

# Innovative Approaches to Maintain Postnatal Testing and Early Infant Diagnosis

13th June 2025 Session 2 Country Spotlight

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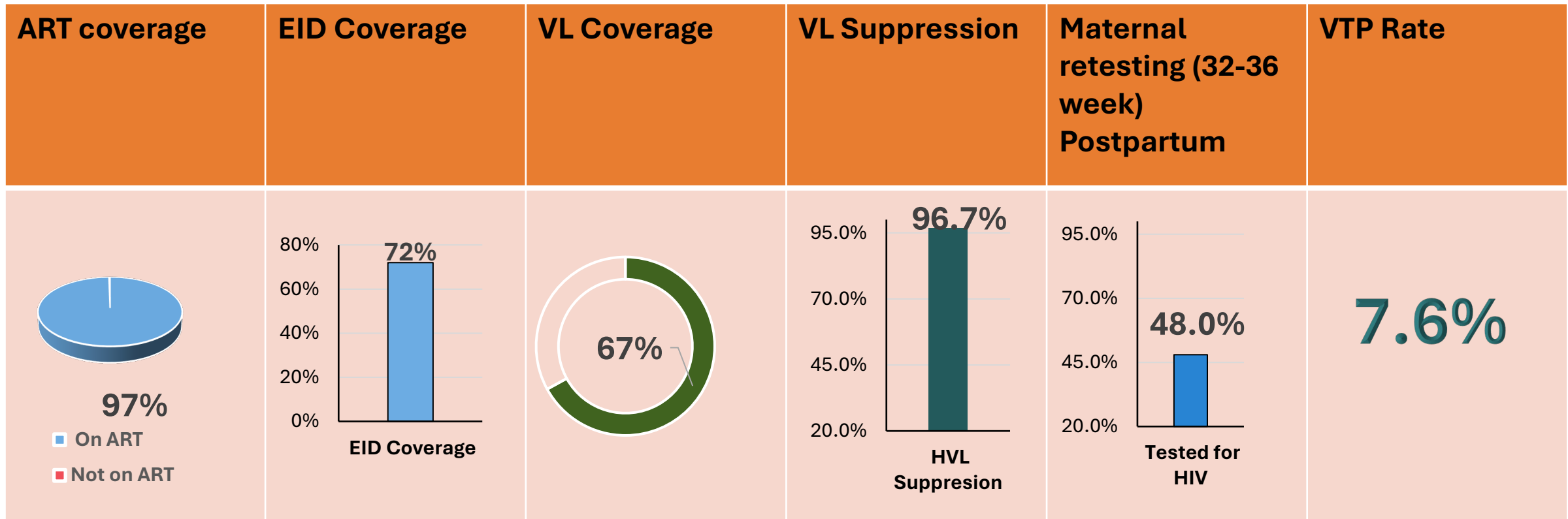


