



# ART ADHERENCE CLUBS AND COMMUNITY MODELS OF CARE

Gilles Van Cutsem  
Médecins Sans Frontières

# ART roll-out: successes

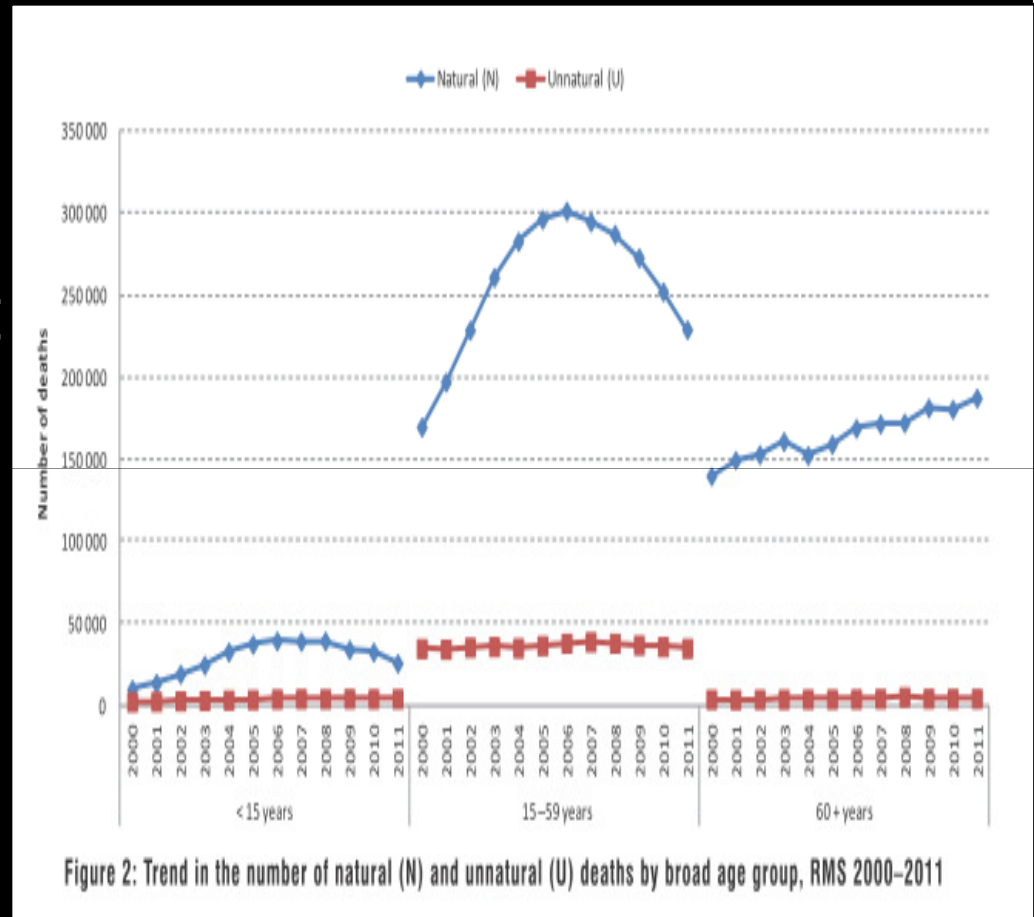
- 7 million on ART; 2/3 in SSA
- Outcomes equivalent to rich settings
- Normalisation of life expectancy
- ART reduces transmission

Braitstein P et al. Lancet 2006.

Keiser O et al. PLoS Med 2008.

Mills EJ et al. Annals of Internal Medicine 2011.

Cohen MS et al. New England Journal of Medicine 2011.



# ART roll-out: constraints

- Access: 8 million in need of ART
- *"Scaling up without messing up"*:
  - Retention in care: pre-ART and on ART
  - Adherence and treatment failure
- Human resources for health crisis
- <50% living with HIV know their status
- Stigma

# ART eligibility: 5 policy scenarios

Estimated millions of people eligible for ART in LMIC in 2011

11

15

23

25

32

CD4  $\leq$   
200

Recommended  
Since 2003

CD4  $\leq$   
350

Recommended  
since 2010

CD4  $\leq$   
350  
+ TasP  
Incremental  
approach 2012

CD4  $\leq$   
500  
Ongoing systematic  
review of evidence  
(GRADE review)

