Three Key Takeaways From This Quarter

Our work continues to reach more marginalised and vulnerable adolescent clients. In this quarter, we reached 101,316 clients between 10-19 years, achieving 82% of our annual target in the first quarter alone.

Our peer-led approach is ensuring that HIV-Exposed Infants (HEI) have a healthy start to life. In Zambia, the percentage for Early Infant HIV Testing jumped from 10% in December 2019 to 85% in March 2022—a remarkable achievement that shows the impact the Mentor Mother Model is having on mother-baby pairs.

mothers2mothers’ work in integrating in-person and digital tools is attracting broader recognition. We are proud to have been selected as a member of the African Union Commission’s Digital Health Strategy Taskforce, which is working to strengthen health research, innovation, and technological capabilities to deliver the Africa Health Strategy 2016-2030.

### The Big Picture (as of 31 March 2022)

#### Number of New Clients Reached (Direct Service Delivery) Q1 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Q4 2021</th>
<th>Q1 2022</th>
<th>Progress Towards 2022 Targets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>m2m Actuals***</td>
<td>m2m Actuals***</td>
<td>Annual Target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children (ages 0-2)</td>
<td>28,903</td>
<td>27,550</td>
<td>145,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children (ages 3-9)</td>
<td>16,689</td>
<td>16,908</td>
<td>58,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescents (ages 10-19)</td>
<td>117,549</td>
<td>101,316</td>
<td>124,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Adults (ages 20-24)</td>
<td>39,220</td>
<td>39,252</td>
<td>158,458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults (ages 25+)</td>
<td>124,907</td>
<td>114,196</td>
<td>419,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>327,268</td>
<td>299,222</td>
<td>905,290</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Our In-Person Service Reach in Quarter 4: A Closer Look

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Our Reach previous Quarter***</th>
<th>Our Reach this Quarter***</th>
<th>Annual Target</th>
<th>Cumulative Reach (Year To Date)</th>
<th>% Target Reached*** (Preliminary)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adolescents and Adults (disaggregated by HIV status) Newly Enrolled</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV-positive (ages 10+)</td>
<td>44,279</td>
<td>39,051</td>
<td>298,080</td>
<td>39,051</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV-negative (ages 10+)</td>
<td>150,413</td>
<td>142,701</td>
<td>333,454</td>
<td>142,701</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown Status at enrolment (ages 10+)</td>
<td>83,564</td>
<td>69,760</td>
<td>71,215</td>
<td>69,760</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subset of total: Clients 10+</td>
<td>278,256</td>
<td>251,512</td>
<td>702,749</td>
<td>251,512</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Ages 9 and Under (disaggregated by HIV exposure/status) Newly Enrolled</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV-exposed children (ages 0-2)</td>
<td>20,126</td>
<td>18,709</td>
<td>54,060</td>
<td>18,709</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV-unexposed children (ages 0-2)</td>
<td>11,191</td>
<td>9,875</td>
<td>71,848</td>
<td>9,875</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children of Unknown Exposure at enrolment (ages 0-2)</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>6,061</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV-positive children (0-9)</td>
<td>2,050</td>
<td>2,140</td>
<td>10,811</td>
<td>2,140</td>
<td>198%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV-negative children (0-9)</td>
<td>9,392</td>
<td>11,234</td>
<td>32,161</td>
<td>11,234</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children of Unknown Status at enrolment or status not documented (ages 0-9)</td>
<td>6,141</td>
<td>5,252</td>
<td>37,330</td>
<td>5,252</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subset of total: Children 0-9 reaching by HIV exposure and HIV status</td>
<td>49,012</td>
<td>47,710</td>
<td>202,541</td>
<td>47,710</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### New Clients Enrolled by Age (Q1 2022)

- Children (0-2): 9%
- Children (3-9): 6%
- Adolescents (10-19): 34%
- Young Adults (20-24): 38%
- Adults (25+): 13%

* Index clients: HIV-positive and HIV-negative pregnant women, new mothers, as well as HIV-exposed and unexposed children under 2 years old. Reached = received one or more m2m service including: Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission; Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health; Early Childhood Development; and Adolescent Health

** eServices refer to both Peer Services delivered by phone and our automated Virtual Mentor Mother Platform (VMMP). Peer services by phone were rolled out by 15 April 2020, and a total of 410,529 clients have been reached through this channel. The VMMP was soft-launched, in English only, on 10 June 2021, and by the end of Q1 (2022), 45,270 clients enrolled for this service.

