

# Lessons from Botswana and the African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships

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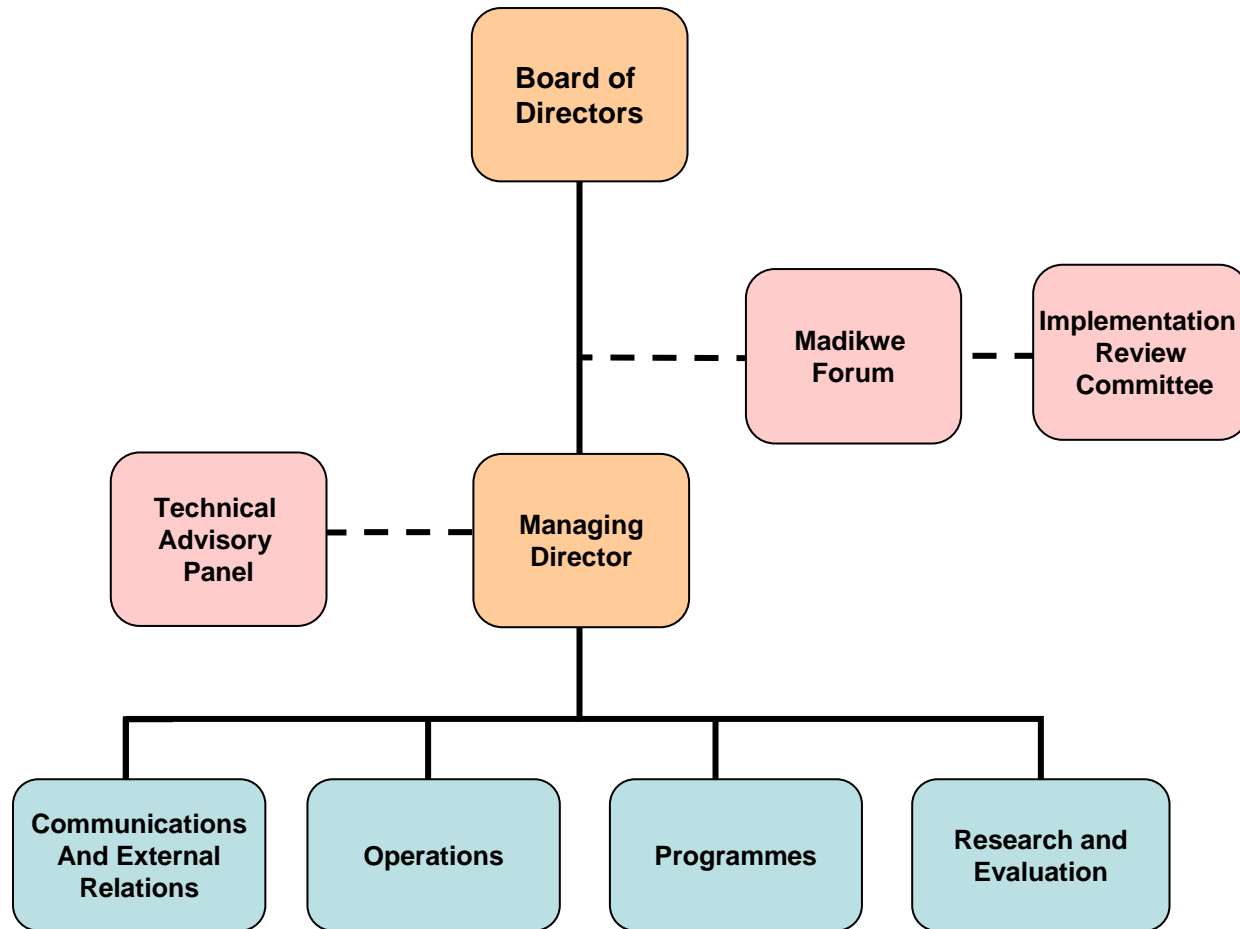
The African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships

