

# Improving access to HIV Prevention Services for Adolescents

AAPH annual Symposium 2022

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Miles to GO: UNAIDS Global AIDS update 2018

# Background

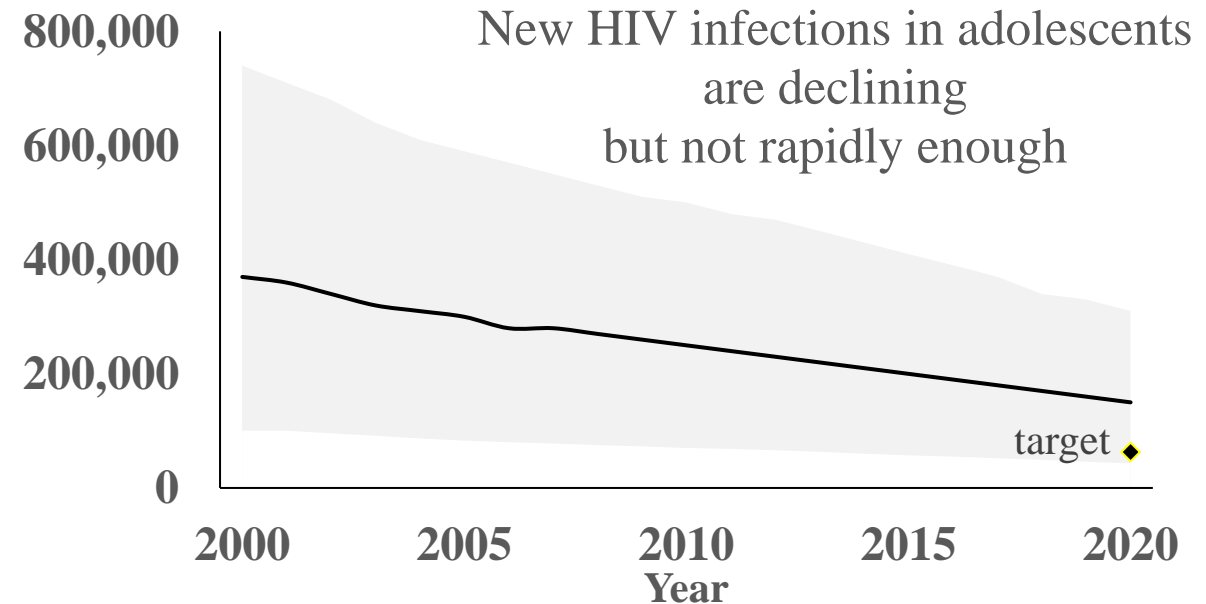
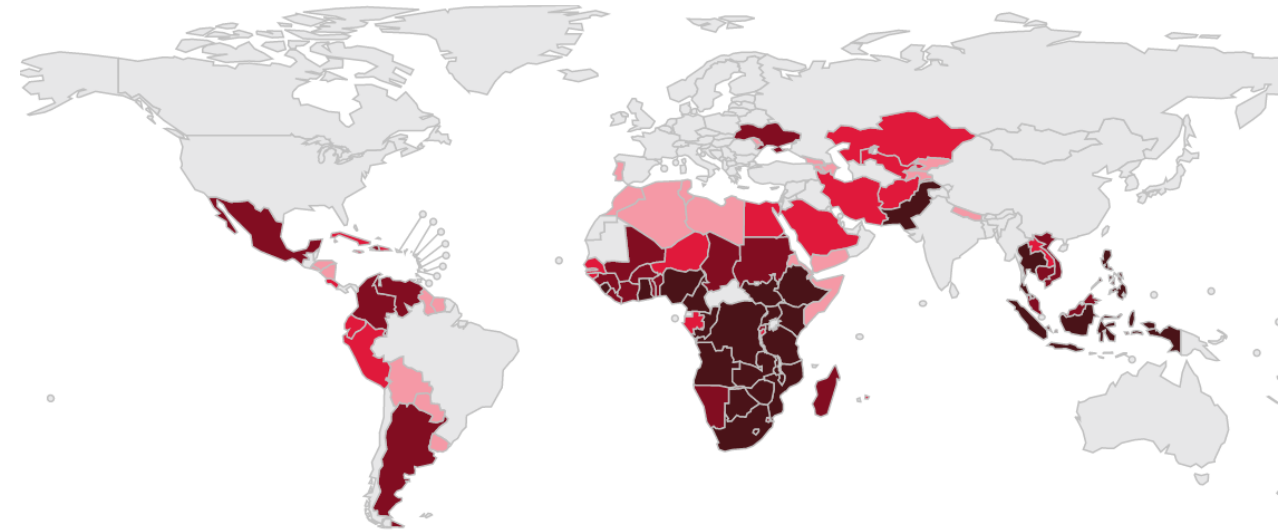
## Global Burden (2020)