*** Preliminary results, subject to further data audits
Progress Towards the Three 95s

As well as measuring the scale of our programme, we measure quality and impact by working towards the UN's 95-95-95 targets—a framework for the global HIV response. **Please note:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, clinical services such as viral load testing and HIV PCR testing have been de-prioritised in some health facilities, negatively impacting key services and the data below.

---

**1st 95 - Know Your Status**

- **96% 96% 97% 100%**
- **85% 90% 81% 76%**
- **72% 69% 74% 86%**
- **74% 73% 70% 47%**

- **96% 95% 97% 98%**
- **95%**

---

**2nd 95 - On Antiretroviral Therapy**

- **79% 82% 75% 80%**
- **91% 89% 92% 89%**
- **91% 99% 100% 100%**
- **98% 73% 76% 69%**
- **48% 43% 50% 46%**

---

**3rd 95 - Adherent and Virologically Suppressed**

- **% of pregnant women and new mothers completing ART refills on schedule**
- **% of children tested (18-24 month HIV test)**
- **% of infants tested (6-8 week/10 week PCR)**
- **% of infants tested and results received (6-8 week/10 week PCR)**
- **% of children tested and results received (18-24 months)**

---

*PCR = Polymerase chain reaction test—a highly sensitive and accurate test for early detection of HIV infection. It is administered at different times in different countries, depending on national guidelines.*
Women and adolescent girls living with HIV are particularly affected by violence, stigma, and discrimination. As a result, they are at risk of being pushed to society's margins. In response, mothers2mothers (m2m) is scaling up efforts to support more adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) by tailoring services and recruiting younger Peer Mentors in Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia to ensure that these young people receive the critical adolescent- and young adult-friendly services they need.

We also continued to innovate and develop new programmes to support marginalised communities with life-saving health services. For example, in the Western Cape province, South Africa, we have partnered with the Merck Foundation to launch a new initiative targeted at key populations, with a focus on men who have sex with other men. (Read more on page three).

**SOUTH AFRICA**

- In the Western Cape, we accelerated Project AMPLIFY—an initiative funded by Merck Foundation which focuses on providing peer-led support to men who have sex with men (MSM) who are living with HIV. The project, which will operate in both Gauteng and Western Cape Provinces, offers psychosocial support to both MSM clients and their families, particularly those struggling with coming out, disclosure, acceptance, and family dynamics. Nine male Peer Mentors have been recruited and trained and have completed a community mapping exercise. The project will begin outreach to introduce its services to other health service providers in Khayelitsha and Gugulethu to facilitate referrals once implementation starts.

- During this quarter, m2m's Gauteng team focused on improving and closing active client follow-up (ACFU) gaps for our prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV programmes at the Dark City and Soshanguve model sites. The indicators measure clients contacted and returned to care after missing an appointment. By the end of Q1, the team scored 58% on clients followed up, 43% on clients reached, and 56% on clients returned, compared to the Q4 performance of 41% on clients followed up, 21% on clients reached, and 53% on clients returned. The team continues to adjust strategies to facilitate the uptake of essential services and returning clients to care.

- m2m South Africa continues to provide Technical Assistance to the Department of Health (DOH) to improve the health outcomes of vulnerable AGYW. In March, we presented learnings at the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial PMTCT Quarterly Review meeting from our AGYW Peer Mentor programme that is currently being implemented in eThekwini and Zululand Districts. This resulted in the provincial government committing to set aside funds to recruit and deploy an additional 150 Peer Mentors in eThekwini, Zululand, uMgungundlovu, and uThukela districts.