All HIV+

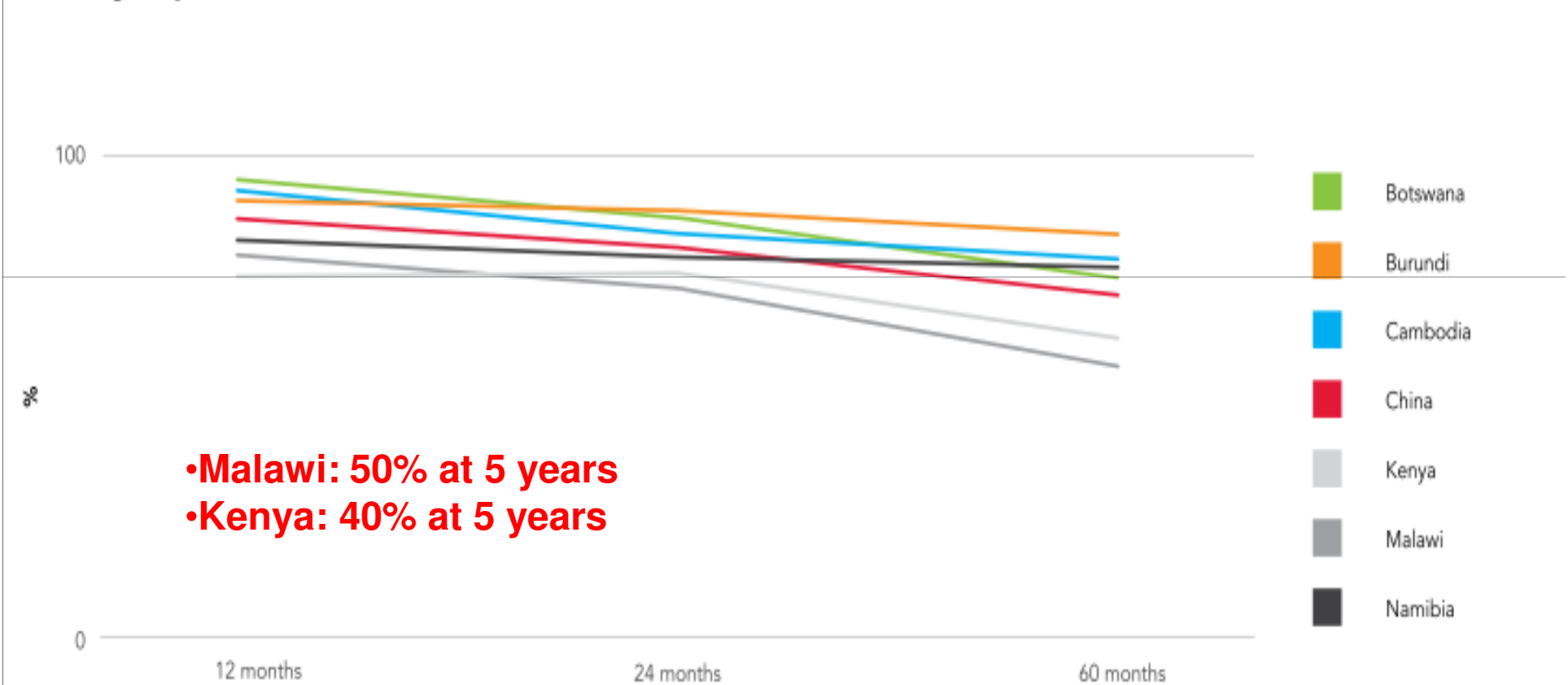
“Test and  
treat”

ART regardless of CD4 count for:

- Serodiscordant couples
- Pregnant women
- Key populations  
(SW, IDU, MSM)

# Retention in care

Retention rate for antiretroviral therapy at 12, 24 and 60 months in selected countries, 2012  
country reports



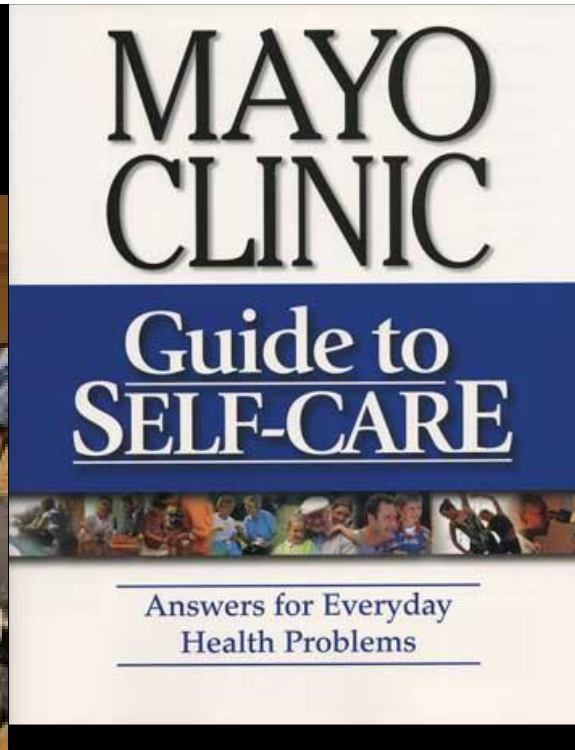
# Challenges to Retention in Care in Resource Limited Settings

- Transportation costs (Yu BWHO 2007; Amuron BMCID)
- Opportunity costs (i.e. work and child care responsibilities)
  - (Geng JAIDS 2011, Krebs AIDS Care 2008)
- Stigma and disclosure
  - (Rosen & McGuire 2008; Dalal JAIDS 2009)
- Stock-outs
  - (Pasquet PLoS One 2010)
- Side effects
  - (McGuire TMIH 2008)
- Alternative medical beliefs / religion
  - (Yu BWHO 2007; Deribe TMIH 2008)
- Quality of services; feeling well; imprisoned; hunger

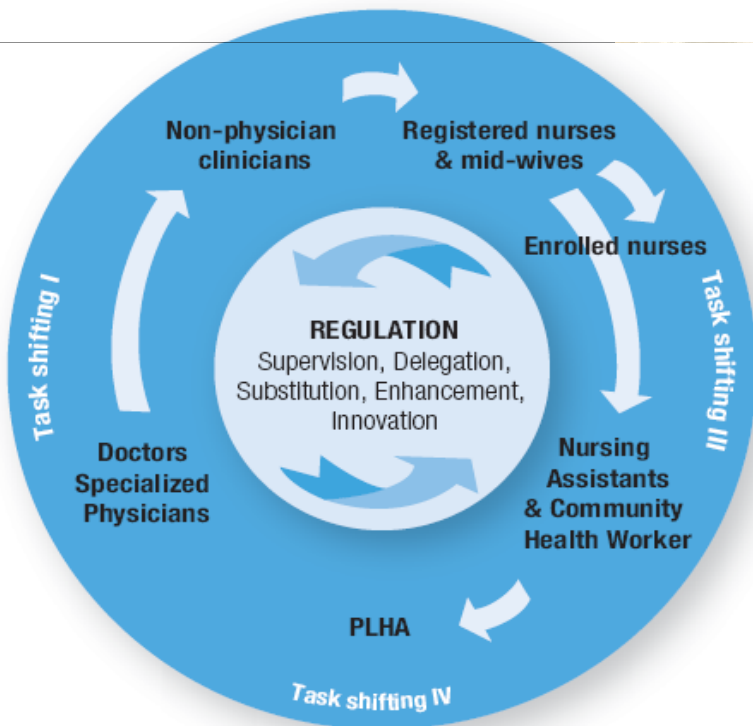
# Community models of care: underlying principles

