



HCT, ART and Linkage to Care in A Closed Setting

The Uganda Prisons Experience

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Introduction



- The service has 16 regions and 257 prison units.
- Each region is headed by an RPC and each prison unit by an OC.
- Prisoners population rate of 129/100,000
- Prisoner annual turn over 165,274

Introduction



- Infrastructure is majorly old and dilapidated In many instances with limited or no space for health services delivery.
- The official total holding capacity is 16,656.
- Characterised by a high degree of overcrowding with an occupancy rate of 329.5%

Back Ground

- HIV prevalence among prisoners in Uganda is three times as high as seen in the general community at 12% among staff and 15% among prisoners (Serobahavioral survey 2014) as compared to the National average of 7.3% in 2014 and now estimated at 6.2%
- TB prevalence in the prison is estimated to be 650/100,000 population while the National average is estimated at 174,100,000

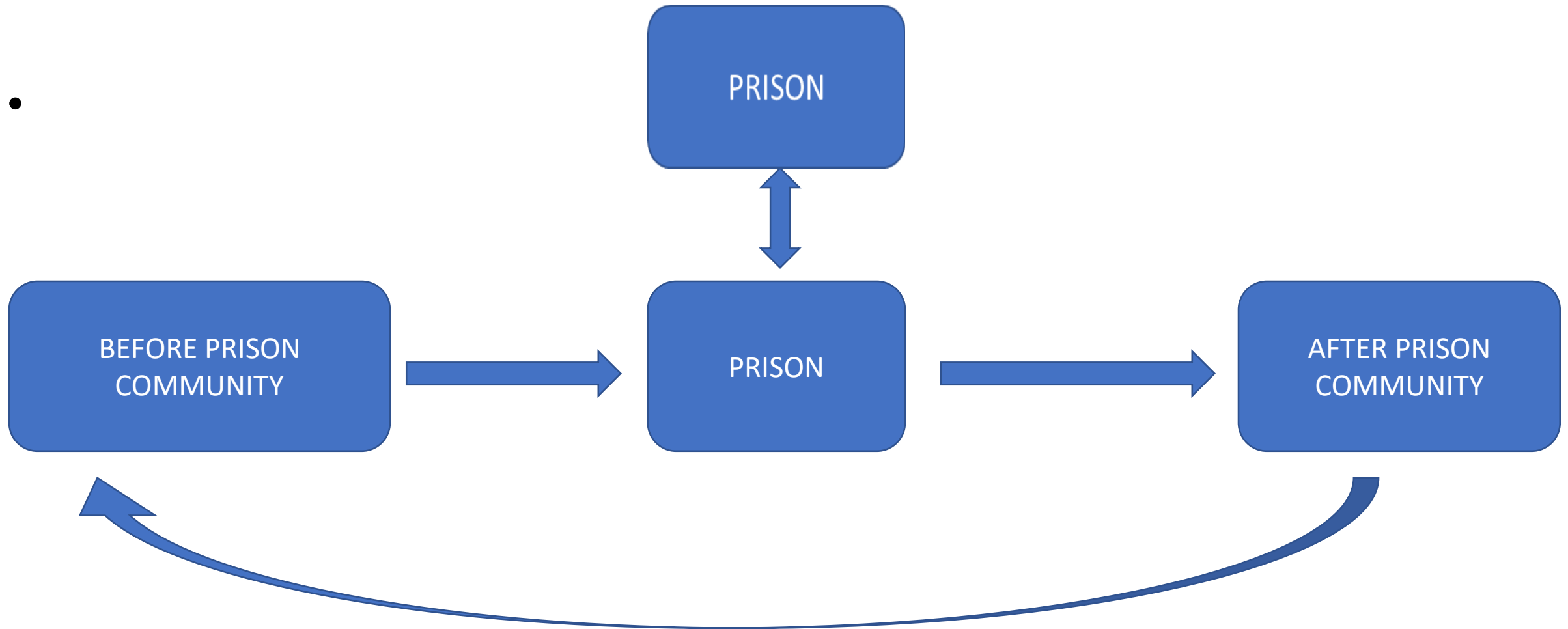
HIV Drivers among prisoners

- High Risk practices like sharing sharps among prisoners.
- Unprotected sex (MSM-transactional, forced/coerced, consensual)
- Drug use (Injecting and cannabis)
- Over crowding with an average occupancy rate of 329.5%%
- Treatment interruptions due to high mobility and lack of coordination.