- ❑ 1.75M adolescents living with HIV
  - ❑ 5% of all people living with HIV
  - ❑ 89% in SSA

- ❑ 150,000 new HIV inf. in adolescents
  - ❑ 11% of all new HIV inf.
  - ❑ 2/3 in SSA
  - ❑ 40% reduction 2010 – 2020 vs 75% target

- ❑ 3 out of 4 new HIV inf. in adolescent occur among girls

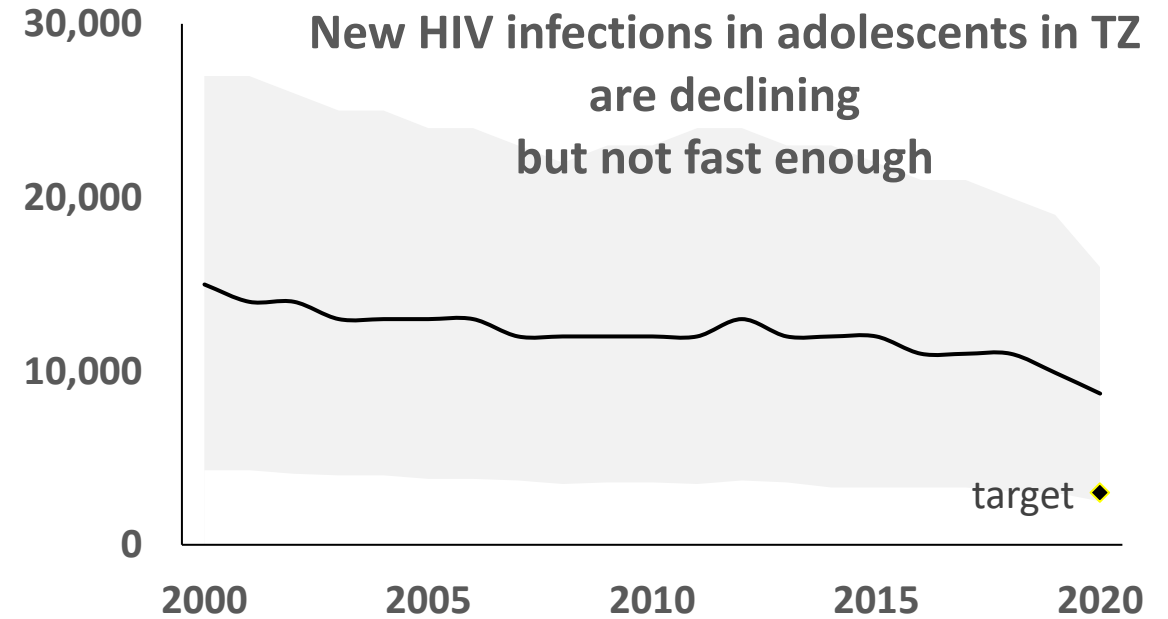
UNAIDS estimates of new HIV infections in adolescents, 2020