- m2m led a team of technical specialists to assess the AGYW Peer Mentor programme in Zululand district, as part of our Technical Assistance and post-training support provided to UNICEF partners. The visit was held in partnership with the DOH and district support partner, Health Systems Trust (HST). As part of the overall mandate of scaling up efforts to support AGYW in the region, the team visited 10 facilities and following an assessment, recommended that refresher training should be conducted for Peer Mentors, and that additional staff should be recruited to assist at high-burden facilities.

**New Clients Enrolled:** 94,221  
**Mentor Mothers Employed:** 284
MOZAMBIQUE

- In support of HIV-negative women who have partners living with HIV, m2m Mozambique is providing tailored services to ensure clients have access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PreP), a medication which can prevent transmission of HIV. During the quarter, 43 HIV-negative pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBFW) were enrolled in the programme, and 88% of those enrolled were initiated on PreP. In addition, 98% (155 out of 158) of partners have received Mentor Mother support, and 63% achieved viral suppression.
- Working closely with the Ministry of Health (MOH), m2m is supporting the training of Mentor Mothers and other health providers to pilot client management tools at a provincial level. The cohort includes Adolescent and Young Mentors, Male Champions, and Mentor Mothers. At the end of this reporting period, 130 frontline staff in in Cabo Delgado, Maputo, Nampula, and Zambezia Provinces completed the training. In the next phase, the MOH will evaluate and adjust training tools in preparation for a national capacity building roll-out plan, which will be led by m2m.
ZHAMBIA

- New Clients Enrolled: Mentor Mothers Employed:
- 8,430 174

- At m2m sites in Lusaka Province, the percentage of HIV-exposed infants receiving a final HIV test at 24-months has improved from 10% in December 2019 to 85% in March 2022 after the introduction of the Mentor Mother Model. This remarkable achievement shows the dramatic impact our model can have and its power to ensure mother-baby pairs are retained in care throughout the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) cascade.
- m2m partnered with the Zambia Ministry of Health on a campaign in Central and Copperbelt Provinces to improve paediatric HIV outcomes and ensure all HIV-exposed infants are followed up. m2m assisted by providing onsite mentorship to 102 frontline health workers at non-m2m sites on mother-baby pair cohort registration management to improve client data management and service delivery.
- The eServices platform has continued to impact priority population service delivery in UNICEF-supported Mentor Mother Model Sites, by reaching 1,632 adolescent girls and boys with high-impact HIV prevention and care services, recording a 181% enrolment achievement against the project target of 900.

GHANA

- New Clients Enrolled: 2,125 24

- m2m Ghana continues to implement an innovative “Hub and Spoke model,” which has contributed significantly to the number of clients m2m has reached with quality life-saving health services. Atua Government Hospital serves as the “hub” to three lower-level health facilities which are the “spoke” sites. The model is responsible for 35% of our total enrolment across the municipality, since we launched the model in September 2020. This model also enables m2m Ghana to reach more clients in the community, especially those not accessing health services at hub sites. In this quarter, the spoke sites contributed to about 41% of the total enrolment figure.
- We continued to focus on clients, who may be at risk of falling out of care, with our active client follow-up (ACFU). In this quarter, there was a 38% increase in ACFU at country level, compared to the previous quarter, and a 50% and 19% increase in the Ashaiman and Atua sites, respectively. This improvement can be attributed to the efficient use of m2m’s client management tools and consistent review of ACFU data at weekly Mentor Mother and programme review meetings.
- m2m Ghana also made a splash at a continental level this quarter. At the invitation of the African Union, m2m Country Lead Yvonne Ferguson, was a panellist at the Continental Conférence in Saly, Senegal, which focused on the “Impact of COVID-19 on the Right of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) and those at Risk, Vulnerable to, and Affected by HIV.” The conference provided opportunities for m2m to establish alliances and partnerships to enhance the visibility of our work on a continental level.
• With funding from the Swarovski Foundation, m2m Kenya will be expanding its integrated early childhood development (ECD)/reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health (RMNCH) programme to include services for children with disabilities. Twenty existing Mentor Mothers will complete a specialised training curriculum on how to work with customised implementation tools to better serve the health needs of children with disabilities and their families, paving the way for implementation in Q2. m2m also conducted a mapping of disability-related service providers in Nairobi to inform future referrals and linkages. The project’s target is to reach 2,647 beneficiaries, including mothers and children, by the end of November 2022.