HIV Drivers among Staff

- Increased vulnerability of female custodial staff due to the submissive requirement of junior officers to their seniors.
- Drug use due to work pressure
- Multiple sexual partners including sharing accommodation facilities.
- Treatment interruptions due to erratic deployments that demand alertness and permission to seek for health care.

Problem statement



Interventions

- On-entry medical screening for prisoners at high volume reception centres.
- This includes;
 - HTC
 - TB symptom screening and sputum examination for microscopy
 - Screening for psychiatric disease
 - Nutritional assessment using BMI

Interventions

- Out-reach HCT services to prison units with no capacity for HTC.
- Peer support among staff – services at place of work by lay testers
- Peer support inside the prison – cough monitors
- Implementation of DOT for ART and TB
- Community engagement to provide HTC, ART, TB management.
- Test and treat strategy

Treatment Linkage System

- Linkage to treatment to address treatment interruptions as a result of internal transfers and unplanned discharges from prison.
- New entrants previously on treatment – prevent multiple counting
- Newly diagnosed
- Transferred within prison while on treatment
- Released on Bail
- Released on completion of sentence (Pre-release counselling)

Elements of Linkage to care

- VHT – Community to prison
- Prisons EMR – Inter-prison transfers
- SMS – Inter-prison Transfers
- VHT – Prison to community

