in Supporting Ending  
AIDS in Children: The Case of Lusaka  
City

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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF PROVIDERS OF AIDS CARE



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The logo for the Fast-Track Cities Institute, featuring a stylized graphic of colorful vertical bars and a red ribbon-like shape on the left, followed by the text "FAST-TRACK CITIES" in bold black letters and "INSTITUTE" in white letters on a red background.

# INTRODUCTION

- Lusaka City has a prevalence rate of 15.7 % and is one of the Cities with a high HIV burden in Africa. It is against this background that In 2018 Lusaka was one of the priority Cities selected under the Fast-Track Cities Project.
- To contribute to the reduction in new infections. Lusaka City initiated the eMTCT project. This was due to the high verticle transmission rate which was at 3.3% (6,933/210,373) in 2018 among the age group 0-14
- Lusaka City engaged the Network of Zambian People Living with HIV(NZP+) support groups and attached them to health facilities to identify Pregnant females living with HIV that defaulted on treatment and retain them in care.

# EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV

The following activities were conducted to empower the community groups of women living with HIV to implement the program.

1. Training on eMTCT
2. Training in project proposal preparation and report writing
3. Financial management training
4. Empowerment through provision of incentives (USD 2 per day for the days worked) to conduct the activities

Following this empowerment the community volunteers were able to reach a total of 1,265 women.

# COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

- Identifying pregnant women living with HIV from the health facility registers who have defaulted on treatment and enrolling them into the program
- Tracing defaulting pregnant women living with HIV through phone calls and home visitations
- Conducting home visits to mothers and infants to ensure adherence to treatments
- Training of mothers on healthy breastfeeding skills
- Sensitisation of community on male involvement in antenatal programs through focus group discussions and drama performances

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT ACHIEVEMENTS

- A total of 1,265 pregnant women living with HIV who had defaulted on treatment were tracked and retained in care and 95% of exposed infants were tested negative at 18 months
- Reduced vertical transmission rate among 0-14 from 3.3% in 2018 to 2.7% ( 6,929/247,921) in 2021.
- The community groups have continued to link women living with HIV to treatment and provide adherence and psychosocial support in dealing with stigma and disclosure.
- More Women living with HIV volunteering to be part of the initiative.