- Access & retention are improved by:
  - Decentralisation to the lowest level of care
  - Beyond NiMART: Task-shifting to PLWHA / peer educators / CHW
- Adherence is improved by:
  - Decreasing burden on patient (time, cost, pills)
  - Increasing user-friendliness of care
  - Peer support (Ware NC. PLoS Med 2009; Rueda. Cochrane 2006)
- Separation of drug-delivery and clinical care

# Community-based self care: a new concept?



Task shifting: expanding the pool of human resources for health



## Africans advocate antiretroviral strategy similar to DOTS

AIDS experts suggest community health workers should help in the delivery of antiretroviral drugs



Charles Wendo reporting

**“The community-based approach is the answer . . . We will never have enough professionals to look after our people”**

Wendo. Lancet 2003.

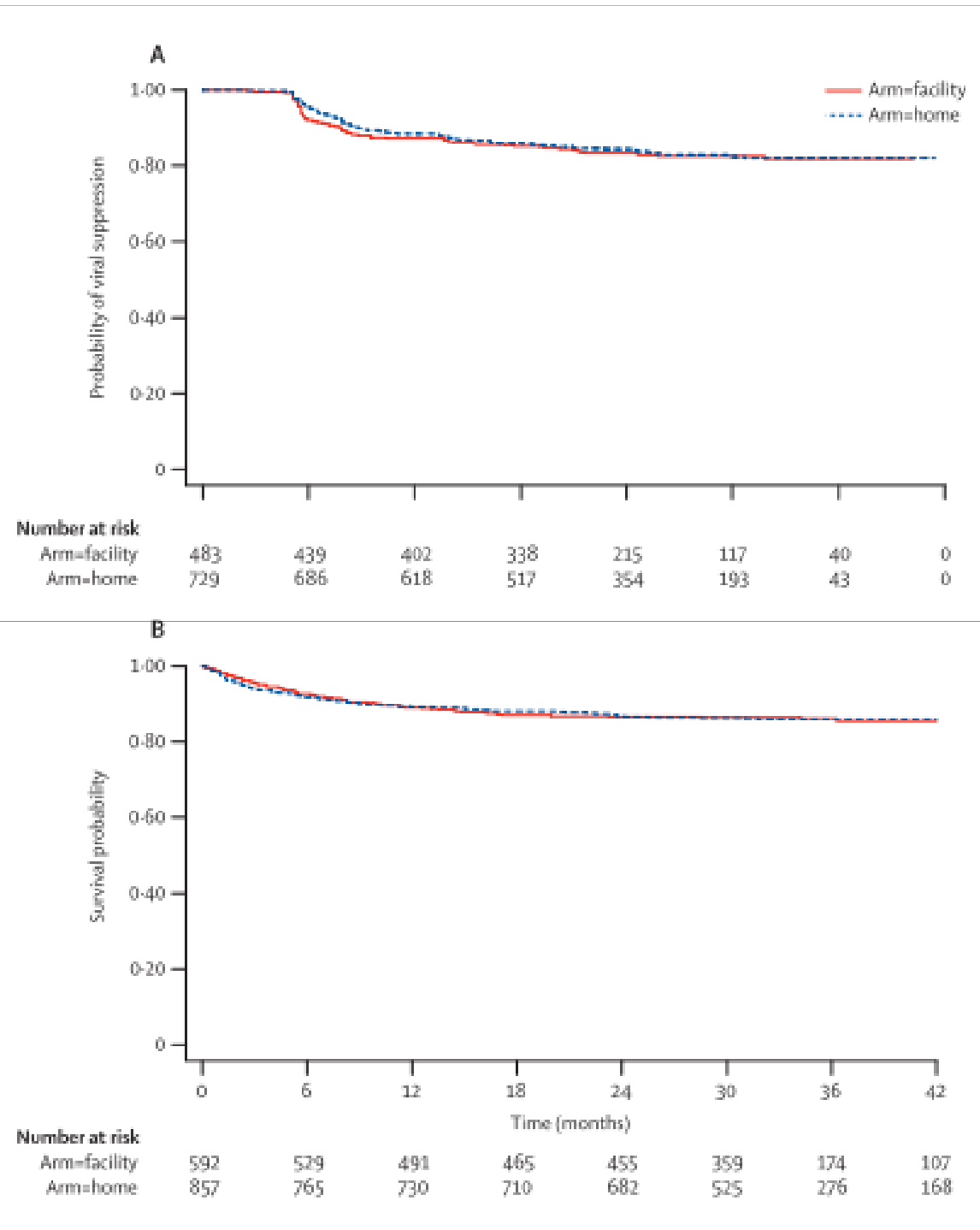




# Home-based ART

- HBC as effective as facility-based care
- Improved access to remote areas with poor infrastructure

Jaffar et al. Lancet 2009.