**HIV**  
Impact Network *for*  
**Vertical Transmission**  
**Elimination**

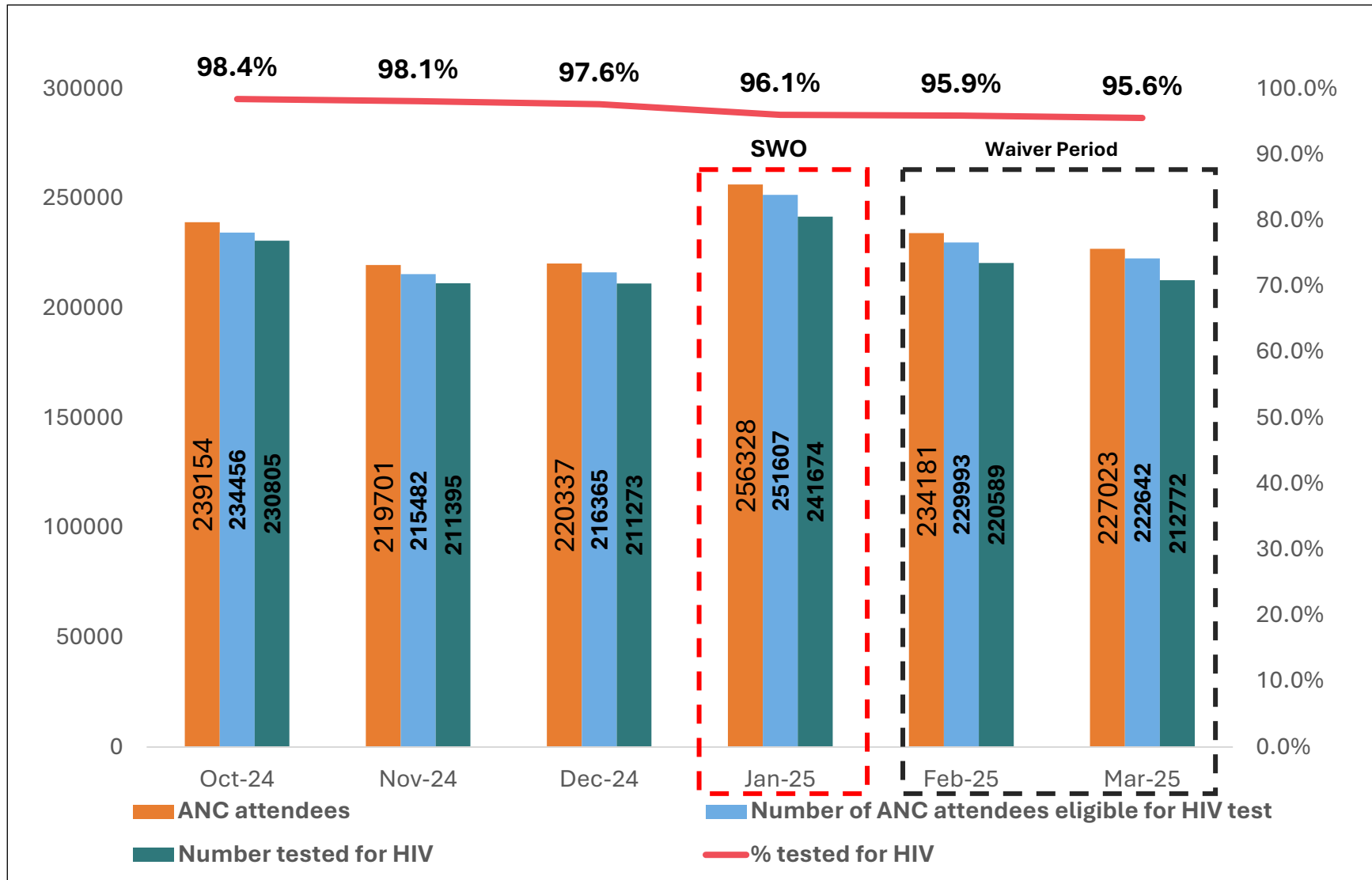


# Background of VTP Services in Tanzania

- VTP programme started in year 2000, currently available in 8,450 (98%) health facilities
- The VTP Programme is domiciled in the Reproductive Maternal Health section of the Directorate of Maternal and Child Health

