Communities supported  
120

Lives saved  
53

Women, children and adolescents benefiting  
26,267

Problem
At the time of the project Malawi had a total fertility rate of almost 6 per woman, an HIV prevalence of 13% and under-5 mortality rate of 85 / 1000 live births.

Approach
**WCF PMTCT tool**
- 120 groups established with 6,701 members
- Developed local answers including: awareness raising campaigns; income generation and sharing; emergency transport funds; construction and support for maternity waiting shelters; vegetable gardening, distribution and cooking demonstrations; lobbying for quality health services, outreach clinics and community distribution of FP.
- Community health workers trained to follow-up all defaulter HIV exposed infants and encourage them back to care
- Over 50 frontline health workers trained and supervised on PMTCT guidelines

**Advocacy**
- Groups and project staff routinely shared evidence from the project and lobbied with key decision-makers

**Results**
**Pre-conception increases:**
- Contraceptive prevalence rate – 50%

**Before birth increases:**
- ANC in 1st trimester – 20%
- Women tested for HIV – 10%

**During childbirth increases:**
- ARV prophylaxis – 26%

**After birth, for HIV exposed infants, increases:**
- HIV testing at 6-weeks – 38%
- Following-up 12-mths – 35%

**Lessons learned**
Community-based approaches can improve adherence within the PMTCT cascade:
- The PMTCT tool can increase uptake of family planning and reproductive health care-seeking during pregnancy and delivery
- HIV exposed infants who drop-out of care can be brought back by specifically tasked community health workers

**Figure 1: Impact on FP and key vertical transmission prevention interventions**

**Partner**
MaiKhanda Trust

**Funder**
Positive Action for Children Fund (£349,997)

**Dates**
2014 – 2017

**Project population**
96,077

**Salima District, Malawi**

District Environmental Health Officer:

“I feel there has been a big improvement in PMTCT during the project. We have made gains in 1st trimester ANC due to [the groups]. This has enabled early HIV screening. I believe [the project] has contributed to the district recording a lowest HIV prevalence rate of just 3%”