# MSF Community Models of Care pilots in Southern Africa



# Key functions of community models

1. Drug supply
2. Clinical screening
3. Adherence support and defaulter tracing
4. Monitoring
5. Building social fabric: autonomy and social support



# Preliminary steps at clinic level



- Decentralise ART initiation to every available health facility and avoid down referral model.
- Task shifting -> Nimart
- TDF FDC available and minimal lab monitoring schedule
- Space clinical appointments for stable patients (2, 3 monthly)
- Separate from pill refills needs from clinical care

# Spacing clinical visits every 6 months for stable patients, Chiradzulu, Malawi

- Chiradzulu district: 26,330 patients on ART
- Stable adults (> 95% adherence, CD4 >300, >12 m. on ART)
- Clinical visit 6-monthly; ART refill 3-monthly
- Retention in care at 12 months: **97%**

Recruited patients	2486
Female (%)	1715 (69)
Median time on ART prior to enrollment in months (IQR)	27.2 (17.2-44.2)
Median CD4 at SMA enrollment (IQR)	534 (420-692)
Median follow up (months) in SMA (IQR)	14.7 (8.3-18.7)



DIREÇÃO PROVINCIAL DE  
SAÚDE TETE



## Community ART groups: Distribution of antiretroviral therapy through self-forming groups, in Tete Province, Mozambique

Tom Decroo<sup>1</sup>, Barbara Telfer<sup>1</sup>, Jacob Maïkéré<sup>1</sup>, Sergio Dezebrom<sup>1</sup>,  
Carla das Dores Pereira Mosse<sup>2</sup>, Nathan Ford<sup>3</sup> and Marc Biot<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Médecins sans Frontières, Mozambique.

<sup>2</sup> Provincial Health Department, Tete, Mozambique

<sup>3</sup> South African Medical Unit, Médecins Sans Frontières, Johannesburg, South Africa

1



# Tete, Mozambique Community ART Groups (CAGs)

## Groups of 6

- >15 years,
- 6 months on 1st line
- CD4 >200
- no stage 3 or 4

## Separation of refill & care

- Monthly drug refill
- 6 monthly clinical review  
and CD4

**3530 patients in  
788 CAGS (= 50% of cohort)**

**97.6% retained at 12 months**



# Meeting point: clinic, health post or community pick up points?

- Thyolo, Malawi, Health Posts:
  - Tasks: HTC, staging, ARV refill, support
  - Staff: outreach nurse + local CHW (2 HSA's ) + expert patients (2PSA's)
- Roma, Lesotho, Health Posts:
  - Similar task + PMTCT
  - Monthly outreach from clinic
- Eshowe, KZN, South Africa
  - No Health posts -> mobile meeting points



# Eligibility criteria

Criteria	Malawi Thyolo	Malawi Chiradzulu	Mozambique	South Africa	DRC
Voluntary participation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Adults only	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Duration on ART: 6 months	6 m	12 m	6 m	18 m	12m
Eligibility CD4	Y (>300)	Y (>300)	Yes	Yes	No
Eligibility clinical criteria	--	No active OI	WHO Stage I/II	--	--
Eligibility Adherence check	Yes	--	--	Yes	--
Not pregnant	--	Yes	Can be pregnant	--	Yes



# Management criteria and outcomes community ART groups

Location	Model of community ART care	Start date	Nbr patients	ART provider	Frequency of ART dispensing	Frequency of clinic visits	Cumulative Retention*
Mozambique, Tete	Community ART groups	2008	4410 900 CAGS	Expert patient	1 monthly	6 monthly	97% after average FU time of 16 months
Malawi, Thyolo	Community health posts	2009	925	CHW ( HSA)	3 monthly	3 monthly	98% at 15 months
Malawi, Chiradzulu	Community ART refills	2008	3343	CHW	3 monthly	6 monthly	97% at 1 yr 93% at 2 years*
Malawi, Chiradzulu	Community ART refills	2008	4,000	CHW ( HSA)	3 monthly	6 monthly	97% at 2 years
South Africa, Khayelitsha	Adherence clubs	2007	3000 110 clubs	CHW	2 monthly	6 monthly	97.5 % at 1y 97.5 % at 2 y
Kinshasa, DRC	Community ART points	2010	--	Expert patient	--	--	--

# Adherence Clubs, Khayelitsha, South Africa Towards patient/group self management

- Lay-counsellor managed
- Group self-management: treatment literacy, defaulter tracing
- From facility to community to home
- **Club participants were:**
  - 57% more likely to remain in care (HR: 0.43, 95% CI 0.21-0.91)
  - 67% less likely to experience virologic rebound (HR: 0.33, 95% CI 0.16-0.67)



**HIV**  
**POSITIVE**  
**ON ARVs**



HAVE YOU BEEN TAKING  
ARVS FOR MORE  
THAN 1 YEAR?

IS YOUR HIV VIRAL LOAD  
UNDETECTABLE?

ARE YOU TIRED OF  
WAITING IN LONG QUEUES  
EVERY MONTH?