• m2m is committed to securing empowerment opportunities for our team and clients. In February, two programme staff completed an eight-day programme with Street Business School (SBS), on entrepreneurial training for women’s economic empowerment. These staff now hold SBS Lead Coach certifications; we are actively seeking resources and partnerships to allow us to deepen women’s economic empowerment using the SBS model.

---

**TANZANIA**

- New Clients Enrolled: 3,508
- Mentor Mothers Employed: 35

• In collaboration with Regional Health Management Teams, m2m continued to implement early infant diagnosis testing. During this reporting period, m2m tested 81 infants under two months of age, exceeding the annual target. Among infants receiving tests, three (2%) were identified as HIV positive during the first test, while one (1%) was identified as HIV positive during the final test administered when the child was between 18-24 months. All infants who tested positive were initiated on antiretroviral treatment (ART).

• Mother Champions in Tanzania enrolled 172 newly diagnosed HIV-positive women this quarter, an increase of 45 clients from the previous quarter. This performance by m2m’s youngest country of operation can be attributed to the ongoing efforts of frontline staff.

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**KENYA**

- New Clients Enrolled: 3,459
- Mentor Mothers Employed: 20

• With funding from the Swarovski Foundation, m2m Kenya will be expanding its integrated early childhood development (ECD)/reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health (RMNCH) programme to include services for children with disabilities. Twenty existing Mentor Mothers will complete a specialised training curriculum on how to work with customised implementation tools to better serve the health needs of children with disabilities and their families, paving the way for implementation in Q2. m2m also conducted a mapping of disability-related service providers in Nairobi to inform future referrals and linkages. The project’s target is to reach 2,647 beneficiaries, including mothers and children, by the end of November 2022.

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MALAWI

- m2m Malawi’s Expert Client (EC) model achieved a client retention rate at one month of 98%, and three months at 94%, and six months at 91%. This was an improvement over the previous quarter, where retention rates were 96%, 93%, and 90%, respectively. ECs are women and men living with HIV who have been recruited and employed by m2m through support from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-funded Elizabeth Glazer Paediatric AIDS Foundation project. This is part of our adapted peer support approach for special key populations living with HIV.
- During the implementation period, six m2m Malawi programme staff attended a series of capacity-building workshops facilitated by the Ministry of Health on the latest National Guidelines on the Use of Antiretroviral Therapy for HIV Prevention and Treatment. The training assisted staff in familiarising themselves on the new guidelines, which will support the provision of accurate information to clients, as well as other frontline workers.
- In this quarter, m2m strengthened its position as a key partner to the Malawian government by facilitating a visit for stakeholders to the Kabudula Community Hospital and Kunzikuzi Village in Lilongwe district. The team used the opportunity to showcase the Mentor Mother Model and the integrated early childhood development (ECD)/reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health (RMNCH) and nutrition approach at both the health facility and community levels.

ANGOLA

- In February, m2m Angola hosted USAID teams from Angola and South Africa for a formal assessment to measure the quality of programme implementation in line with PEPFAR Country Standards and Guidelines. Six sites were assessed across three provinces—the combined scores per site ranged between 73% and 95%. These scores are indicative of high-quality programmatic implementation standards, especially in the COVID-19 pandemic context.
- In celebration of International Women’s Day in March, m2m Angola participated in a high-level event hosted by USAID and ExxonMobil in Luanda. m2m’s Regional Director for Lusophone Countries Ilda Kuleba and two Mentor Mothers used the platform to highlight our remarkable work and impact to an audience that included stakeholders from the U.S. Embassy, Angolan government, businesses, and civil society.
Highlights by Country This Quarter (Continued)

UGANDA

- In January 2022, m2m started implementation of an additional adolescent health project funded by a grant from Gilead Sciences, which will be implemented for 18 months in six m2m sites and surrounding communities in Jinja district. The project focuses on Zeroing-in to Ending the HIV Epidemic through targeted clinical service delivery and community outreach mechanisms to reach adolescents and young people ages 10-24 years. Site-level inception meetings were conducted across all six sub-counties and health facilities to introduce the project to key stakeholders and implementers at health facility and community levels. Participants included a total of 294 participants, including community development officers, healthcare workers, village health teams (VHTs), para-social workers, and other community leaders. This also enabled mapping of vulnerable adolescents for HIV testing, working with over 180 VHTs, and facilitated buy-in and implementation support from health care workers.