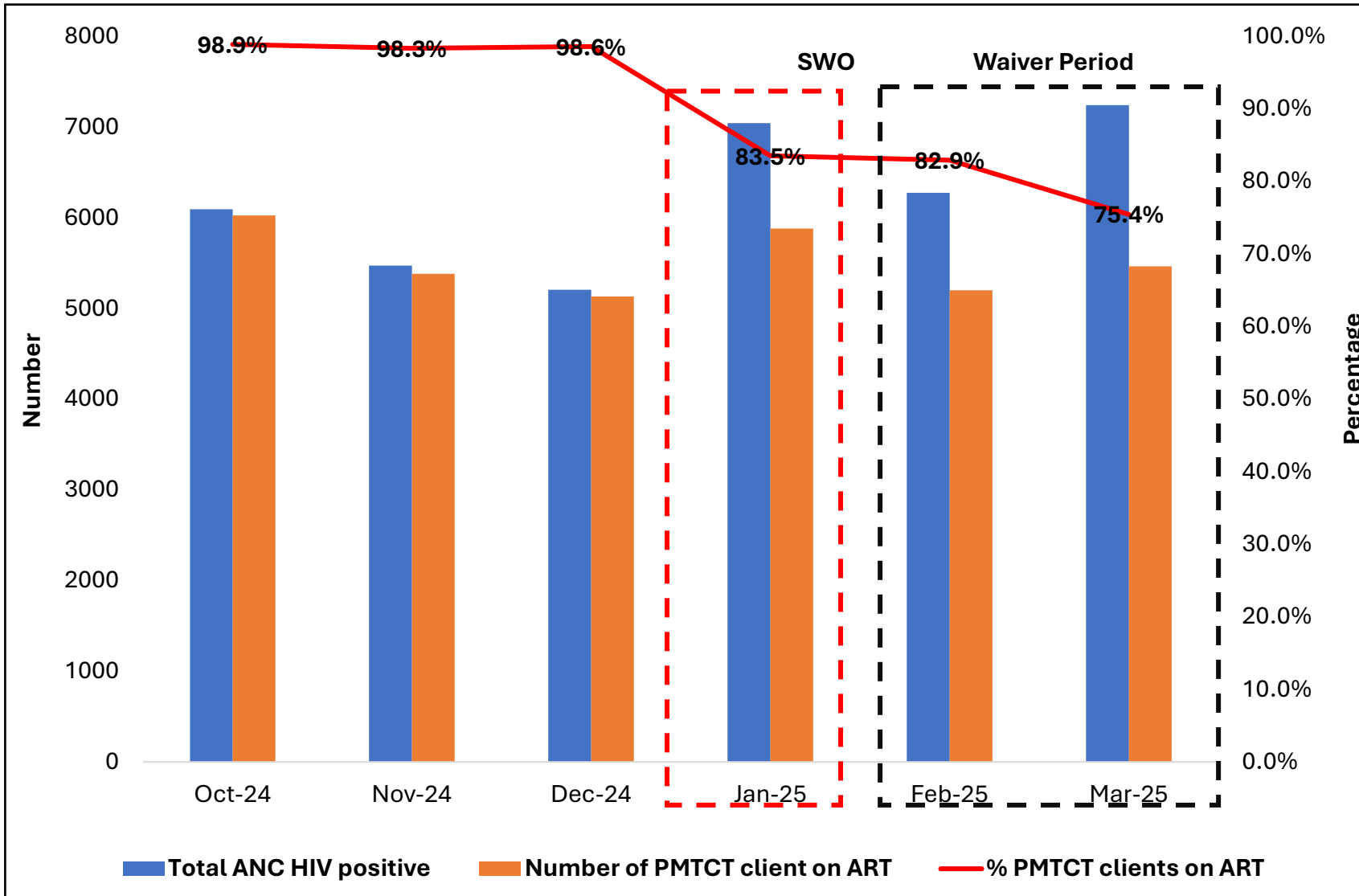


# Trend in HIV Testing Services for Pregnant Women



- Slight decline in HIV testing attributed to challenges in report preparations and submission in DHIS2 during SWO and waiver period
- No impact in service delivery as VTP services are integrated with reproductive and child health (RCH) services