# African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships (ACHAP)



- Country-led public partnership between Govt of Botswana, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Merck & Co. Inc./ The Merck Company Foundation from January 2001 to December 2009
- The Gates Foundation and The Merck Company Foundation dedicated \$56.5 million each
- Merck donates its current ARV medicines for the duration of the partnership
- Botswana Government provides policy direction and leadership
  - also contributes human resources, infrastructure, and other logistics

# ACHAP Governance Structure



# A Comprehensive Approach ACHAP Key Programs

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## Prevention

- HIV Education for Schools
- Condom Marketing/Distribution
- IEC

## Care & Support

- Capacity Building / Strategic Planning within Government Institutions
- National and Local NGO/CBO Programs
- Resource Centers at District Hospitals
- Coping & Counseling Centers for PLWHA
- Health Care & IT Infrastructure
- Blood Safety and Youth Prevention

## Treatment

- Health Care Worker Training
- ARV Therapy Program
- Routine HIV Testing



# Focus Areas

- Supporting national ARV programme
- Expanding counseling and testing including post test services
- Scaling up prevention
- Supporting advocacy, community mobilisation and people living with HIV/AIDS

## Cross-cutting support:

- Strengthen partnerships and build capacities for sustainability of national response

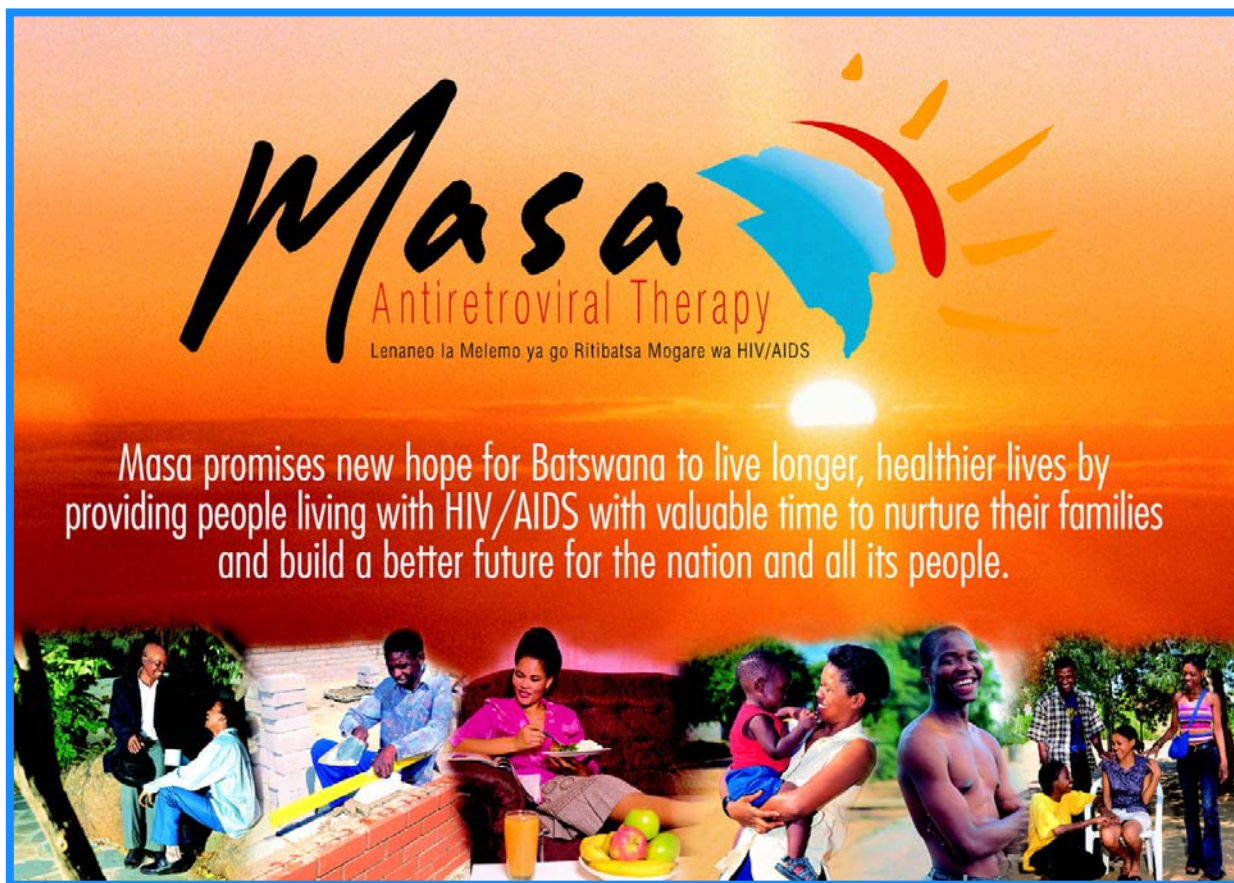
Focus areas and strategic objectives aligned to the National Strategic Framework (2003 – 2009)



