

# Couples HIV Testing Services at Projet San Francisco, Kigali, Rwanda

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# Historical Background

- ❖ Projet San Francisco was founded in 1986 by Dr Susan Allen
- ❖ 1986-1988: NIH funding to screen a consecutive sample of 3881 women from the MCH Department at the Central Hospital of Kigali. Prevalence of HIV was 29%
- ❖ 1988: Enrollment of a representative sample of 460 HIV positive women and 998 HIV negative women into a prospective cohort study
- ❖ Many women requested HIV testing for their husbands and one third of the husbands came when testing was offered → 60 HIV discordant couples identified.

# Early CHCT Services

- ❖ 1992: NIH Grant to actively enroll male spouses of female cohort study participants and to open a CVCT center.
- ❖ Between 1992 and March 2004, more than 2000 couples tested and 260 discordant couples identified
- ❖ During the 1994 genocide, half of staff and study participants were killed or disappeared. Project relocated to Lusaka, Zambia
- ❖ When the project reopened in Aug 1994, only 41 of the discordant couples had both partners alive and living in Kigali. Follow-up discontinued due to lack of funding

# Post-Genocide CHCT Services

- ❖ May 1997-April 1999: UNFPA funding to provide CHCT and Family Planning services: recruitment and training of counselors, VCT offered to more than 5000 couples
- ❖ April 2001-July 2002: Funding from World AIDS Foundation to integrate CVCT in two antenatal clinics: 1026 women and 977 couples were tested
- ❖ 2003-2006: NIMH funds to promote CVCT through Influential Network Leaders in the religious, health, private and CBO/NGO sectors

# Conference on Couples' VCT & HIV Vaccines

Kigali, Rwanda  
19-21 November 2003



TRAC

PSF

IAVI



# Between 2003 and 2006

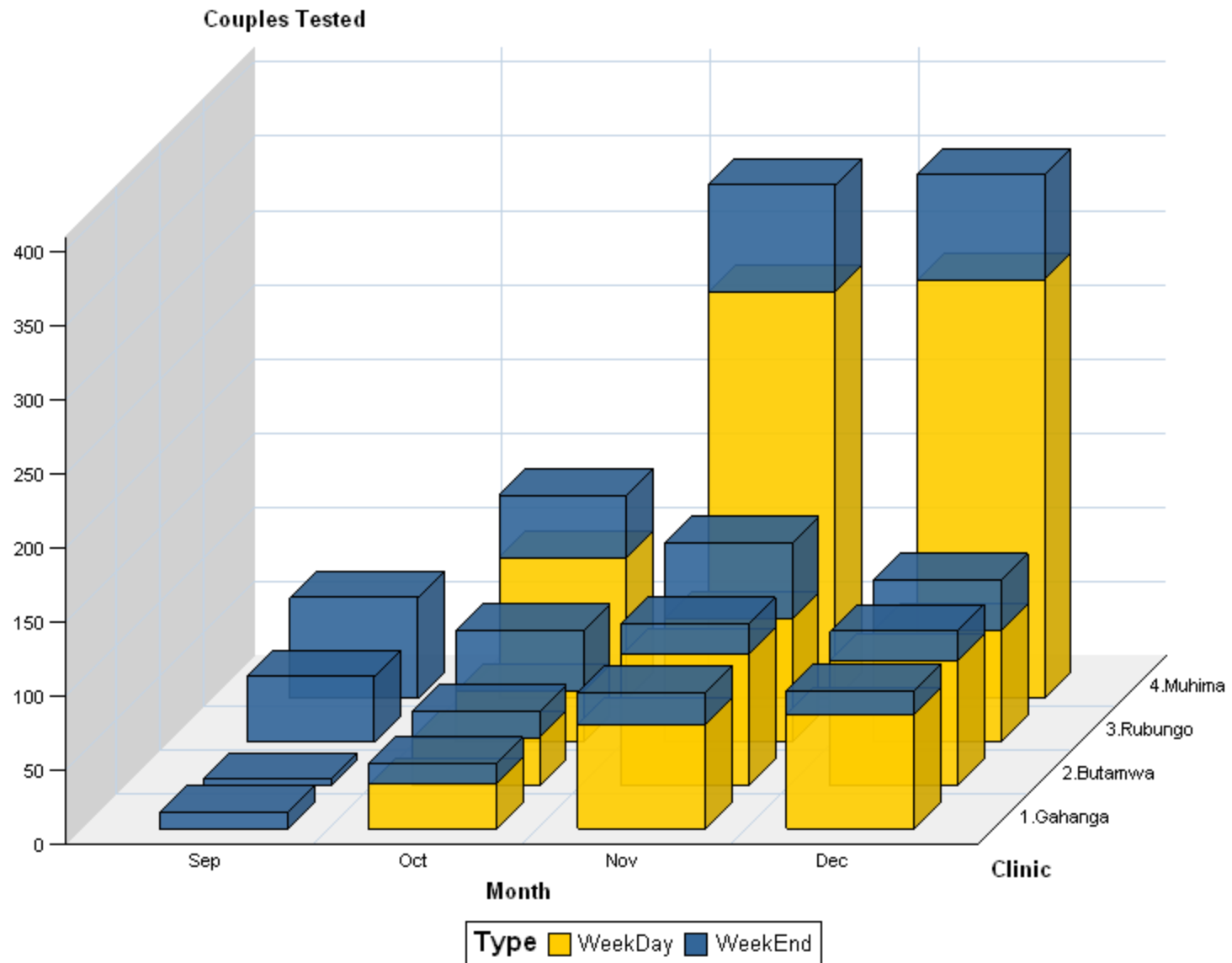
Three stand alone centers operated by PSF

- ❖ 340 Influence network agents distributed 74,500 written invitations (performance based pay)
- ❖ 36,900 couples attended with transport reimbursed
- ❖ 32,000 tested, 3840 discordant couples identified

# By 2008

- ❖ Total 40,000 couples tested at PSF: half were cohabiting couples, @15% of the city's cohabiting couples had participated
- ❖ MOH endorsed routine testing of male partners in ANC
- ❖ Weekend programs set up to accommodate both partners together
- ❖ Within 6 months, couples seen at weekday ANC
- ❖ Transport reimbursement and active promotion no longer required

# Rapid expansion of Couples' testing in Kigali clinics, 2008



## Weekend CVCT program at Kacyiru clinic, Kigali, Rwanda



# Lessons learned from Rwanda

- 2006-2007: male partners tested separately from wives in district clinics
- 2008: CDC/NIMH/LSTM procedures adopted by clinics in Kigali
- Training counselors was not enough by itself
- Weekend programs in clinics facilitated the transition to integrated weekday services