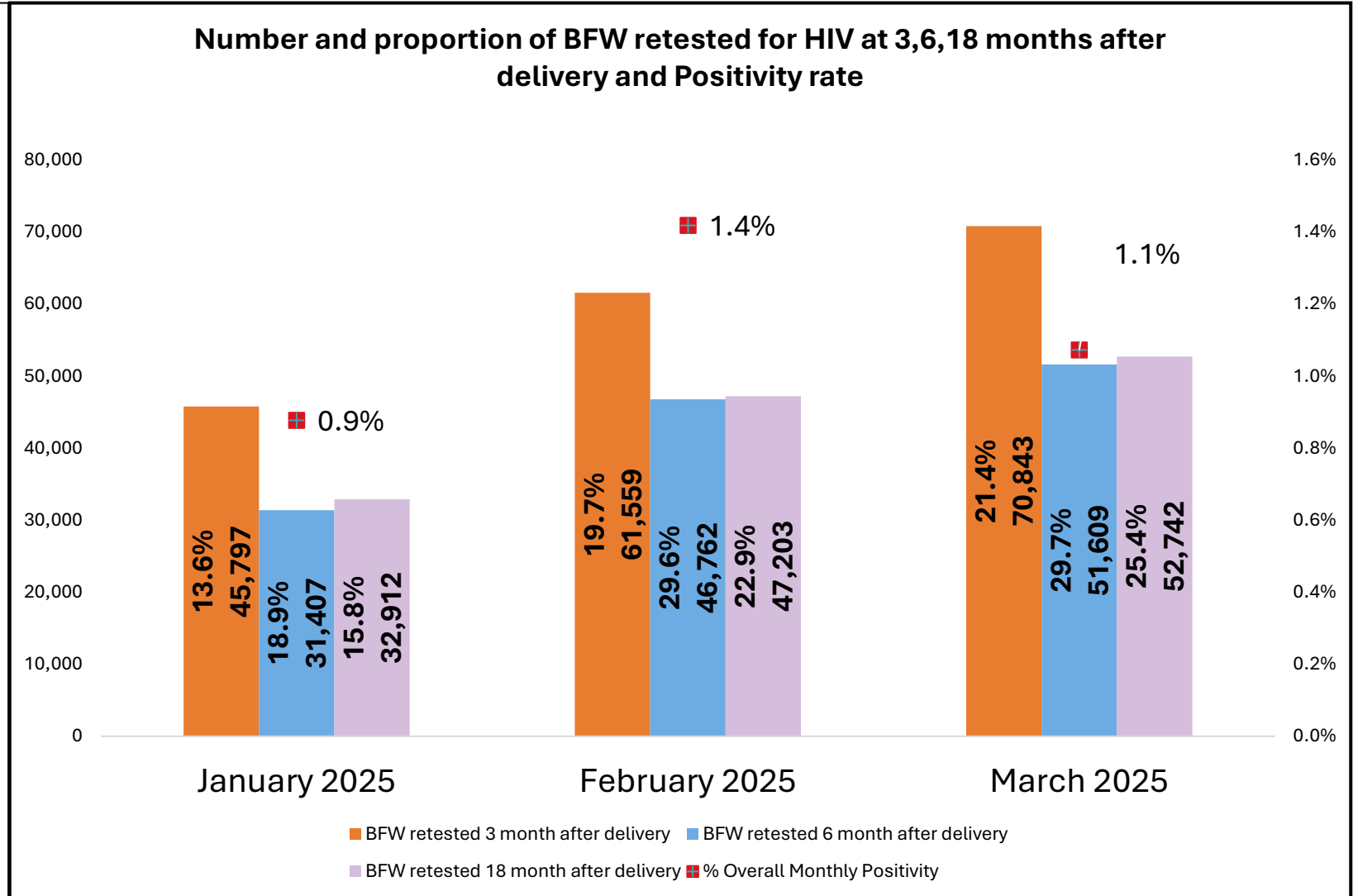
# Trend in Antiretroviral Treatment for PBFW



- The observed decrease in ART coverage among PBFW during SWO and waiver period was deeply related to data entry gap not necessarily service delivery gap
- Data entry staff supported by IPs were dropped during the SWO

# Postnatal HIV Testing Services among Breastfeeding Women (3,6 and 18 month after delivery)

- **Timing:** 3, 6, and 18 months after delivery
- **Approach:** Integrated into routine under-five clinic visits
- **Alignment:** Synchronized with national schedules for infant immunizations and Vitamin A supplementation
- Mother-infant pair tracking facilitated both maternal retesting and infant follow up schedule



# Impact of Funding Shift on Postnatal Testing and Adaptations

## Challenges

- Reducing funding has impact on stock level of HIV test commodities

## Adaptations

- Reduced frequency of testing for PBFW from **5 to 3 times**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> ANC
  - 32 – 36 weeks GA
  - **One test only during the postnatal period - at 3 months postdelivery**
- Capacity building of HCWs to manage multiple service points
- Utilized national M&E systems to reduce dependence on IP led data entry
  - Data captured via DHIS2 and Unified Community System (UCS)
- Transitioned logistics management to regional-level oversight with ad-hoc redistribution (HIV commodities including test kits)
- Task-shifting to RCH nurses to sustain services

# EID Uptake Oct 2024 – March 2025

- **Hub-and-Spoke Model**

Samples are collected from peripheral health facilities and routed to hubs before being transferred to regional laboratories for testing.