# Achievements







Masa: over 80,000 people on treatment, making it one of Africa's largest ARV treatment programs.

# Changing the face of the epidemic in Botswana

An advertisement for ARV therapy. It features a man in a colorful patterned shirt and blue pants, smiling as he works on a brick wall. He is using a yellow spirit level and a trowel to lay a brick. The background is a wall of light-colored bricks. The text "ARV THERAPY ALLOWS YOU TO KEEP ON WORKING" is overlaid on the image in bold, black, sans-serif font.

**ARV  
THERAPY  
ALLOWS  
YOU  
TO KEEP  
ON  
WORKING**

REMEMBER:

1. With ARV therapy, you can live a **LONGER, HEALTHIER AND MORE PRODUCTIVE LIFE.**
2. ARV therapy will also **ALLOW YOU TO CARE FOR YOUR FAMILY.**
3. **BUT, ARV THERAPY IS NOT A CURE FOR HIV/AIDS.**

**Masa**  
Antiretroviral Therapy  
Ministry of Health and Wellness Botswana



# ARV Programme support

- **Comprehensive HIV/AIDS training**
  - 'KITSO' developed by the Harvard AIDS institute
  - Physicians, nurses, pharmacists, counselors trained

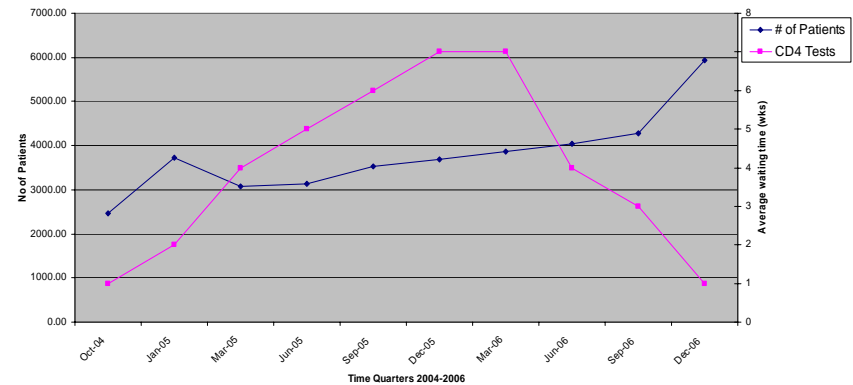


- **Clinical Preceptorships**
  - International clinical experts trained local physicians, nurses, others in the introduction of antiretroviral therapy

