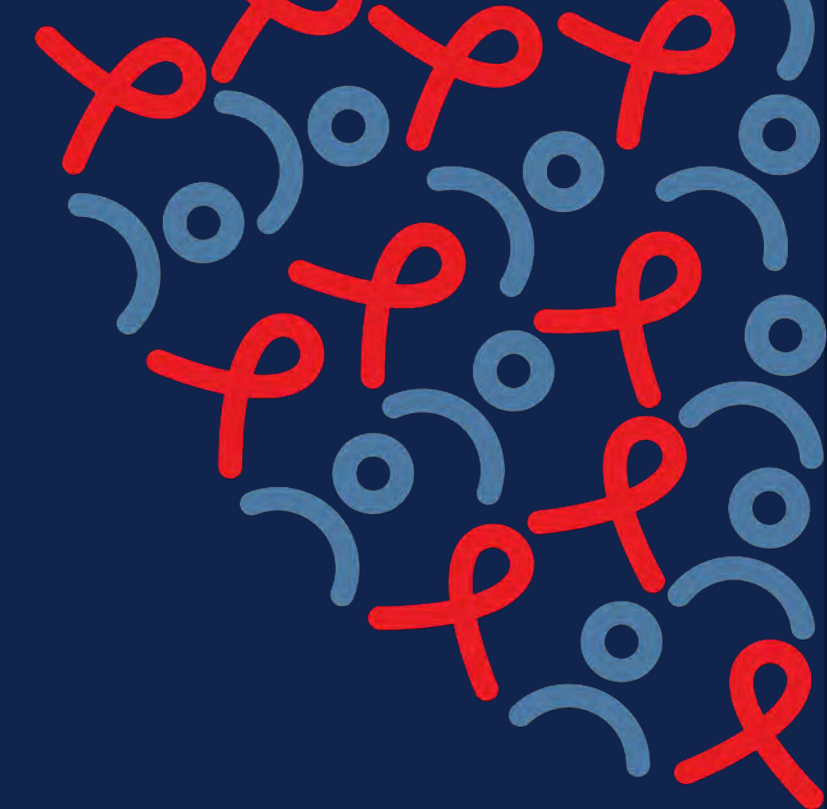


# Home-based deliveries of ARVs using courier services is highly acceptable to PLHIV in Gaborone and Molepolole, Botswana

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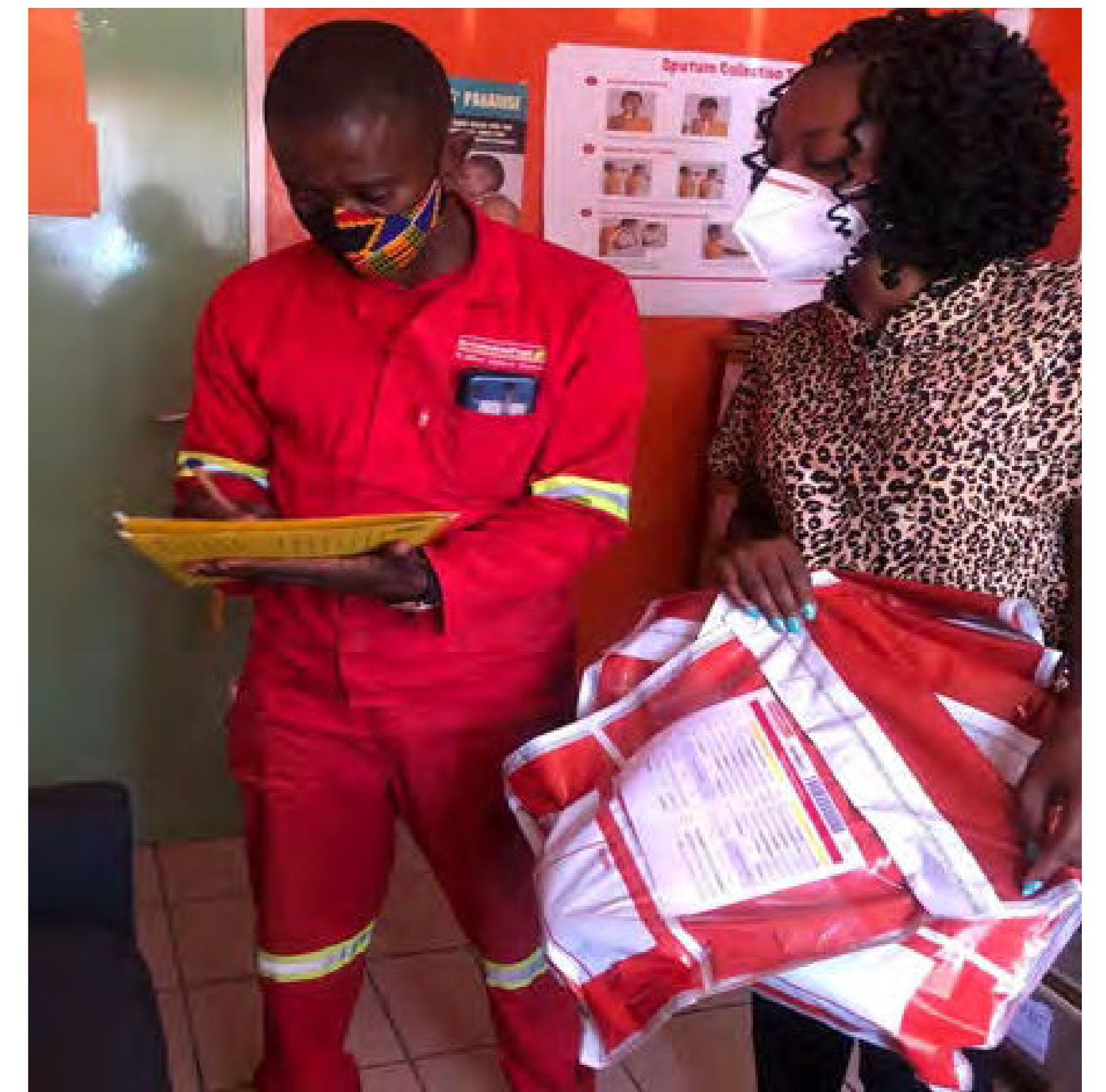


## BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 lockdown measures disrupted many routine health services, including medication refills for people living with HIV (PLHIV). The Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) project introduced home-based delivery (HD) of antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) to ensure PLHIV received their medication and to decongest clinics to minimize exposure to COVID-19 for providers and clients.

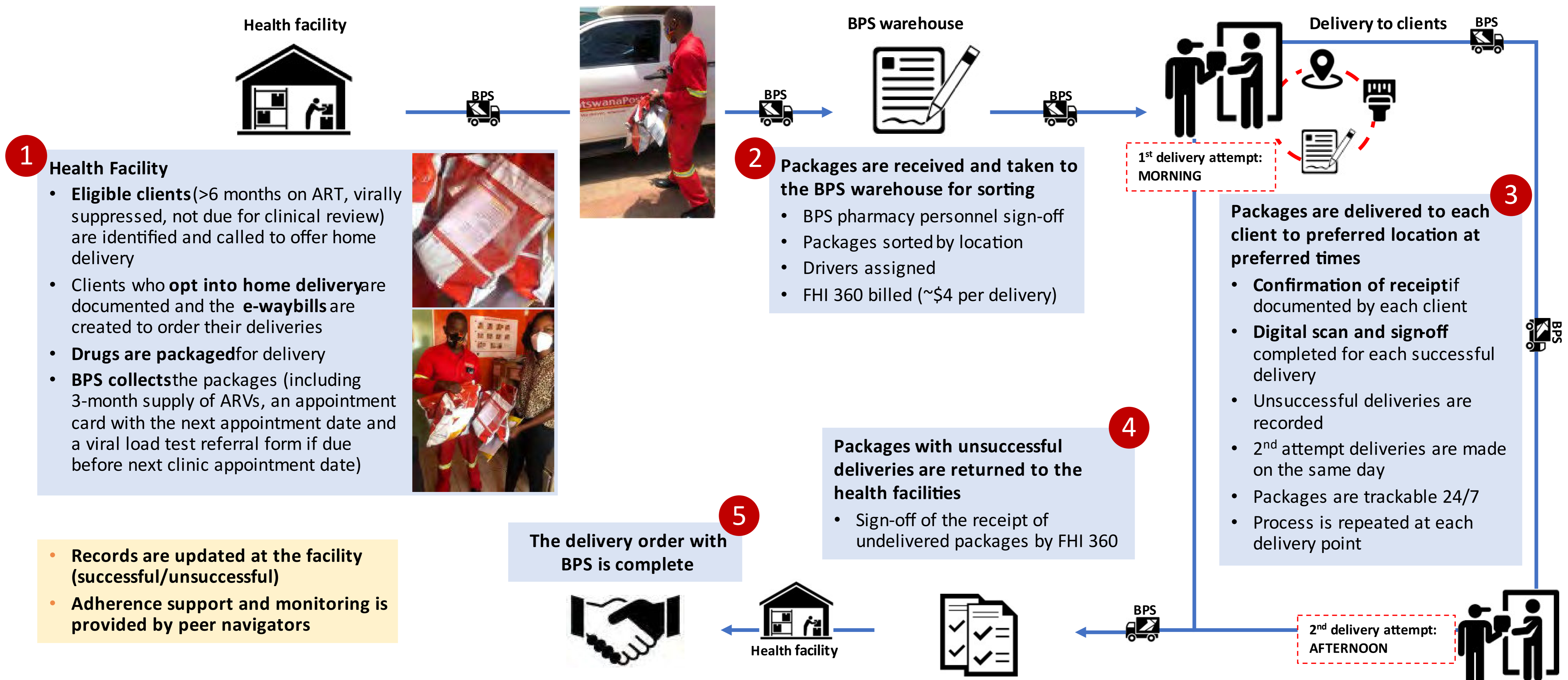
## DESCRIPTION

In September 2020, EpiC partnered with Botswana Postal Services (BPS), a courier service, and delivered ARVs to homes of stable clients on antiretroviral therapy (ART) at Tebelopele Wellness Centers. The providers identified virally suppressed clients and asked for consent to deliver ARVs to their homes. ARVs were packaged in the standard track pack used for all parcels to protect recipient's privacy and