

# Case Study: Preventing Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV

## Preventing Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV in Cameroon

In Cameroon, a national faith-based organization was implementing a successful prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) program. All the women coming for antenatal care (ANC) were given comprehensive pre- and post-test counseling. Most of the women volunteered to participate in the program. Unfortunately, few men volunteered to participate in the voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) program even though the sites tried to reach out to them.

To increase men's involvement in PMTCT, the sites embarked on a comprehensive male involvement program. They trained providers on how to encourage men to participate in reproductive health services and set up special hours for men to come in for counseling—either alone or with their partners. Additionally, they also reached out to men through their partners. When women came in for ANC, they were given a letter to give to their partners to come to talk to the provider about the health of the mother and baby. The sites have also trained community-based peer educators to reach out to men on issues related to ANC, PMTCT, and VCT. These community-based peer educators talk to men about different issues, including getting tested for their own health and the health of their partner and baby. Additionally, they encourage men to talk to other men to encourage them to participate in maternal healthcare with their partners, including in PMTCT. (Men as Partners, Clients, and Agents of Change)

### Reference

EngenderHealth, not published.

