Lessons Learned (cont.)

• Majority of women achieved optimal viral load suppression (<20 RNA copies/ml) at:

   6 months: 91%
   12 months: 93.4%

• Over 90% of the mothers in the programme attended clinic appointments according to schedule, and those who missed appointments returned to clinic after the help from peer educators. Some of the reasons for non-adherence to clinic appointments relate to self-stigma, in-adequate knowledge and migration.

• Percentage of infants who were HIV positive.

   1.3%

• Of the 1,311 HIV exposed infants received at 18 months, 1.3% were HIV positive. The low level of HIV-positivity observed among these infants may be due to high levels of adherence to ART by their mothers.

• Community peer educators are a useful resource to improve PMTCT outcomes, and reduce mother to child transmission of HIV.

Next Steps

• More efforts and resources are required to scale up this peer approach including finding innovative ways such as unique identifier systems to track women living with HIV who migrate from one location to the other.

• **Key words**: PMTCT, peer education, ART adherence.

• **For more information**: www.imbutofoundation.org