# Background

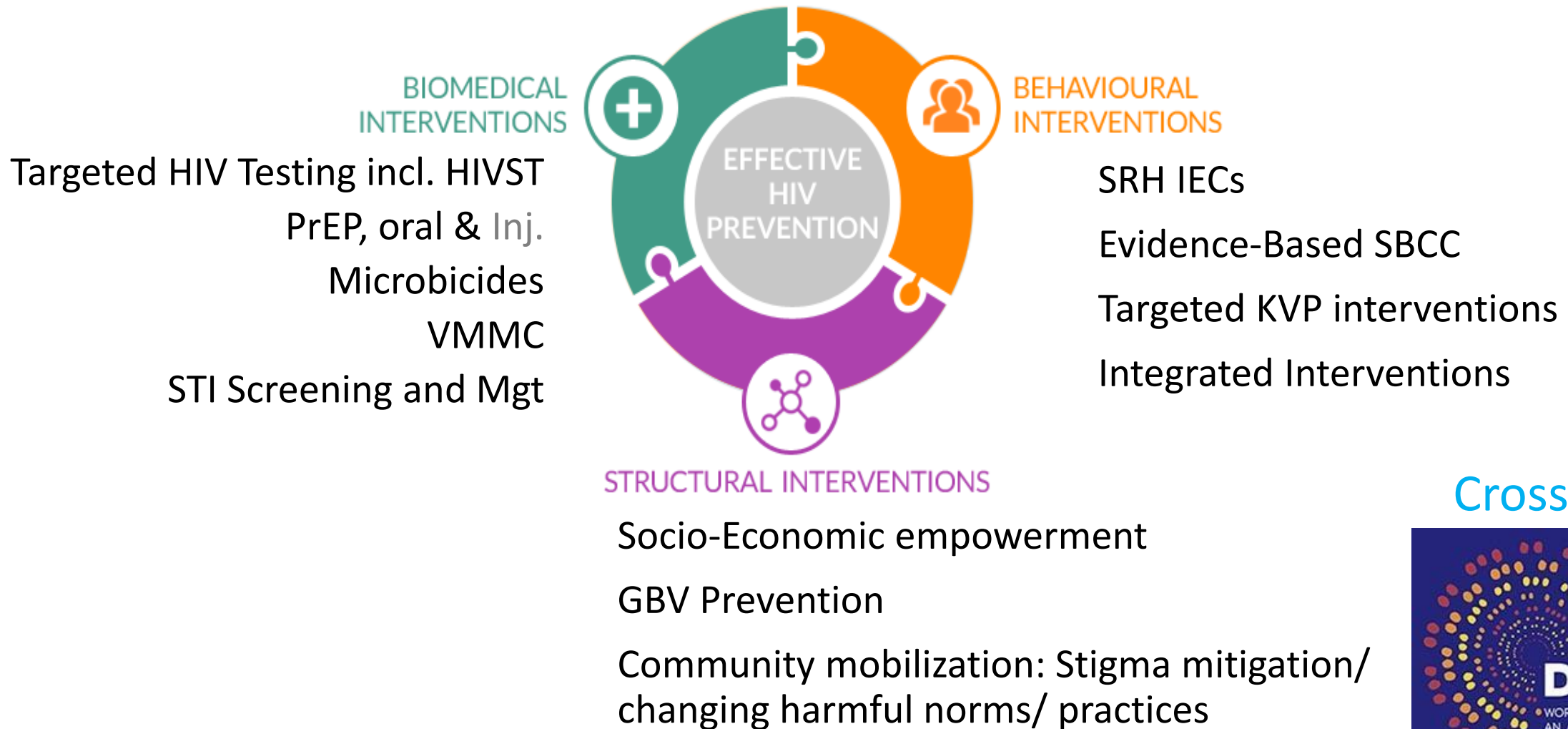
## In Tanzania (2020)

- ❑ Pop predominantly young; 63% <24 yrs
- ❑ 110,000 adolescents living with HIV
- ❑ 8,700 new HIV inf. in adolescents
  - ❑ Girls nearly 4X than boys
  - ❑ 28% reduction 2010 – 2020 vs. 75% target



# Preventing HIV in adolescents

## Combination HIV prevention interventions





# Barriers to HIV prevention in adolescents

## Inadequate access to and/or uptake of services

- Age of consent laws- for AY to access SRH & HIV Prevention services
- Inadequate expansion of services at facilities & communities
- Insufficient implementation of comprehensive sexuality education programs
- Age and gender stereotypes on who should access SRH and HIV prevention services
- Social stigma and discrimination
- Low awareness of availability of the prevention services

## Increased vulnerability to HIV inf. esp. among AGYW

- Age disparity in sexual relationships
- Inability to negotiate for condom use
- Vulnerability to multiple and concurrent sexual partnerships
- Transactional sex
- Gender-Based violence (GBV)
- Poverty



