SCALING UP HIV TESTING & COUNSELING IN MALAWI

Ministry of Health
Republic of Malawi
Outline

• Introduction & Background
• Innovative HTC approaches
• Uptake of HTC Services
• HTC Training
• Resource Materials
• Challenges
• Recommendations
Introduction & Background

• Malawi has 13.1 million people

• Adult HIV prevalence 12%.

• 1 million people are HIV infected

• 40-50% of those infected know their status

• VCT started in 1985 using ELISA testing.

• HTC using WBRT initiated by MACRO in 2001 and adopted by MOH in 2003.
Introduction & Background

Scaling up of HTC is guided by:

– HIV/AIDS Policy

– National Action Framework

– HTC Scale Up plan [2006-2010]

– HTC Guidelines
Introduction & Background

• Main HTC Approaches
  – Client Initiated HTC
  – Provider Initiated HIV Testing & Counseling
    • Static sites
    • Outreach
    • Mobile
    • Home Based door-to-door
    • HTC National Campaign events
Introduction & Background

Provider Initiated HTC

• MCH Services with Opt-Out:
  – Routine for ANC for PMTCT
  – Family Planning Services
  – STIs

• Diagnostic HTC - as an integral part of diagnosis and management of various illnesses.
  – TB suspects and patients
  – In & out patients
Introduction & Background

- **Implementers**
  - Public Health Sector
  - CHAM facilities
  - Private Health Sector
  - NGOs/CBOs

- **Human resource**
  - Health care workers
  - Non- Health Care workers
Innovative HTC approaches

• HTC Week Campaign – since 2006
  – Collaborative efforts among partners.
  – Malawi was the first of its kind in SSA region.

• Home Based Door-to-Door

• Mobile vans
## Uptake

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total tested</th>
<th>Targets (NAF/MOH)</th>
<th>Static sites</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>149,540</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>215,269</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>118</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>283,467</td>
<td>750,000</td>
<td>146</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>482,364</td>
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<td>249</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>661,400</td>
<td>580,000</td>
<td>351</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>984,340</td>
<td>696,000</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1,712,170</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>713</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Total Clients Tested in 2006 by month & gender

- Males
- Females

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
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<td>Dec</td>
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</table>
HTC Trainings
Trainings

• Basic HTC Training – 3 week training [2 weeks theory, one week supervised field work practice]

• HTC Supervision [one week training]

• TOT [two weeks training]

• Couples HIV Counseling – 5 day refresher training

• Child HIV Counseling – 5 day refresher training
Resource Materials

- HTC Guidelines
- HTC Training Participant Manual
- HTC Training Facilitators Guide
- HTC Scale Up Plan [2006-2010]
- Paediatric HTC Guidelines
- Couple HTC Participant Manual
- Couple HTC Facilitators Guide
- Child HIV Counseling Guide
- HTC Registers
Lessons Learnt

• Decentralized planning (DIP)
• District specific scale-up plan
• Innovative approaches in HTC services
• Change of policy from ELISA testing to WBRT.
• Task shifting in the HTC service provision.
Challenges

- Periodic stock out of HIV Test kits
- Untimely flow of quarterly data from districts to national level
- Limited supervision for district level site counselors trainings by national level.
- Low uptake of HTC by couples
- Low uptake of HTC by males
Recommendations

• MOH to strengthen the supply chain management system of HIV test kits – technical support from USAID/JSI Deliver

• MOH to promote innovative approaches to increase uptake of HTC by males & couples

• MOH to strengthen the zones to address issues of trainings, monitoring & evaluation.
Acknowledgements

- NAC
- UNICEF
- CDC
- USAID
- USAID/JSI DELIVER
- WHO
- UNAIDS
- UNFPA
- JICA
- MSH
- WHO
- WVI
- FHI
- MBCA
- MACRO
- Lighthouse
- Baylor COM
- UNC Project
- Pact Malawi
Thanks for listening