- **POC Testing**

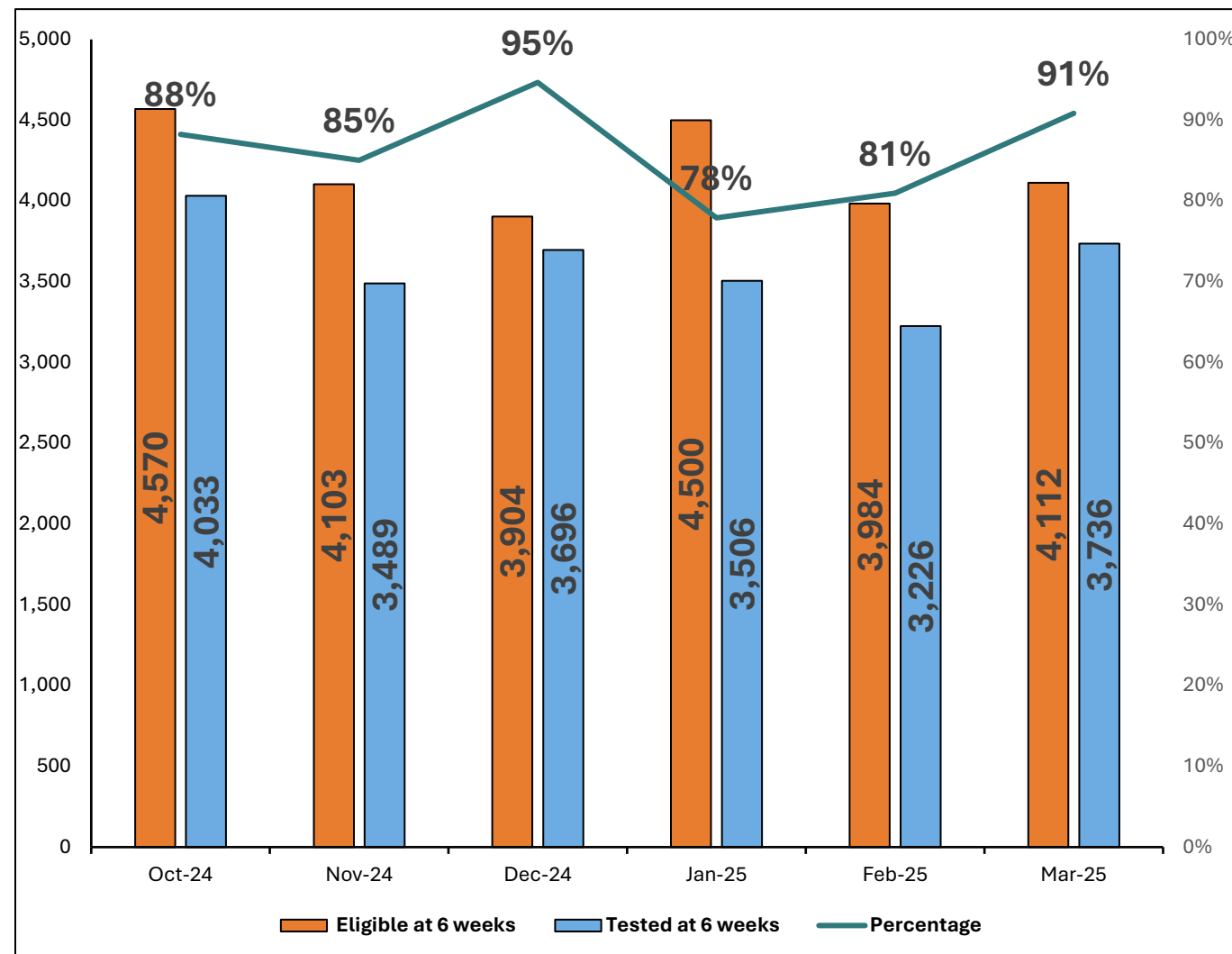
128 facilities have POC allowing samples to be tested on-site

- **Logistics Support by Implementing Partners**

IPs manage dedicated transportation networks, ensuring consistent sample transportation.

- **Electronic Sample Tracking Systems**

Tanzania has deployed the system to improve TAT



# Impact of Funding Shift on EID sample Transportation and adaptations

## Impact

- Before the USG Stop Work Order (SWO), samples were transported through a well-established courier system (private companies) under the support of PEPFAR IPs
- During SWO, major disruptions to sample transportation occurred leading to pooling of samples, and decreased collection at facilities in some regions

## Adaptations

- MoH coordinated the use of government vehicles at regional level to ensure smooth movement of samples
  - Some regions adapted by integrating sample transportation within routine supervision and immunization delivery routes
- Tanzania Post Corporation (TPC) took over sample transportation responsibility
  - TPC became the mandated courier for sample transportation working closely with IPs
- Regional level oversight of redistribution of HIV commodities including EID test kits
- Data captured in Unified Community System (UCS) and electronic sample referral system (Government tools)





# Conclusion

- Tanzania's success in maintaining VTP services amid funding challenges was enabled by strong integration of VTP services in RCH services, decentralised logistics and strategic use of immunization visits
- The adopted sample transportation model is a new approach; we are using a learn-by-doing strategy to identify and address challenges during implementation

# Thank You!



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HIVE Strategic Planning Meeting | June 13, 2025 – Johannesburg, South Africa