# What is being done in Tanzania

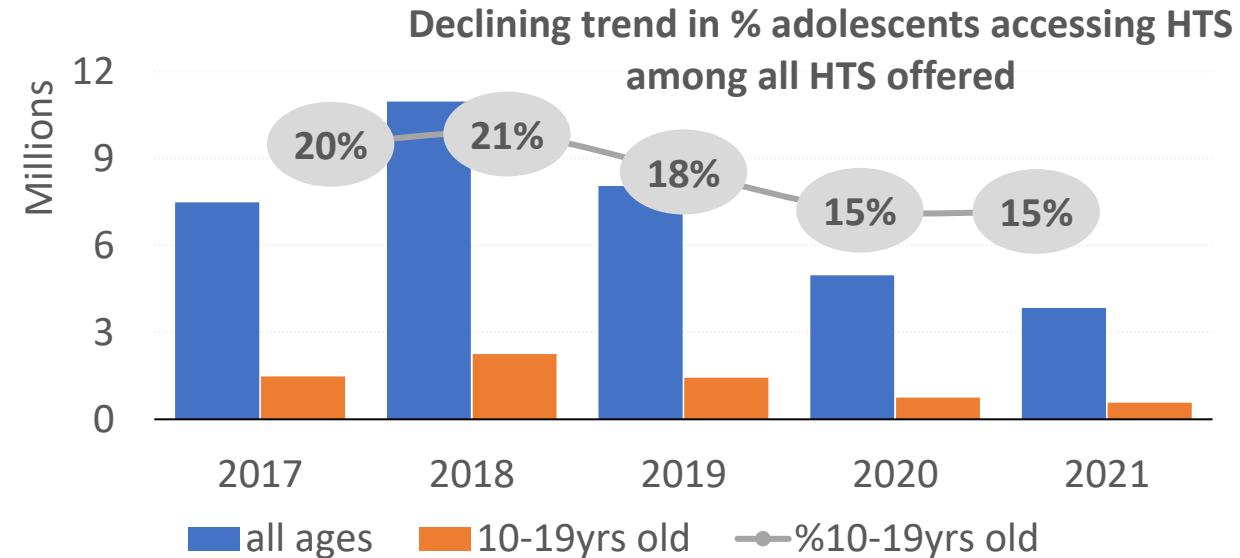
- ❑ Collaborative efforts: GoT, PEPFAR/ Dev. Partners, MDH and others
  - ❑ Expand access to HIV testing & Combination Prevention services for adolescents
    - ❑ DREAMS, VMMC, STI Mgt..., SRH, Condoms, PrEP, AYFS
- ❑ Minimizing barriers to access & uptake of services
  - ❑ Lowering the age of consent to HIV testing
  - ❑ Expanding AY friendly services in facilities & communities
- ❑ Structural interventions
  - ❑ Keeping girls in schools
  - ❑ Socio-economic strengthening
  - ❑ GBV



# **Successes and Areas for improvement**

# Expanded access & uptake of HIV prevention services countrywide (GoT, PEPFAR, partners)

- HTS, Condoms, STI Mgt available at almost all HFs
  - 100% of MDH supported HFs
- GBV screening and prevention more readily available
  - 89% of MDH supported HFs
- DREAMS services expanded in targeted councils
  - 100% of MDH supported HFs and wards in Muleba, Kagera
- 44% increase in AY men 15-24yrs receiving VMMC services 2017-2021
  - 89% increase in MDH supported regions of Kagera, Geita & Kigoma
- Expanded HTS, SBCC & PrEP among vulnerable AY
  - 39% increase in vulnerable AY receiving SBCC & HTS 2018-2021 MDH supported Tabora & Kagera regions
  - PrEP recently rolled out across all MDH supported regions in 2021