avoid unintentional disclosure of HIV status. BPS collected and delivered parcels to the clients. Following successful delivery, client records were updated with next appointment date (Figure 1).



Post office agent collecting parcels from the EpiC project officer at the health facility.

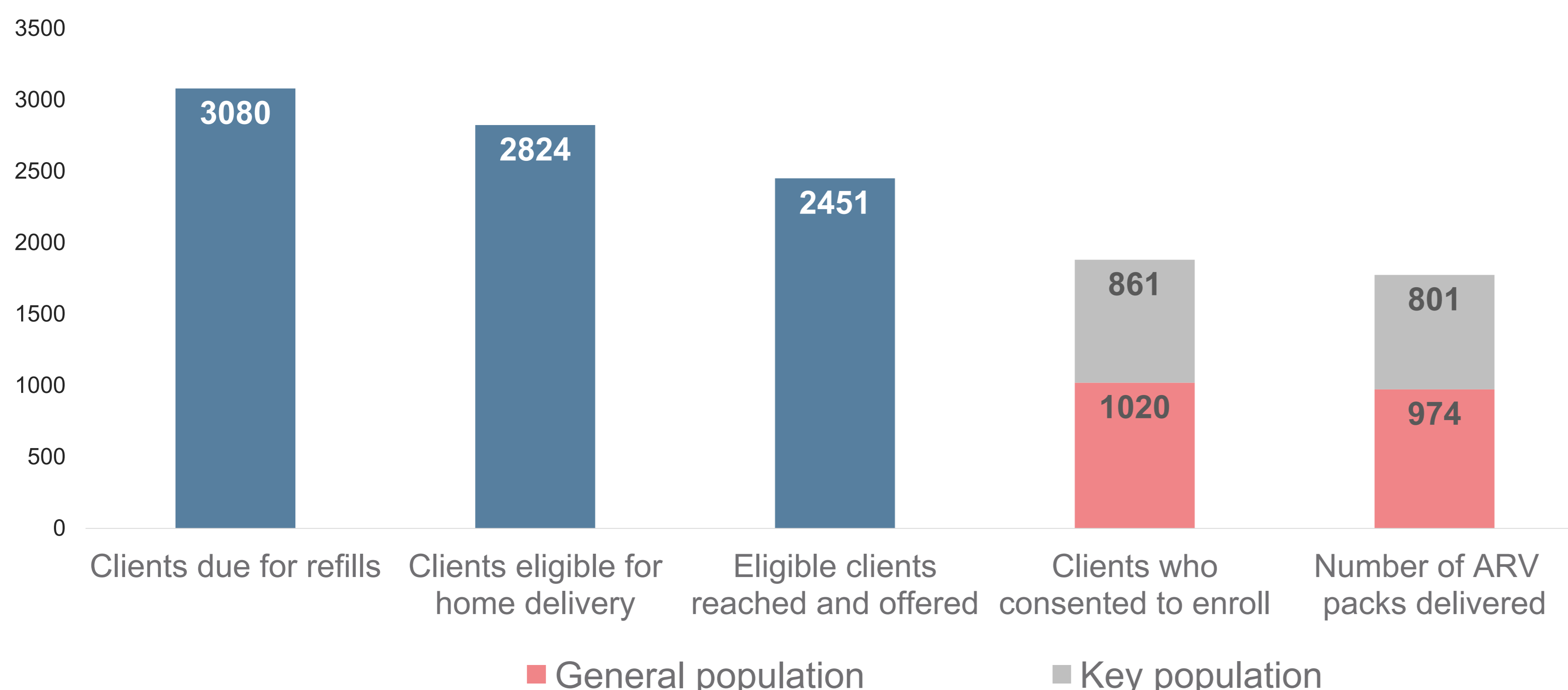
FIGURE 1. Process flow of home deliveries from health facility through post office to client



## RESULTS

Between September 2020 and September 2022, EpiC delivered 1,775 parcels containing ARVs to eligible clients. Acceptance rates were more than 80% among males and female clients (Figure 2).

FIGURE 2. PLHIV who accepted home deliveries by population type September 2020–September 2022



## CONCLUSION

This differentiated service delivery model was highly accepted by PLHIV and has now been integrated into routine care.

## AUTHOR AFFILIATIONS

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