# Adherence Club roll out in Khayelitsha

Clinics with ART clubs	RIC	Club Target	No. of clubs	Club Enrolment End Aug 2012	Club RIC End Aug 2012	% of RIC
9	23220	5430	180	5195	4505	19%

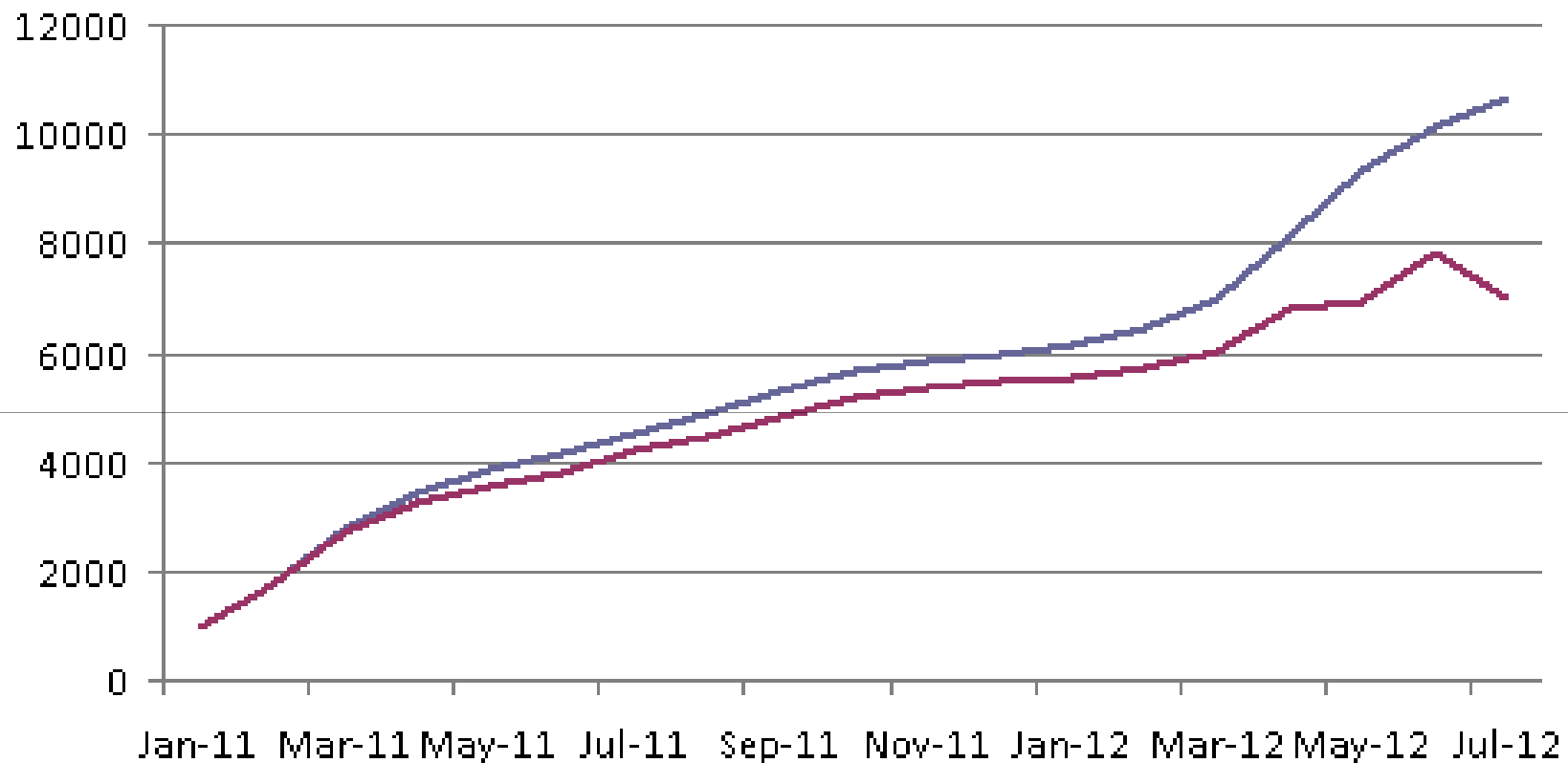
FRIENDLY...  
2 MONTHS SUPPLY OF ARVS...

**ARV adherence clubs are your answer!**

ASK YOUR NURSE TO REFER YOU  
TO AN ARV CLUB TODAY




# From Pilot to implementation Club roll out in Cape Metro



— Total N. of patients enrolled in the Clubs

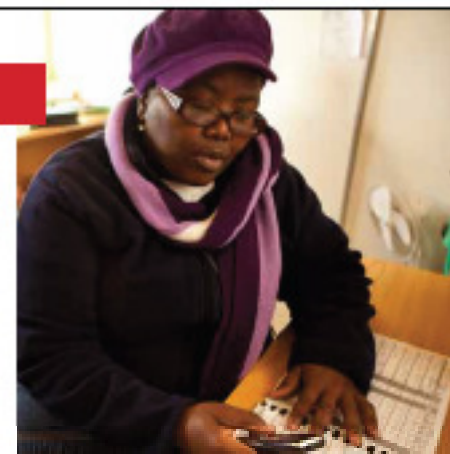
— Total N. of patients still in care in the

# Simplified M&E and accountability



## MOBILE M&E STRATEGY

MSF is piloting use of a mobile application to capture basic club data previously completed in paper registers. Provided feasible and accurate, this may provide the solution for monitoring community ART clubs.