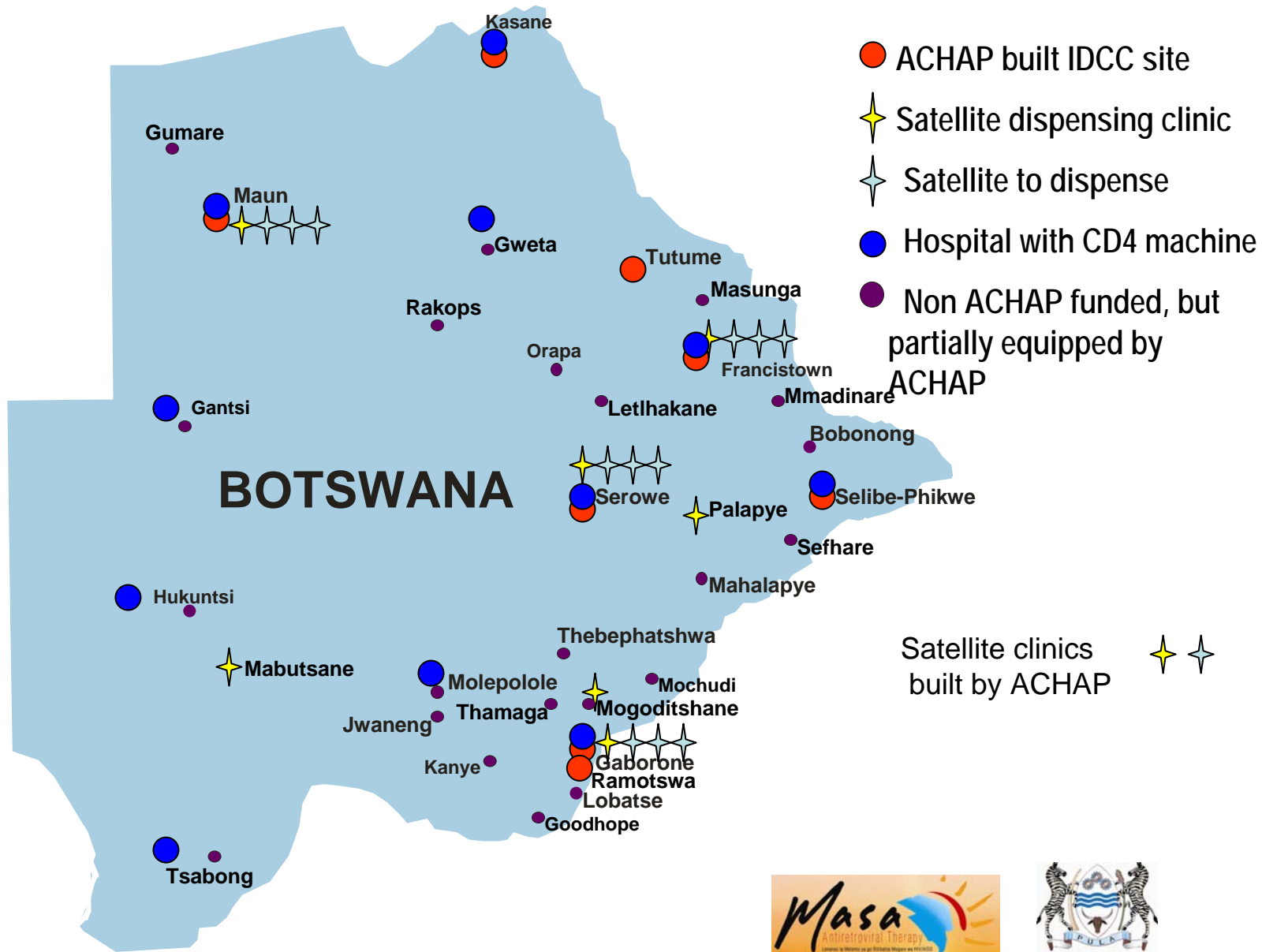


# ARV Programme support

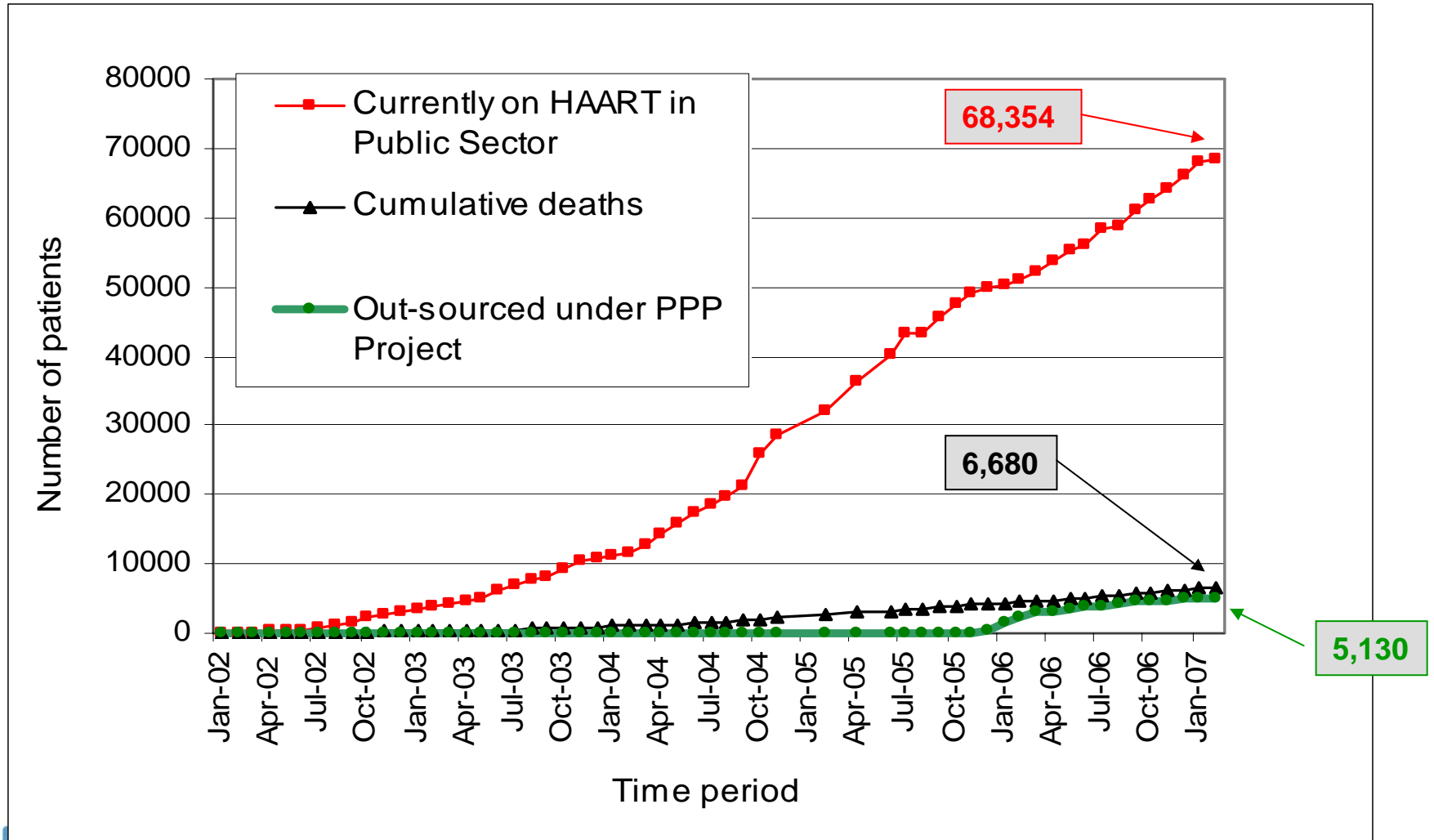
- Infrastructure and equipment support for programme
  - constructed 27 treatment centres or IDCCs, 8 resource centres,
  - lab support – equipment at central level- HIV Reference Laboratory, Francistown Lab, 10 CD4 count and 6 viral load machines to decentralize testing
  - **Reduced CD 4 test turn around time from about 6 weeks to 1 day in some centres**



