



SLF 2021 IMPACT REPORT

Makhotso Sejane, an HIV treatment mentor with m2m, visits a client who missed health centre visits for early infant diagnosis. The mentor will provide HIV testing for the infant at the household level.

Mothers2mothers (m2m) was born in 2001 at a time of crisis. The number of new HIV infections in South Africa was at its peak, and a potent cocktail of stigma, fear, and lack of information meant that most HIV-positive pregnant women could not access the treatment required to stay healthy and prevent their unborn children from contracting HIV. Three visionary people co-founded this amazing organization that, since 2001, has created 12,000 jobs for women living with HIV as frontline health workers, reached more than 15 million people in sub-Saharan Africa with life-changing health services, and achieved virtual elimination of mother-child transmission of HIV among their enrolled clients for the past 8 years. Take 1.5 minutes to listen to Robin Smalley, one of the founders, talk about her motivation to give up an

American media job and devote herself to African mothers living with HIV: <https://youtu.be/RUigxkEBnMA>.

Mothers2mothers (m2m) in Lesotho was one of the first countries to adopt the model developed in SA and contribute to its expansion, in 2007. This organization now demonstrates what community-driven, responsive care truly is, employing Mentor Mothers as the cornerstone of their care model. Mentor Mothers draw on their lived experiences as people who themselves experienced pregnancy while living with HIV to provide services that address stigma, encourage adherence to HIV treatment, and are tailored to the specific and diverse needs of their clients. m2m has had extraordinary results - 100% of their clients living with HIV are on treatment.

Faustina's Story



"I found out I was HIV-positive after giving birth to my sixth child. He became sick and was found to have tuberculosis (TB). He also tested positive for HIV. This led to my husband, who had been sick for a while, also being tested. He, too, was diagnosed with HIV and TB. Due to lack of treatment, I lost them both.

My life was turned upside down. I faced a lot of stigma in my community. I lost my source of income. What kept me going was volunteering at an HIV Support Group at my clinic, helping people to accept their status. When mothers2mothers opened a programme in my country in 2019, I was overjoyed to be employed as a Team Lead. Finally, after working unpaid for nine years, I was recognised and paid for my work.

Today, I no longer face stigma, my efforts are recognised by my community, and I go to work every day with pride."

Faustina Ocansey m2m Mentor Mother and Team Lead.

Information taken from the SLF 2021 Impact Report: <https://stephenlewisfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2021-Impact-Report-Stephen-Lewis-Foundation.pdf> and the m2m website: <https://m2m.org/>