### Tier-1

#### Paper registers

Patient's Name, Surname Folder number and ID number	Sex	Age	Date of Admission		Status
			Start	End	

### Tier-2

#### Electronic register



### Tier-3

#### Networked EMR



# Which model is most adapted to main problems of adherence am facing in my specific environment ?

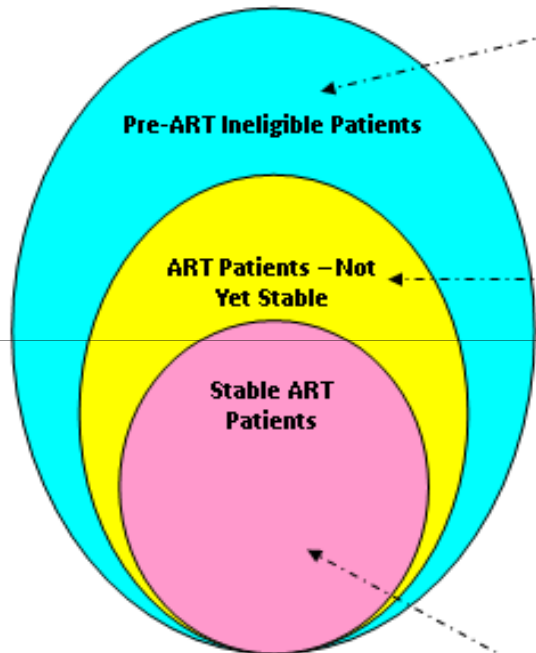
- Clinic overload
- Distances and natural barriers (urban<> rural)
- Stigma and disclosure
- Social fabric
- HR constraints
- Regulatory issues (feasibility of task-shifting ?)
- Legal barriers

# High level of pre-ART LTFU amongst adolescent in Zimbabwe and Khayelitsha

	<b>eligible</b>	<b>initiated</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Q2 2010</b>	64	34	53.1
<b>Q3 2010</b>	67	34	50.7
<b>Q4 2010</b>	55	29	52.7
<b>Q1 2011</b>	65	38	58.5



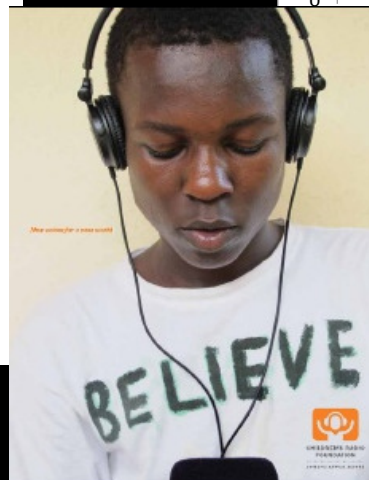
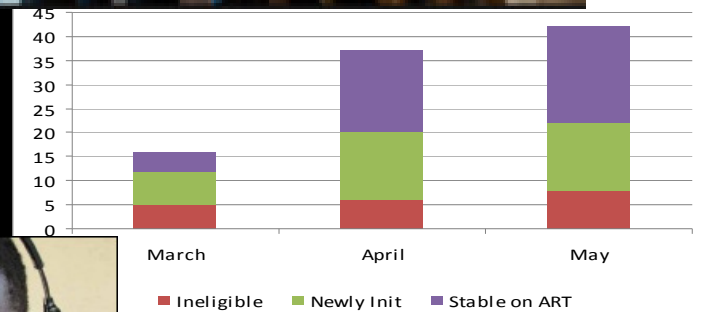
# Youths clubs, Khayelitsha, South Africa



Pre-packed  
VitBco/PT  
 Family Planning  
 Weighing &  
 symptom check  
6mth CD 4 Check

Pre-packed  
 prophylaxis  
VitBco/Cotri/PT  
 Family Planning  
 Pre-packed ART  
 through nurse  
 Weighing &  
 symptom check  
6mth CD 4 & viral  
 load check

Pre-packed  
 prophylaxis  
VitBco/Cotri/PT  
 Family Planning  
 Pre-packed ART  
 through group  
 Weighing &  
 symptom check  
12mth CD 4 & viral  
 load check



CHILDREN'S RADIO  
 FOUNDATION

## Hello, Welcome To Mxit

Chat. Play. Trade. Make friends. Find love. Get the latest news and sports updates. Download music. Or join groups of like minded people. Connect with 50 million Mxit users across Africa using FREE online mobile messages. Express yourself. Share ideas. Exchange goods. Mxit works on almost 3000 mobile handsets, including yours.

Join Africa's biggest social network today or simply login if you are already a part of the Mxit community. Visit <http://m.mxit.com> on your mobile.