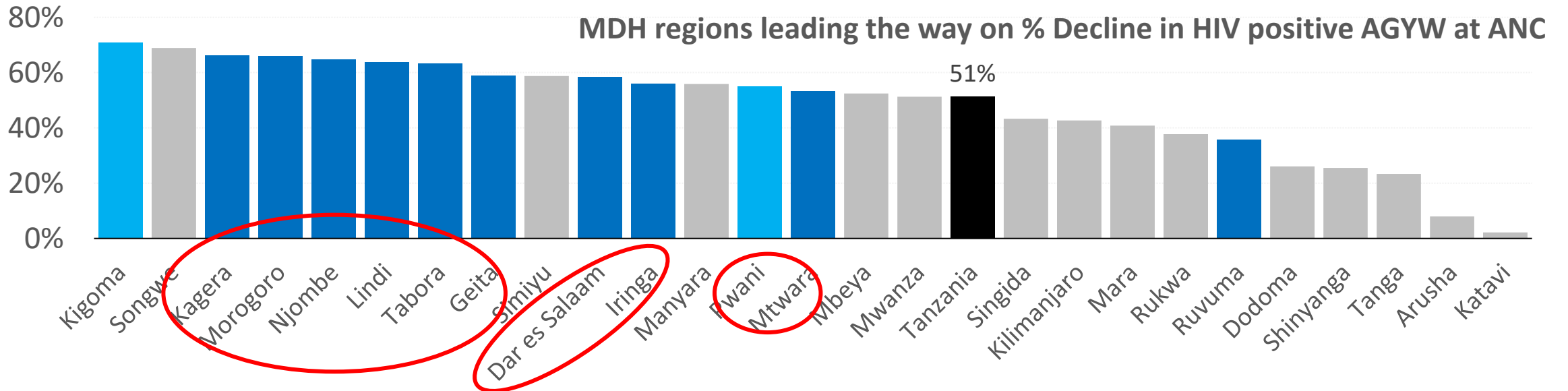
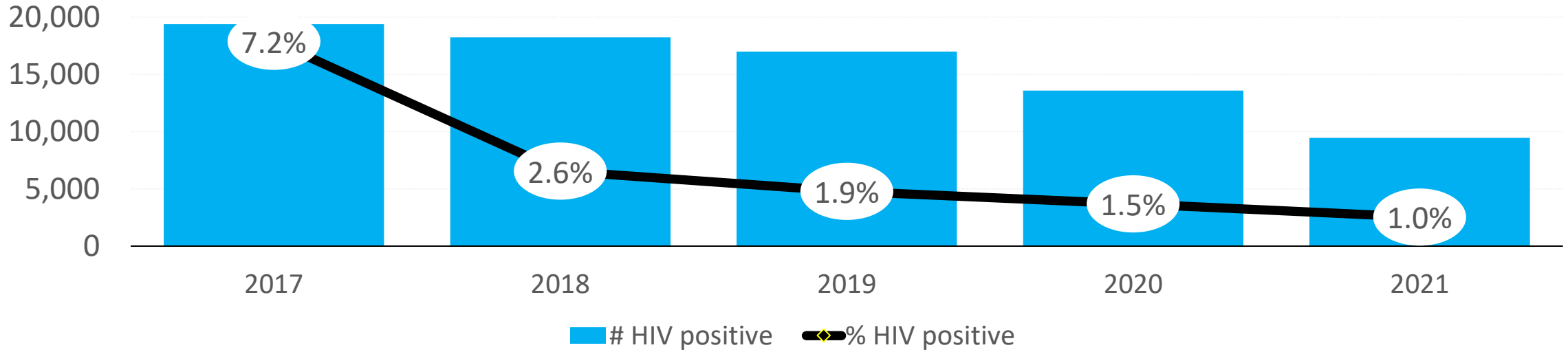
The result of increased emphasis on targeted HTS in recent years?

Inadequate efforts to reach adolescents for HTS?



# Fewer AGYW acquiring HIV

51% decline in HIV POS AGYW at ANC in Tanzania 2017 - 2021



# Areas that need Improvement

- Uptake of targeted HTS among eligible adolescents
- Rapid Scale-up of PreP services and uptake among vulnerable adolescents
- Expansion of successful DREAMS interventions beyond the current targeted DREAMS councils
  - SASA, WORTH+, FMP...
  - School programs in collaboration with the Education sector
  - Increase engagement of peer AY in PEPFAR supported AY programs



# Next Steps: Improving access to HIV Prevention Services for Adolescents

- Scale-up integration of **adolescent centered services & interventions**
  - Community and facility i.e.: SASA...
- Increase **coverage and quality** of adolescent friendly SRH services
  - Condoms, STI mgt, HTS, PrEP, VMMC, FP, GBV/IPV, male involvement...
- Intensify **female & male peer based approaches** to reach vulnerable adolescents
  - Eg. DREAMS ambassadors
- Expand **Socioeconomic strengthening** programs et. WORTH+:
  - Life skills/ financial literacy/ social asset/ entrepreneurship trainings, cash transfers/ education subsidies, savings groups, access to employment
- Scale-up & strengthen **family approach** and involvement eg. Family matters programs
- **Use of technology (mHealth)** to enhance reach of programs for adolescents
  - Complement to facility/ support group visits for information, support & connection
- Strengthening **partnerships** with other national actors to collaborate on advocacy and programming

**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING**