

# The role of community HIV prevention programs in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Eswatini.

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## INTRODUCTION

Sufficient evidence exists to show the effectiveness of ART in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Eswatini. This abstract demonstrates the effectiveness of community-based HIV prevention programs in Shiselweni-Eswatini ensuring that children with HIV-positive mothers remain HIV-negative. World Vision Eswatini is implementing an HIV prevention project among Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) and Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) in the southern region of Eswatini, covering 6 constituencies, to reduce new HIV infections and vulnerabilities among OVC households.

## BACKGROUND

Figure 1. Project Theory of Change

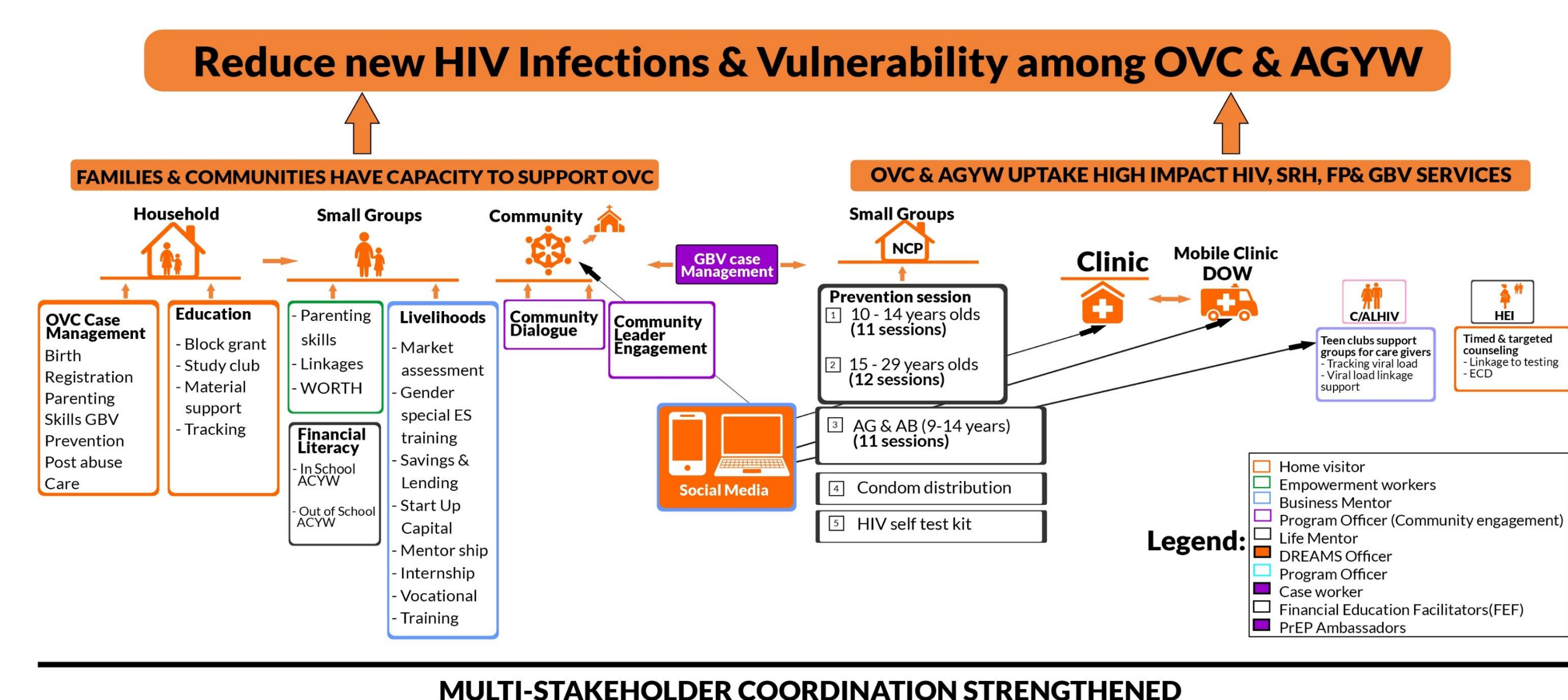
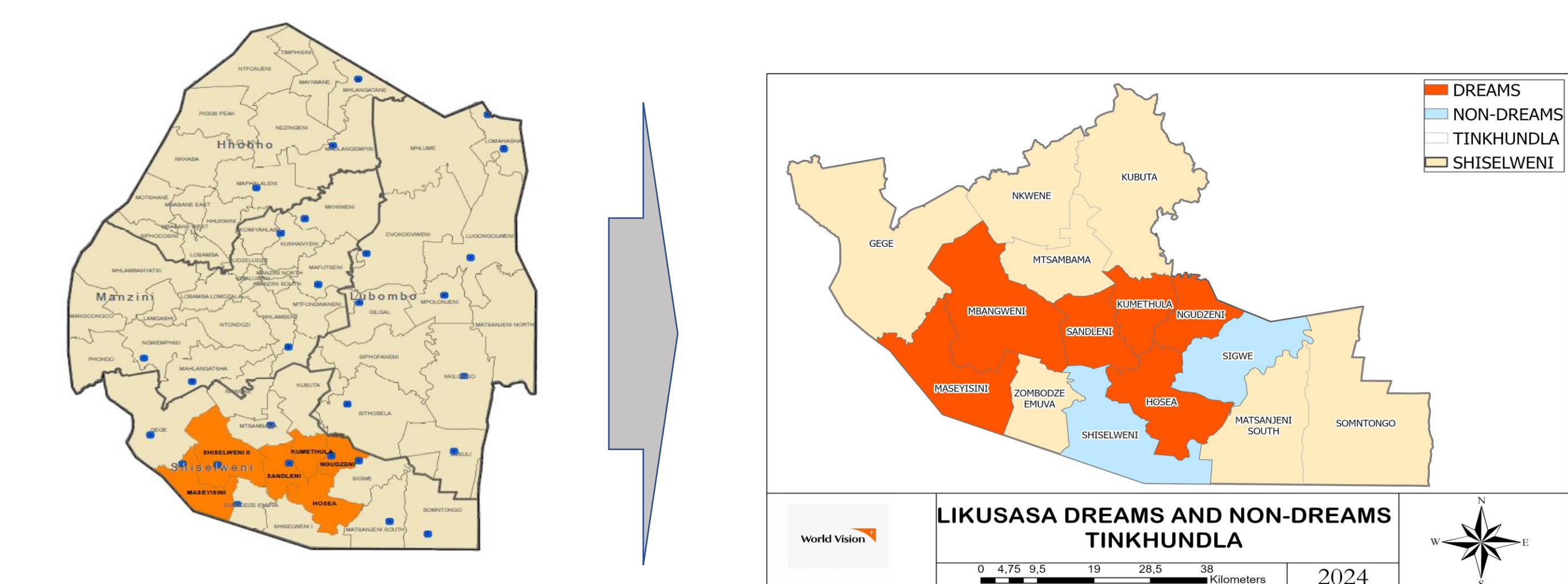