Download Mxit for Mobile





# Pre-ART community groups improve pre-ART retention in care.

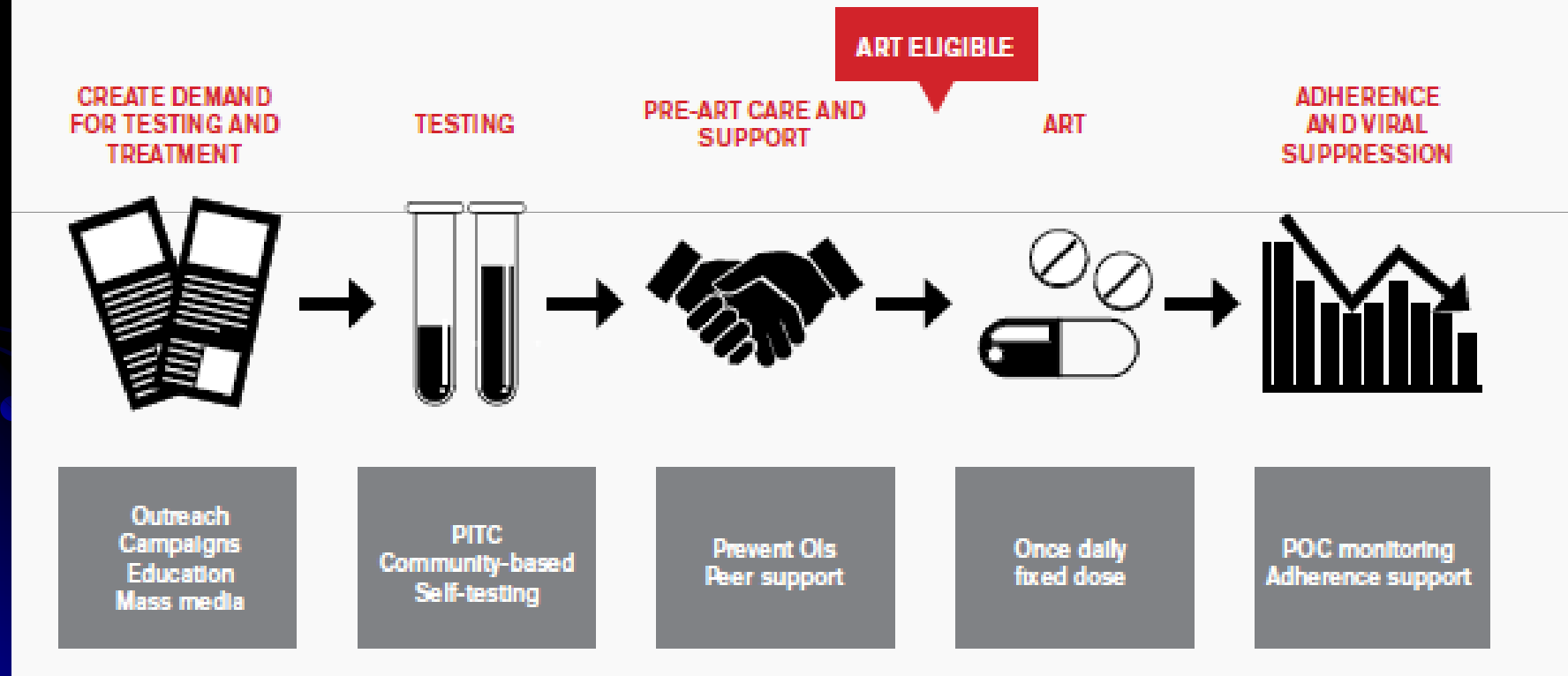


Baseline retention on pre-ART in SA  
(CD4 monitoring within 12 months) :  
31-45% 2011 (Lessells et al, 2011)

ART ineligible enrolled	1828
Recorded CD4/visit within 8m prior to end of study/starting ART	8m
Active in care %	61.9
Requested transfer out %	4
Deceased %	10.28
LTFU %	23.85

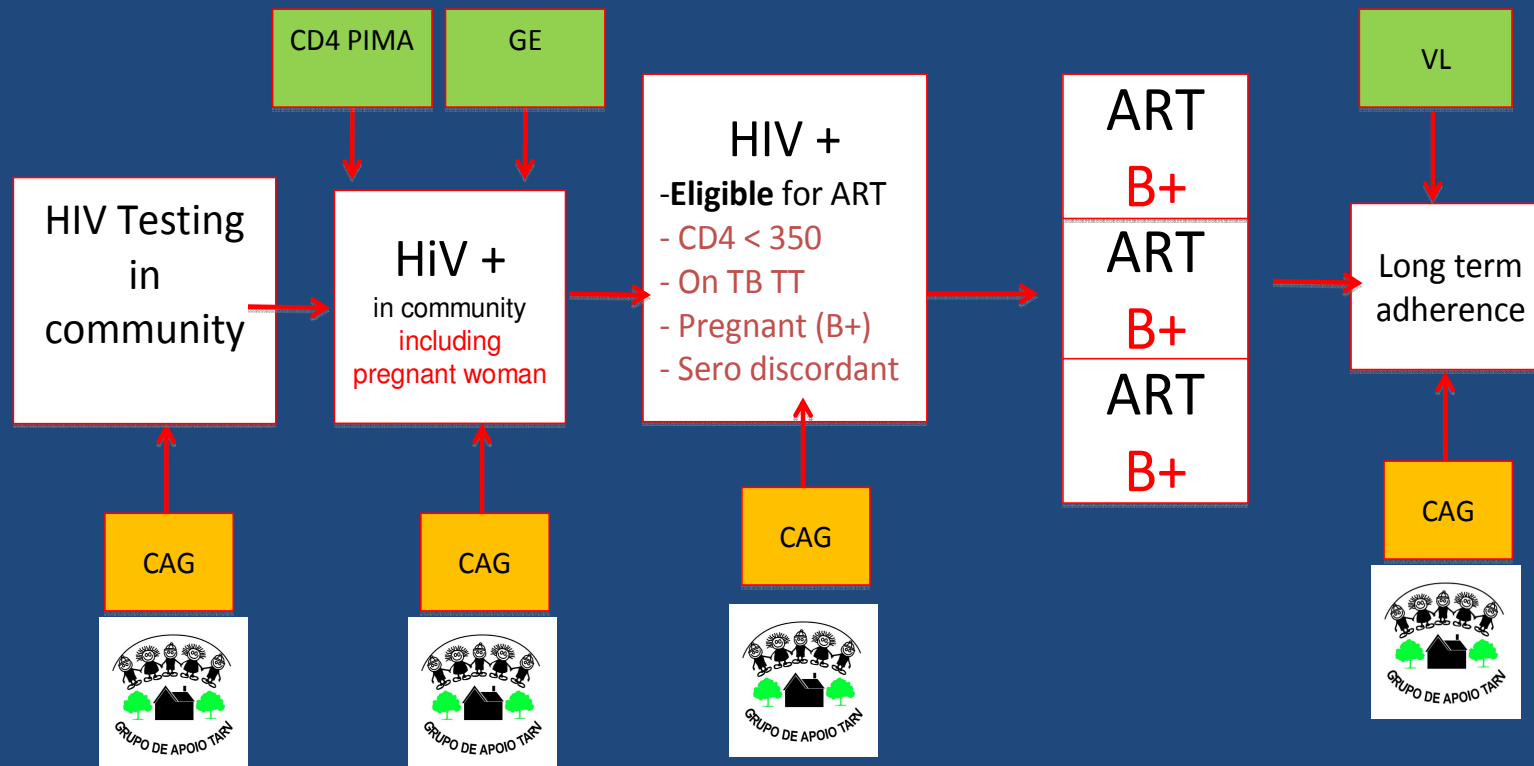
# Community models of care and the cascade