Infrastructural Improvement

Before



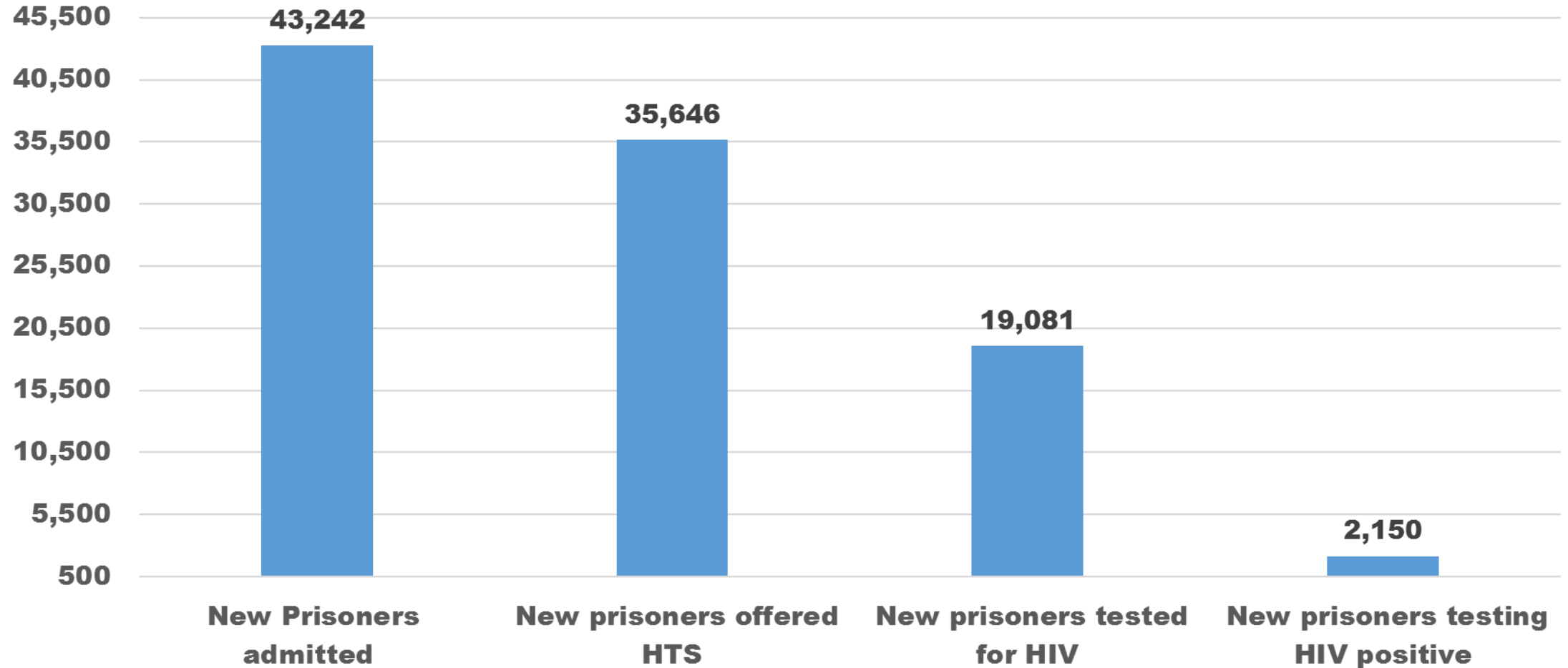
After



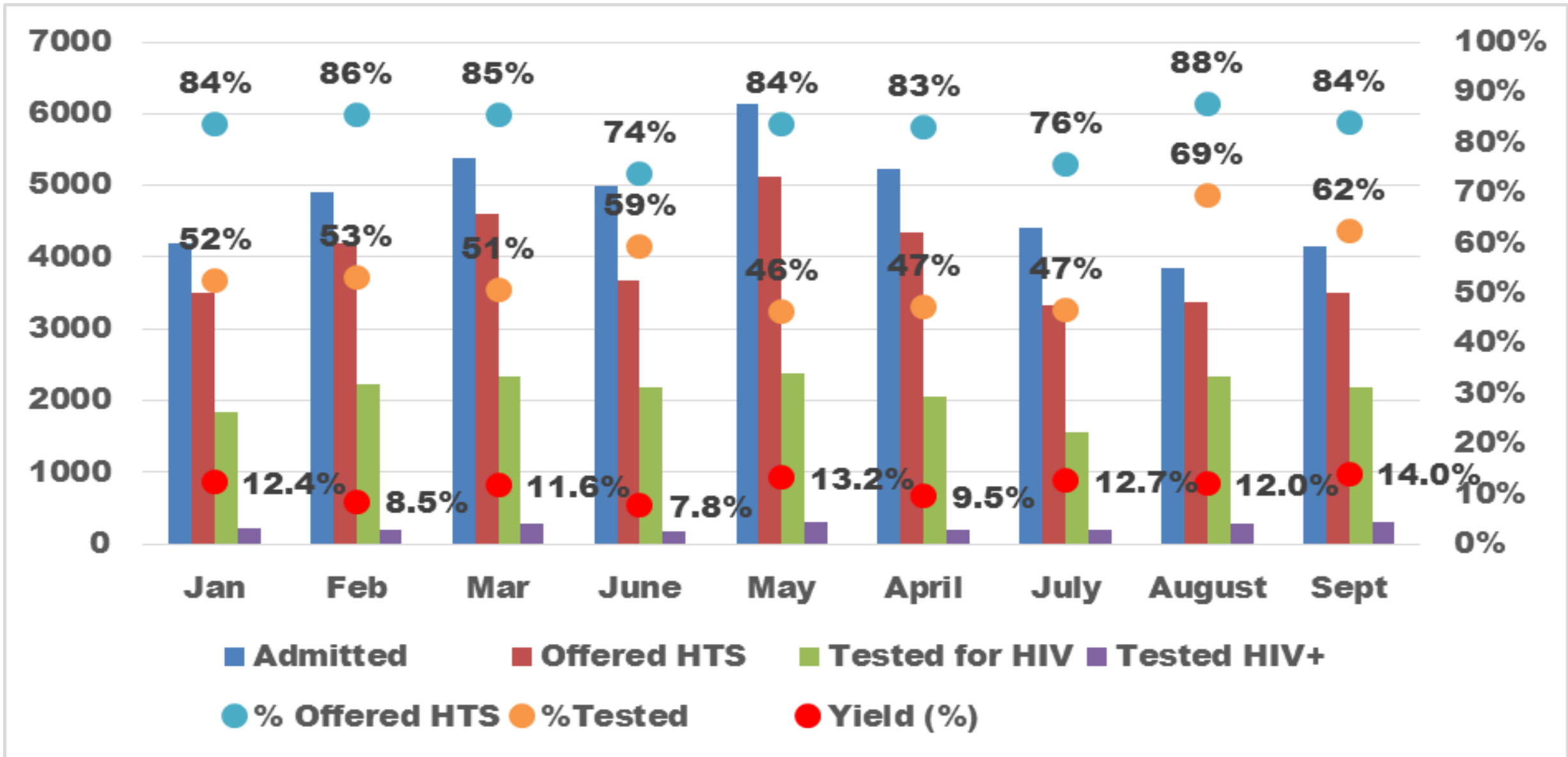
Results

- In the 10 ART accredited facilities that are also the regional facilities.
- Period covered from Jan to Set 2017 when the linkage strategy came into full force for the 10 facilities.
- A glance through the 90, 90, 90 cascade.

