mothers2mothers (m2m) continued to grow in scale and achieve remarkable impact in 2021, even amid ongoing disruption caused by COVID-19. Thanks in part to the rapid adaptation and innovation of our service delivery in 2020 to a hybrid approach (in-person services combined with virtual eServices), we were able to deliver life-changing health services, education, and support to more clients at a time when they were needed more than ever. We also advanced the global goal of ending HIV/AIDS—including reaching all of UNAIDS’ ambitious Fast-Track Targets four years ahead of schedule—and provided services and support to ensure vulnerable populations stay healthy and thrive. This factsheet provides data and insights on m2m’s reach, scale, and impact in 2021.

1,630,558 new and returning clients were reached in 2021 through our direct services and technical assistance, a 22 percent increase over 2020. m2m now provides direct services in 10 sub-Saharan African countries—after expanding our work in Tanzania in 2021 into direct service delivery, in addition to the technical assistance we have provided there since 2020.

m2m is proud to have achieved virtual elimination of mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV among our enrolled clients for eight consecutive years, with a transmission rate of just 0.7% in 2021—well below the United Nations benchmark of 5%.1

m2m met all of UNAIDS’ ambitious Fast-Track Targets for ending HIV/AIDS, four years ahead of the 2025 target date.

TARGET 1: 95% of people living with HIV know their HIV status

97% of m2m’s pregnant clients at health facilities tested for HIV, compared to the benchmark of 91% in Eastern and Southern Africa.2

TARGET 2: 95% of people who know their status are on treatment

100% of m2m’s clients who tested HIV-positive accessed antiretroviral therapy (ART), compared to an 85% benchmark for Eastern and Southern Africa.3

TARGET 3: 95% of people on treatment with suppressed viral loads

97% of m2m’s pregnant and breastfeeding clients achieved viral suppression, surpassing the 91% benchmark for Eastern and Southern Africa.4
Mentor Mothers ensured vulnerable populations, including children and adolescents, were not left behind in accessing vital health services.

**CHILDREN**

99% of children enrolled in our Early Childhood Development programme achieved their developmental milestones by their first birthday — remarkable results since some parenting and nurturing care support was provided by phone through eServices in 2021 due COVID-19 restrictions.

99% of m2m clients who are Orphans and Vulnerable Children (ages 0-18) and tested positive for HIV were linked to treatment, compared to a global rate of 54% for children living with HIV.

**ADOLESCENTS**

m2m reached 51% more adolescents (ages 10-19) in 2021, compared to 2020. This increase reflects new or expanded adolescent-focused programmes — a priority for m2m since adolescent girls and young women continue to be one of the most at-risk populations for contracting HIV.

**EMPLOYMENT FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS**

1,866 frontline staff living with HIV were employed in 2021, most of whom were women — a 10% increase over 2020 — providing much needed income during a time of unprecedented economic crisis.

**DIGITAL HEALTH SERVICES AND TOOLS UNDERPIN OUR SUCCESS**

eServices, thoughtfully layered with in-person services, helped us reach more clients with health services, education, and support in 2021.

188,552 clients received peer support by phone, 100% of our 2021 target.

36,392 new clients were reached via the Virtual Mentor Mother Platform WhatsApp chatbot, 34 times more clients than the year before.

m2m’s mobile applications track clients’ progress and our service performance — enabling our frontline team to rapidly respond to client needs and identify service improvement areas.

80% of m2m’s field staff were digitally enabled in 2021.

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1. Data calculated from Kenya, Lesotho, South Africa, and Uganda
2. UNAIDS 2019
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Data from Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, and Uganda — where we provide ECD services integrated into our RMNCH services