## The "test-treat-retain" continuum of care



# The Future?

## Impact of community dynamic on 'test, treat, retain' cascade



- Social dynamic from the testing
- > Pre-ART groups
  - > Group dynamic from eligibility
  - > Specific groups for B+ women

# Discussion

## Advantages

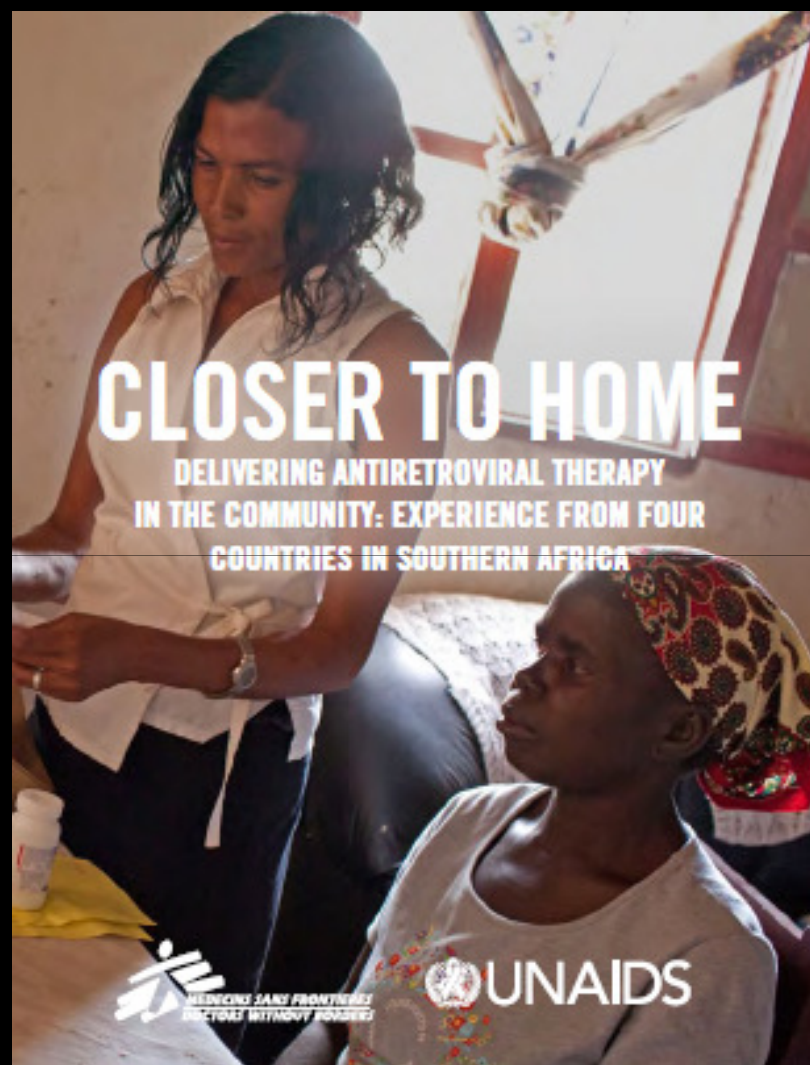
- **Patient perspective :**
  - Reduced burden on stable/adherent patients who only need refills
  - Promotes self- management, empowerment
  - development of community networks -> social fabric and potential political activism
- **Health services perspective**
  - Reduced burden on health facilities
  - Likely more cost effective
  - Further share of responsibility via task shifting

## Challenges

- **Patient perspective :**
  - Unfair balance of responsibility
  - Quality of medical monitoring
  - HIV trivialization
  - Disclosure <> stigma
- **Health services perspective**
  - Accountability
  - Excludes patients most at risk of LTFU
  - Stretches further the drug supply chain
  - Requires well functioning and simplified monitoring and supervision

# Acknowledgements

- All PLHAs for their energy in setting up such ART groups/clubs
- DOH and MSF teams in DRC, Malawi, Mozambique & South Africa
- Eric Goemaere, Nathan Ford, Tom Decroo, Lynne Wilkinson, Helen Bygrave, Tom Ellman, Marc Biot



[http://www.msfacecess.org/sites/default/files/MSF\\_assets/HIV\\_AIDS/Docs/AIDS\\_report\\_ClosetoHome\\_ENG\\_2012.pdf](http://www.msfacecess.org/sites/default/files/MSF_assets/HIV_AIDS/Docs/AIDS_report_ClosetoHome_ENG_2012.pdf)



# ART ADHERENCE CLUB TOOLKIT LAUNCH

Tuesday, 27 November | 12:30 to 13:00 | Room 2.40