- m2m scaled-up paediatric care and treatment efforts for children living with HIV and their caregivers in East Central Uganda. With funding from ViiV Healthcare Positive Action, m2m is enrolling children living with HIV across seven health facilities. Between January and March 2022, m2m enrolled 137 children and young adolescents living with HIV (ages 5-14) out of the 170 targeted, achieving 81% of the annual project target. In addition, by the end of the quarter, 91% of enrolled children living with HIV were adherent to treatment against a target of 95%.

- m2m adopted a strategic HIV Testing Services (HTS) approach to increase its reach to highly vulnerable adolescents through HIV testing and other services. Staff mapped hotspot areas for adolescents across urban and peri-urban centres and conducted 24 targeted HIV testing outreach events for adolescents. During the quarter, 386 adolescents received HTS and 12 tested HIV positive (a 3% yield). All were initiated on antiretroviral therapy (ART). We plan to cascade this approach as it enhances identification of most-at-risk adolescents and our ability to provide them with critical services.

- m2m Uganda hosted a national-level stakeholders’ meeting for partners supporting disability interventions at various levels. A total of 25 participants attended from relevant national ministries and civil society. The meeting provided an opportunity to share our achievements in early identification and referral of childhood disabilities, and also served as a platform for sharing information to strengthen service delivery. The meeting will fast-track engagement processes between m2m and Katalemwa Cherishire Home (KCH), a rehabilitation centre for children with disabilities, and will enhance linkages and networks between m2m and sector stakeholders.
Combined Financials (m2m Global) 2022

All figures are in US Dollars.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2022 Annual Budget</th>
<th>YTD Actuals through Mar-22</th>
<th>Projected Apr-22 through Dec-22</th>
<th>Total Projected at end of Dec-22</th>
<th>Amount Variance</th>
<th>Percentage Variance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL - ALL SOURCES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening Net Assets</td>
<td>9,823,626</td>
<td>11,635,502</td>
<td>11,635,502</td>
<td>1,811,876</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>33,000,000</td>
<td>6,331,406</td>
<td>20,608,501</td>
<td>32,399,907</td>
<td>(600,093)</td>
<td>(2%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>31,504,214</td>
<td>7,240,053</td>
<td>23,030,112</td>
<td>30,270,165</td>
<td>(1,234,049)</td>
<td>(4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>1,495,786</td>
<td>(908,647)</td>
<td>3,038,390</td>
<td>2,129,742</td>
<td>633,956</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closing Net Assets</td>
<td>11,319,412</td>
<td>10,726,855</td>
<td>13,765,245</td>
<td>2,445,833</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RESTRICTED FUNDING</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening Net Assets</td>
<td>5,452,154</td>
<td>6,260,162</td>
<td>6,260,162</td>
<td>808,008</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>27,114,814</td>
<td>5,864,005</td>
<td>20,649,974</td>
<td>26,513,979</td>
<td>(600,835)</td>
<td>(2%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>25,769,109</td>
<td>5,944,543</td>
<td>18,312,018</td>
<td>24,256,561</td>
<td>(.512,548)</td>
<td>(6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>1,345,705</td>
<td>(80,538)</td>
<td>2,257,419</td>
<td>911,714</td>
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<td>68%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closing Net Assets</td>
<td>6,797,859</td>
<td>6,179,623</td>
<td>8,517,580</td>
<td>1,719,721</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>UNRESTRICTED FUNDING</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Opening Net Assets</td>
<td>4,371,472</td>
<td>5,375,341</td>
<td>5,375,341</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>5,885,186</td>
<td>467,401</td>
<td>5,418,527</td>
<td>5,885,928</td>
<td>742</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>5,735,105</td>
<td>1,295,510</td>
<td>4,718,094</td>
<td>6,013,604</td>
<td>278,499</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>150,081</td>
<td>(828,109)</td>
<td>(127,676)</td>
<td>(277,757)</td>
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<td>(185%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing Net Assets</td>
<td>4,521,553</td>
<td>4,547,232</td>
<td>5,247,665</td>
<td>726,112</td>
<td></td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

mothers2mothers (m2m) is proud to report revenue of $6.3M for the first quarter, which represents 20% of our budgeted projected revenue for 2022.

