

mothers**2**mothers

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Under Pressure: Generations of HIV infected babies

In the developing world approximately 25% of mothers living with HIV, will transmit the virus to their newborns, and each year, millions of babies die from HIV/AIDS-related illnesses. While the virus itself is physically devastating for both mother and child, the stigma women face in communities can be equally destructive. Without intervention, entire generations are at stake.

Mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV/AIDS is almost entirely preventable. In the Western World, paediatric AIDS has virtually been eliminated but each month in Africa, more babies are born with HIV in one clinic than in one year in the United States, Canada and England combined. Mother-to-child transmission rates in Africa remain dangerously and unacceptably high.

The Challenges:

- Limited knowledge of HIV/AIDS and how to prevent transmission to newborns
- Stigma and discrimination prevent women from getting tested, disclosing their status and adhering to medical treatment
- Lack of access to treatment during pregnancy, during labour, and following birth
- Lack of education to choose and embrace safer feeding methods for their infants

The mothers2**mothers Solution:**

mothers2**mothers** was born to meet the needs of HIV+ pregnant mothers seeking help at healthcare facilities providing prenatal care and prevention of mother to child (PMTCT) services. **m2m** is a grass-roots program designed for under-resourced health care systems that trains and employs new mothers with HIV to provide education and support to their peers, empowering them to access lifesaving treatment for their babies and for themselves.

Success Through Education and Empowerment:

mothers2**mothers** identifies new HIV positive mothers, puts them through a rigorous formal training program, and returns them to clinics and maternity wards as "**Mentor Mothers.**" As Mentor Mothers, they educate new mothers, supporting them daily as they confront decisions that mean the difference between illness and health.

The Facts Speak for Themselves:

- **95%** of the mothers in **m2m** and **88%** of their babies receive the medicine that prevents mother-to-child transmission of HIV
- **97%** of our mothers disclose their HIV status to a partner, family member or friend
- **89%** of our mothers use safer forms of infant feeding
- Programs in South Africa have **more than 60,000** client interactions per month, translating into women who are empowered to make healthy choices for themselves and their babies.

m2m currently employs over **700** women at our **245 sites** in **South Africa**, **34 sites** in **Lesotho**, **15** in **Zambia**, **12** in **Kenya**, **8** in **Malawi**, **6** in **Rwanda** and **6** in **Swaziland**.