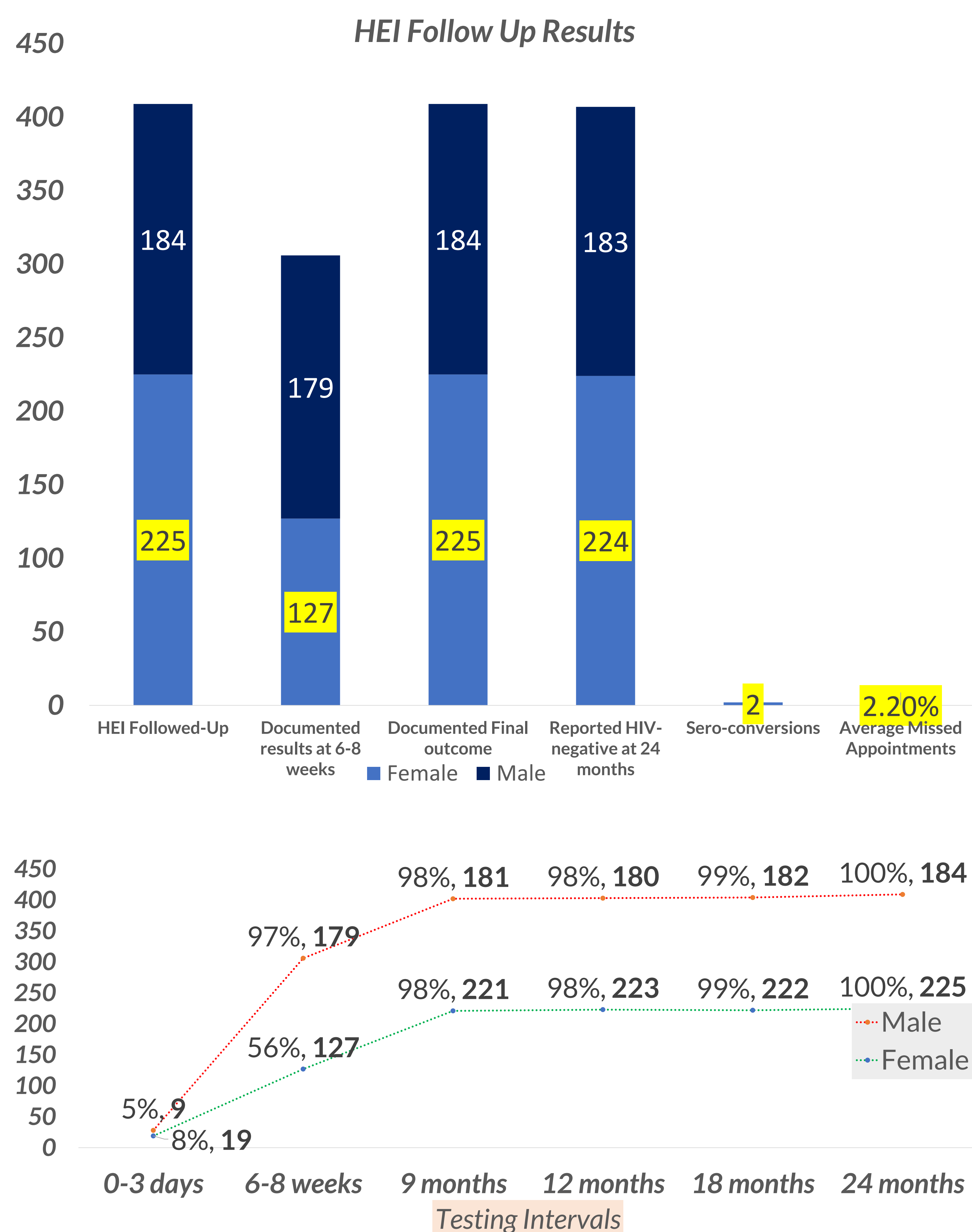
Figure 2. Implementation Sites



## METHODS

- ❖ This was a historical review of 409 HIV-exposed infants supported by community-based health workers to honor clinic appointments for HIV testing
- ❖ Conducted between December 2020 and December 2023
- ❖ HIV-positive mothers of infants supported with ART adherence, viral load monitoring, routine testing reminders, breastfeeding information, early childhood development education
- ❖ 409 mothers of HIV-exposed infants followed up at the household level
- ❖ Referrals for testing made to local health facilities
- ❖ Prior reminders to mothers of HEI issued at different testing intervals:
  - ✓ POC test (0-3 days post delivery)
  - ✓ 6-8 weeks
  - ✓ 9 months
  - ✓ 12 months
  - ✓ 18 months
  - ✓ 24 months

## RESULTS



## CONCLUSION

- The tracking of HIV status and treatment adherence support provided to mothers of HIV-exposed infants is effective in reducing Mother-to-Child HIV transmission.
- Collaboration between community-based and clinical programs provides holistic primary health care.
- Increased efforts must be made to ensure that community programs continue to provide household adherence support for infant mothers.
- Community-based HIV programs play a key role in the HIV continuum of care.

## DISCLAIMER

This poster is made possible by the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) under the terms of award No. 72067421FA00005. The content in this poster is the responsibility of World Vision Eswatini and does not necessarily reflect the views of USAID, PEPFAR, or the US government