Expenses totalled $7.2M, of which 84% was spent on programme activities across our implementing countries.

We ended the quarter with Global Net Assets of $10.7M, of which $4.5M was Unrestricted.

We have reduced our FY2022 revenue projections given the uncertainty around the timing of new awards, and our projected FY2021 revenue is $32.4M.

We expanded our partnership with ViiV Healthcare Positive Action, with an award of GBP600,000 over three years to deliver HIV primary prevention and prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV for children, adolescents, and adult women in Ghana. This award will enhance work at our two existing sites in Atua and Ashaiman and allow us to expand into a third site next quarter.

The Trustees of the Lucille Foundation generously awarded m2m GBP150,000 to support our mission of creating healthy, thriving families, and an end to Paediatric AIDS.

The Starr Foundation has invested USD100,000 in m2m's mission, continuing the Starr Foundation's 20-year, ongoing support of m2m's growth, innovation, and leadership.

Q1 Fundraising Highlights
At the end of March, mothers2mothers (m2m) bid an emotional farewell to Co-Founder and Chief Connector Robin Smalley, who retired after 18 years. A dear colleague, friend, and mentor, Robin is inarguably one of our most passionate and energetic advocates.

Robin first met m2m in 2004. Her best friend, Karen Besser (the sister of m2m Founder Dr. Mitch Besser), had undergone shoulder surgery, but tragically never came out of anaesthesia. As Robin and Mitch kept vigil by Karen’s side over several weeks, they talked about the programme Mitch had started in 2001 at Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa—where mothers living with HIV supported other mothers to overcome the tremendous fear and stigma of testing positive for HIV and access lifesaving treatment and services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT). After Karen died, Robin thought she would never have the strength to move forward with her life. That's when Mitch invited her to visit the programme in South Africa.

“The morning I landed, I went on hospital rounds with Mitch who was still practicing obstetrics. All day I met the extraordinary women he treated and was overwhelmed and inspired by their courage, their spirit, their humour, and how despite unimaginable poverty and challenges, they continued to put one foot in front of the other. I was deeply inspired and wanted to be like them. On that day, my life was changed forever,” says Robin.

That day also changed m2m forever. Robin fell in love with the work and South Africa, and within months, she moved her husband and two daughters to Cape Town and became m2m’s first Executive Director. These proved to be the first steps on a career dedicated to scaling the Mentor Mother Model and attracting sustainable funding for m2m. In 2005, Robin returned to Los Angeles as Director of m2m U.S., where she set to work expanding the organisation’s funding base and developing key global partnerships...many of which still exist today.
It is impossible to list all of Robin's amazing accomplishments at m2m, which have brought her to the White House, the U.S. Congress, 10 Downing Street, and the United Nations, to name a few. But when strung together over her time as a leader at m2m, they demonstrate a life's work that has transformed millions of lives.

“I have always been in awe of Robin's energy, her passion, her love of mothers2mothers...her indefatigable spirit for all things m2m. A networking machine—from airplanes or conferences, meetings or dinners, cocktail parties or receptions, Robin has consistently shown an ability to meet, greet, and connect with people and bring them into m2m's world,” says m2m President & CEO, Frank Beadle de Palomo.

“She has used her skills, her passion, and her commitment to raising millions and millions of dollars for our mission. Those have been precious resources for Mentor Mothers, for the women and children we serve, for lifesaving services in African communities...spreading our power of health and hope,” adds Frank.

While Robin will be greatly missed, we are fortunate that this is a farewell, not goodbye, as we know she will continue to be an extraordinary ambassador and Co-Founder. "I am retiring as Chief Connector, but never from being m2m's Biggest Fan!” says Robin.