# ARV Program Rollout : January 2002-May 2007



# ART Patient Enrolment Update : February 2007

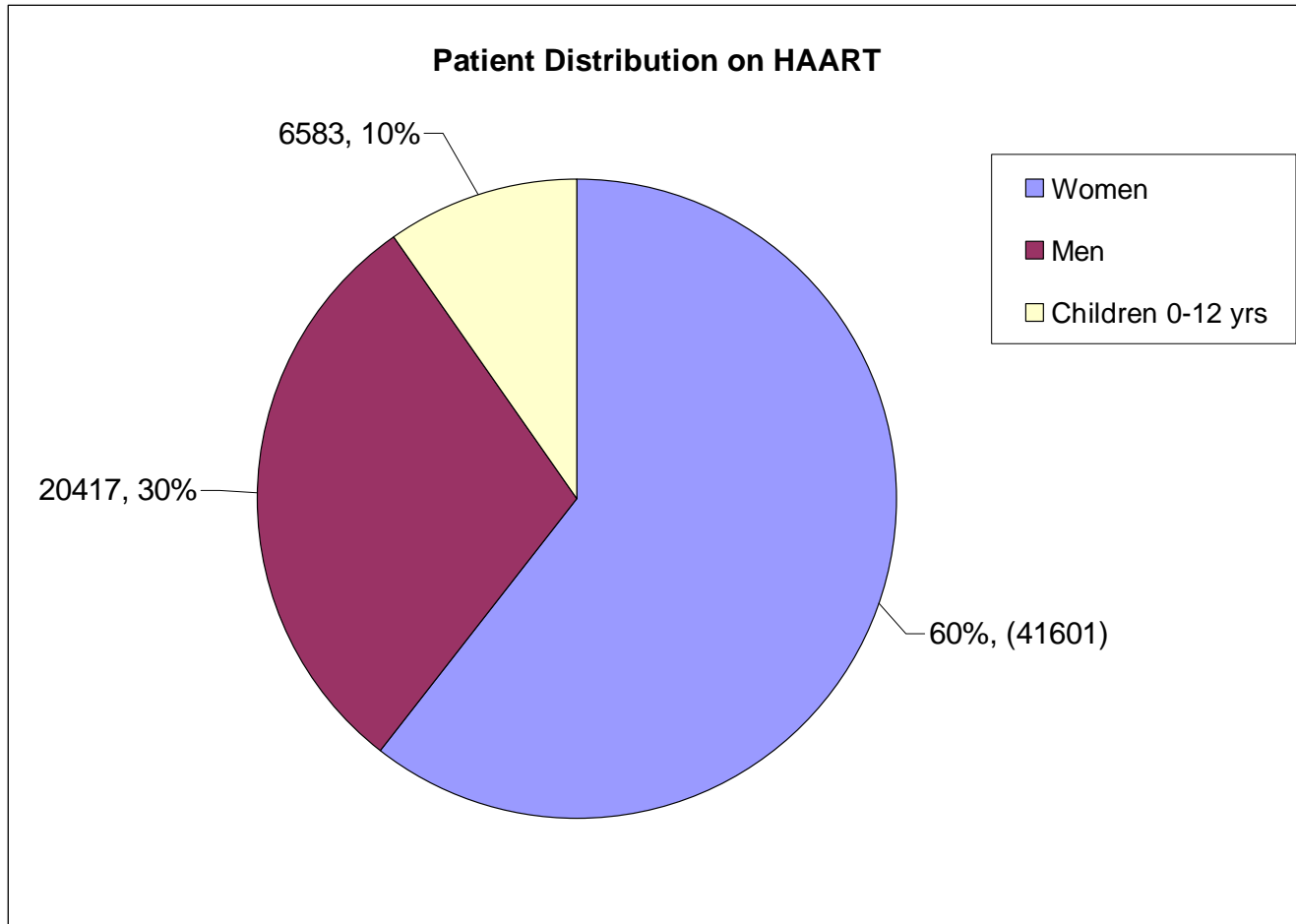


Private Sector – 9,008

Total on HAART in Botswana – 82,492



# Patient Distribution on ARV –Cumulative to February 2007



# PLWHAS AS SERVICE PROVIDERS- Francistown

- Counseling at health facilities (IDCC & clinics)
- Condoms distributed at health facilities
- Clinic-based health education and outreach
- Bookings, referrals & follow-ups of clients



# Capacity Development Beyond ARV Programme

- Support to address shortage of skilled health care workers
- Prevention
- BCC capacity development
- HIV testing
- Monitoring and Evaluation



## First signs of a reduction in infection rates...

Between 2003 and 2005, the prevalence among 15-19 year olds declined by 22%, and the percentage of HIV-positive infants born to HIV-positive mothers from an estimated 40% to about 6%

The first step in protecting yourself and your family from HIV infection is knowing your HIV status.