Entry HIV Screening in Uganda Prisons, Jan-Sept 2017

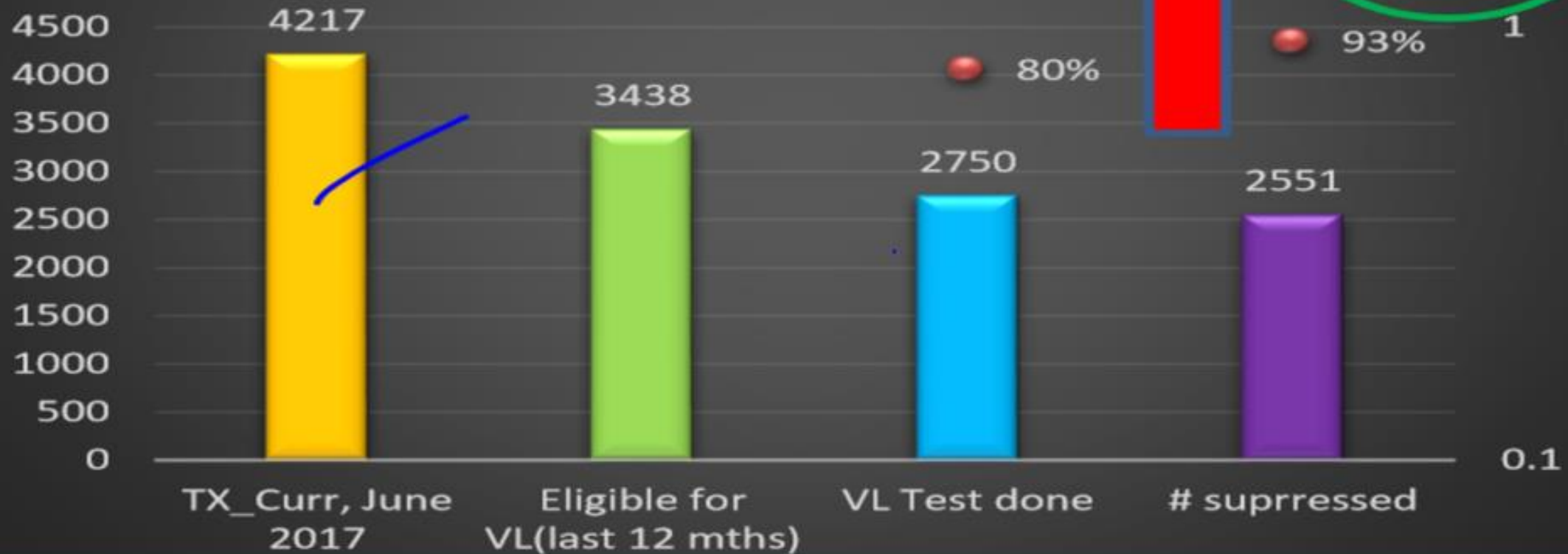


Entry HTS cascade of prisoners in Uganda, 2017



Viral Load Cascade(TX_CURR, Eligible VL, VL Test, #Suppressed, VL coverage, Suppression rates)

87.7%
Country
program



Good Practices

- Engagement of uniformed staff as VHT members.
- Electronic/Internet based tracking system.
- Community engagement to provide ART for prison units without health facilities.
- HTC out reach services to prisons with no capacity.
- Use of peers for Implementation of DOT

Challenges

- Comprehensive HIV services are only in 10 high volume prison units due to infrastructure and staffing challenges.
- Poor up-take of HTS at entry screening due to next day screening
- Lack of HTS follow-up strategy for those who preferred not to participate in the entry exercise.
- Staff prefer HIV service outside the prison fraternity due to stigma issues.

Future Plans

- Partner follow up to conduct home based HTC by ex-prisoner expert clients.
- Promotion of peer counselling and testing in prison cells.
- Promotion of HIV self testing.
- Integration of TB/HIV responses in prisons management.
- Exit HIV screening

Future Plans

- Roll out of the linkage strategy to all the 257 units.
- Strengthen the treatment of opportunistic infections.
- Increase viral load monitoring using regional hubs.
- Pre-release counselling and planning for linkage to community based services.



Thank You