Finding out your HIV status gives you the power to make the right decisions about your life. If you find out that you are HIV-negative, you will be able to continue taking steps to stay negative, for example, by using a condom during sex or abstaining from sex. If you find out that you are HIV-positive, you can take steps to make sure you stay as healthy as possible through good nutrition, exercise and hygiene. In addition, you can enroll in the Government's Masa programme, where healthcare workers will monitor your health to make sure you start ARV therapy at the right time.

Masa urges all Batswana to visit their local hospitals, clinics and Tebelepele centres, to get an HIV test. For further information, call the Masa Team on 393-9804 or IPOLETSE on their toll free number 0800 600 700.

**Knowledge is power.  
Know your HIV status**

**Masa**  
Antiretroviral Therapy

# Critical factors for success

- Effective partnership with Government
- Commitment of both partners to make partnership succeed
- Successful management of a complex relationship in which Government is an equal partner – but also the main recipient of support
- Strong incentives for Govt to make partnership work
- Being responsive to emerging needs
- Private sector mode of working of ACHAP



# Challenges

- Lengthy approval process and implementation systems through government
- Different styles of working and decision making
- Early structures for partnership were separate
- Sustainability of treatment programme

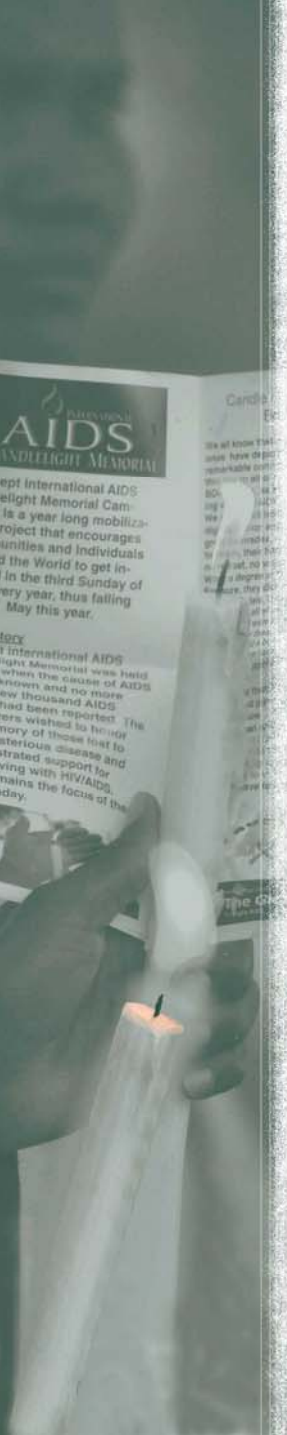
# Lessons Learnt

- PPPs can make meaningful contribution to national HIV response in developing countries
- Different ways of working can cause tensions
- Consultation and respect for structures in place is important
- Give each partner their due in terms of results obtained
- Partners need to address system issues that impede improved performance
- Focus on areas of comparative advantage as other partners come on the scene
- Important to learn each others ways
- Importance of effective collaboration not only with top policy makers – but middle level technical and managerial staff
- Lack of communication and feedback can be interpreted as lack of progress
- Collaboration with other development partners important

# Looking Ahead at the Future: 2007 - 2009

- Scaling up prevention
- Broadening support to tuberculosis and STI
- Strengthening support to education sector
- Sustaining ACHAP beyond 2009





Thank you



The African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships