

# dHTS and Linkage to Treatment : *Linkage to Treatment for KP in Ghana*

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**Leveraging DSD Strategies to Optimize HIV Testing and Linkage Services**

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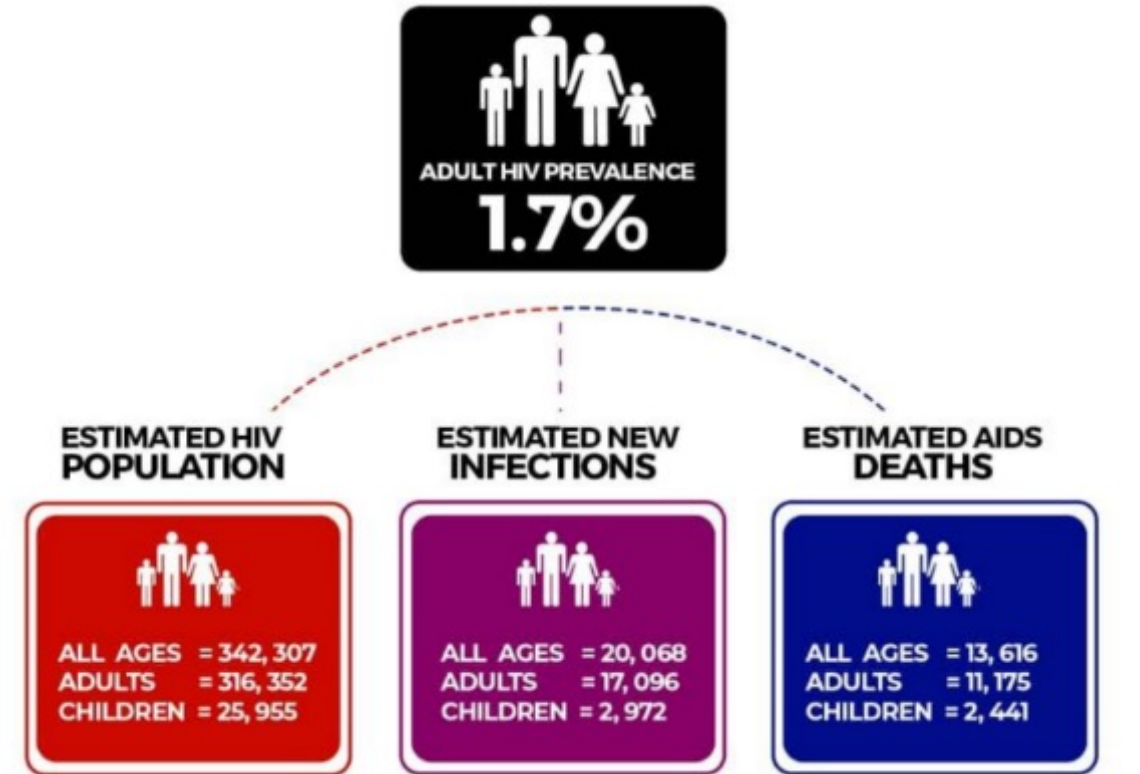


# Background

Indicator	WR	WNR	Ahafo
Prevalence: GP	1.35%	1.14%	1.27%
Prevalence: FSW	6.10%	6.00%	2.50%
Prevalence: MSM(*)	10.40%	10.40%	4.00%
Estimated PLHIV (2021)	22922	9126	7480
TX_Curr	19495	6641	5046

## SCCP FY22 Targets & Achievement for WR, WNR & Ahafo (by Sep 22):

- Case Identification: **6,337** (6,084 – 95%)
- Linkage to Care(tx\_new): **5,994** (5,751 – 96%)
- Retention on Care: **34,634** (33,680 – 97%)
- KP Prevention (KP\_Prev): **11,342** (10,976 – 97%)
- PrEP Services (PrEP\_new): **30,96** (2,670 – 86%)



**KP Prevalence (National):**

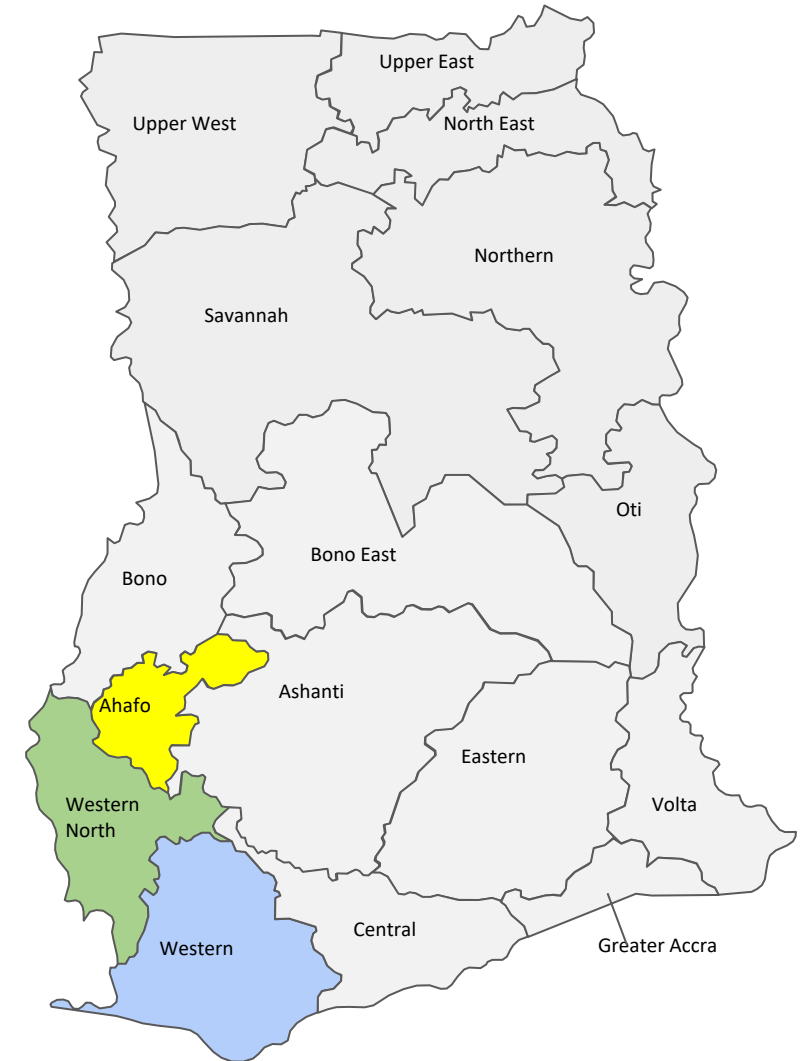
**FSW: 4.6%** (2020)

**MSM: 18.1%** (2017)

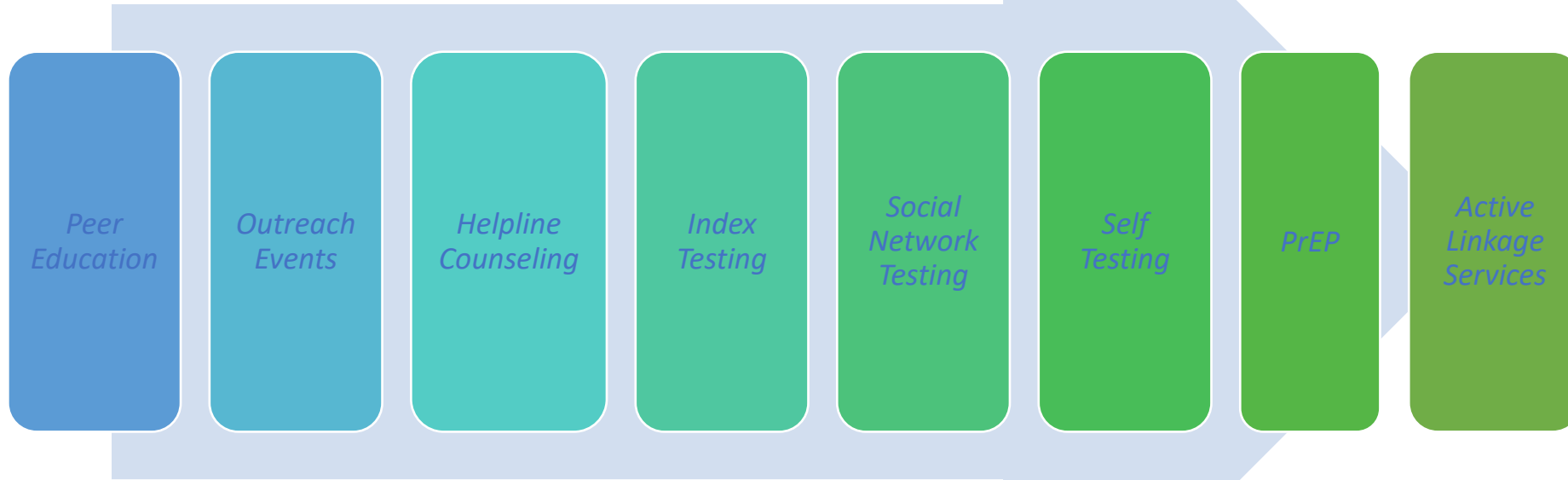
# Overall Strategic Approach

## Key Strategies & Activities

- Case Identification
  - PITC, Index testing, Targeted outreach HTS, PMTCT, HLC & Referral
- Active linkage to treatment
  - Escort, Navigation, Use of linkage register
- ART optimization through DSD
  - TLD transition, MMSD, Increasing number of ART sites, Improve retention on ART through back to care campaign (B2C), Efficient supply chain back up
- Optimize VL Suppression and EID
  - Efficient couriering of VL samples, Increase demand for VL test and effectively manage high VL clients
- Integrate community mobilization for HIV services to GP & KPs and referrals to facilities through CSO action
- Legal, Human Rights & Protection
  - Addressing SGBV including IPV and gender inequality
- Improving accountability through CQI, data quality and use



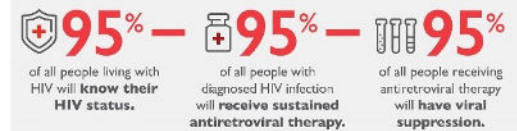
# KP HTS Strategy



## USAID STRENGTHENING THE CARE CONTINUUM PROJECT

Improving Comprehensive HIV Services for General and Priority Populations in Ghana's Western, Western North and Ahafo Regions.

The Care Continuum Project is dedicated to helping Ghana reach HIV 95/95/95 targets by increasing PLHIV's access to and use of HIV services.



### KEY PROJECT ACTIVITIES

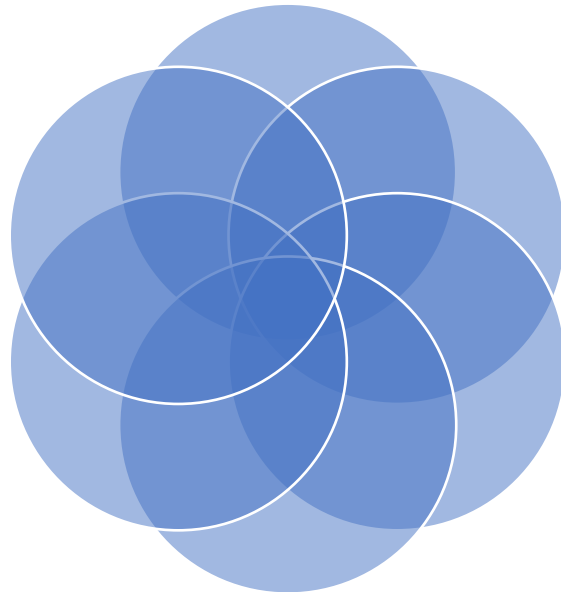
- Coordinating and integrating activities among Ghanaian stakeholders
- Promoting Ghanaian leadership
- Emphasizing quality improvement and effective use of data
- Addressing structural barriers related to HIV service access and use
- Addressing gender inequality
- Integrating community HIV services and focusing on referrals to achieve 95/95/95

# Active Linkage Strategy

*Escort Services for cases identified from testing sites*

*Established point of contact for each ART site to receive clients*

*Peer and Case Manager Navigation support from testing sites to health facilities*



*KP Competency training, including stigma and discrimination reduction for front line providers*

*Linkage Register at ART sites to track clients*

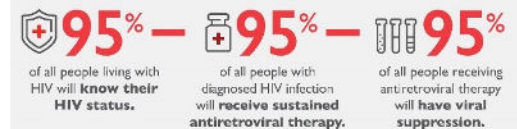
*Flexible health facility schedule for clients receiving care*



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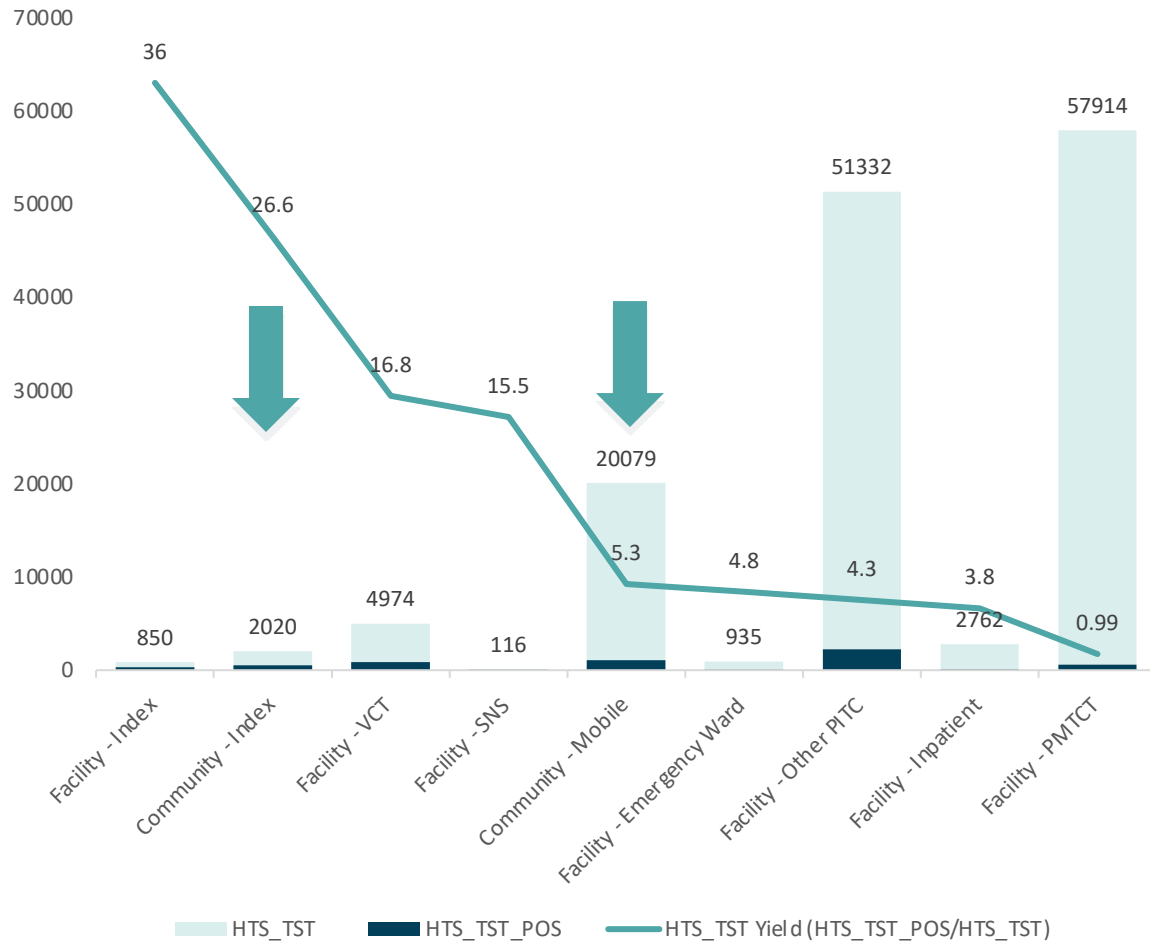


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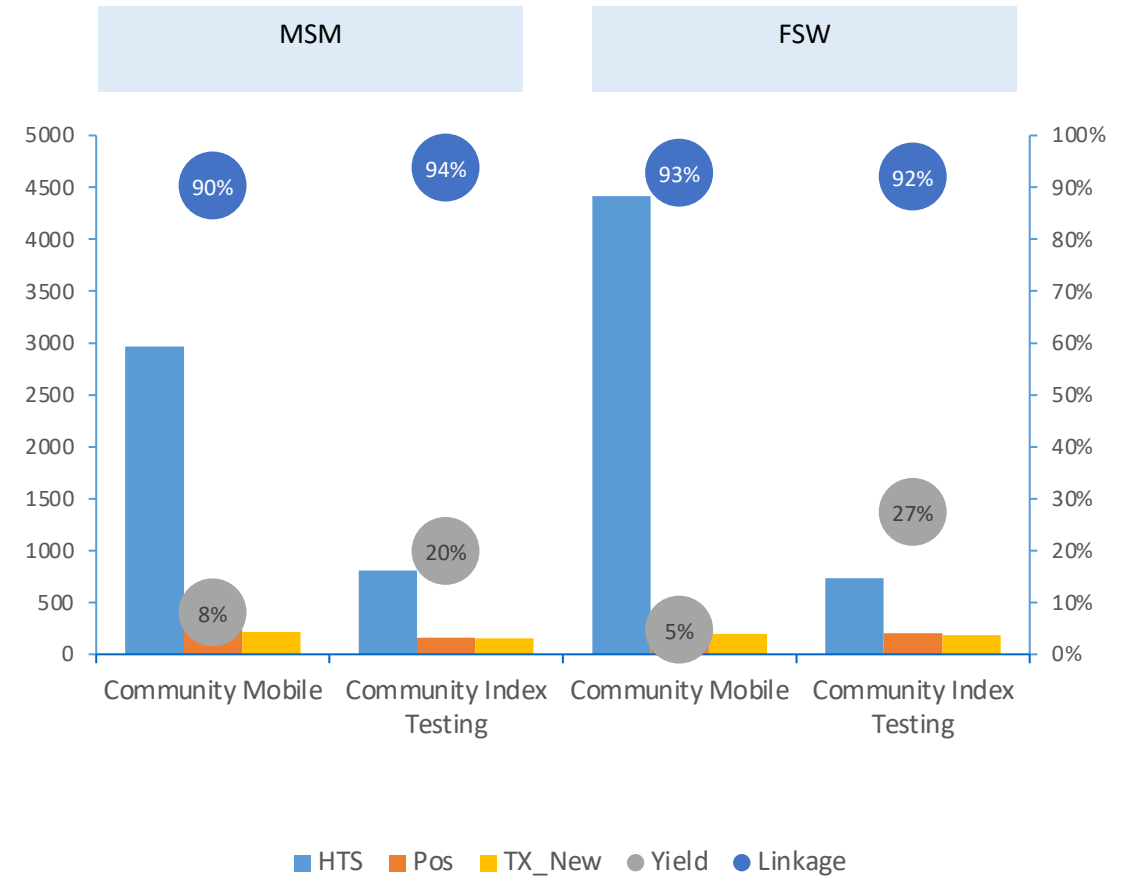
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# HTS Approaches

Overall HTS and Yield by Modality for FY22



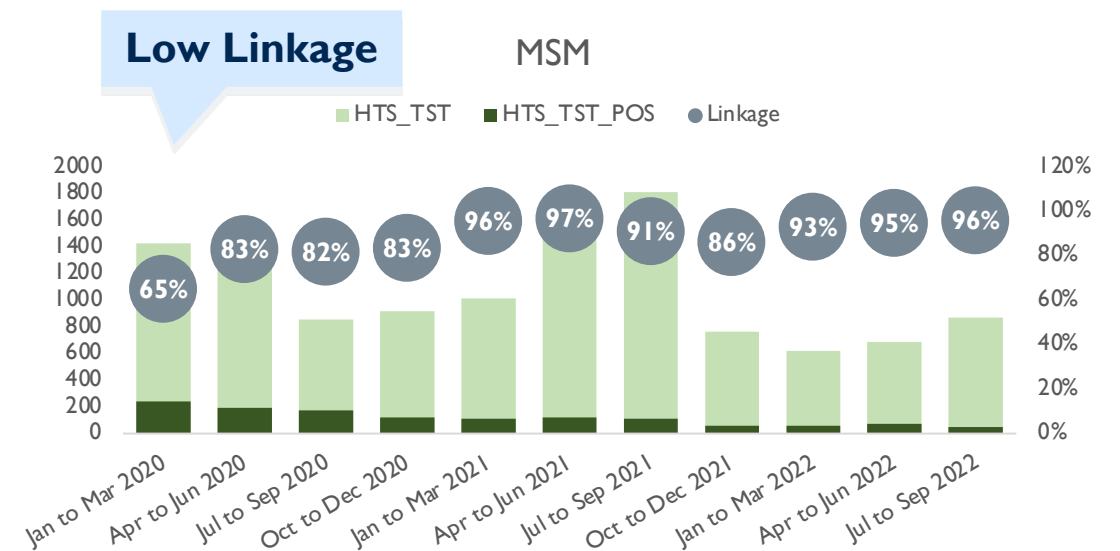
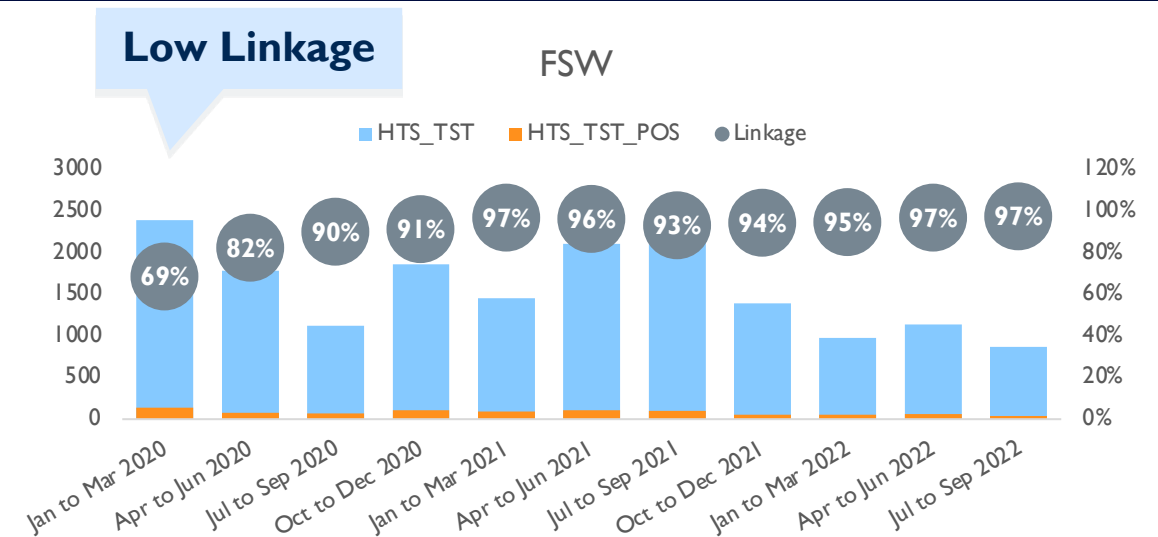
KP HTS by Modality and Yield for FY 2022



# Linkage to TX for KPs

## Linkage Improvement Intervention:

- Instituted active linkage through escort of all positive clients to treatment centers
- Developed and used linkage registers to track identified cases
- Engaged health facilities to diversify treatment options, including weekends for treatment services.
- Conducted KP Competency training for frontline providers

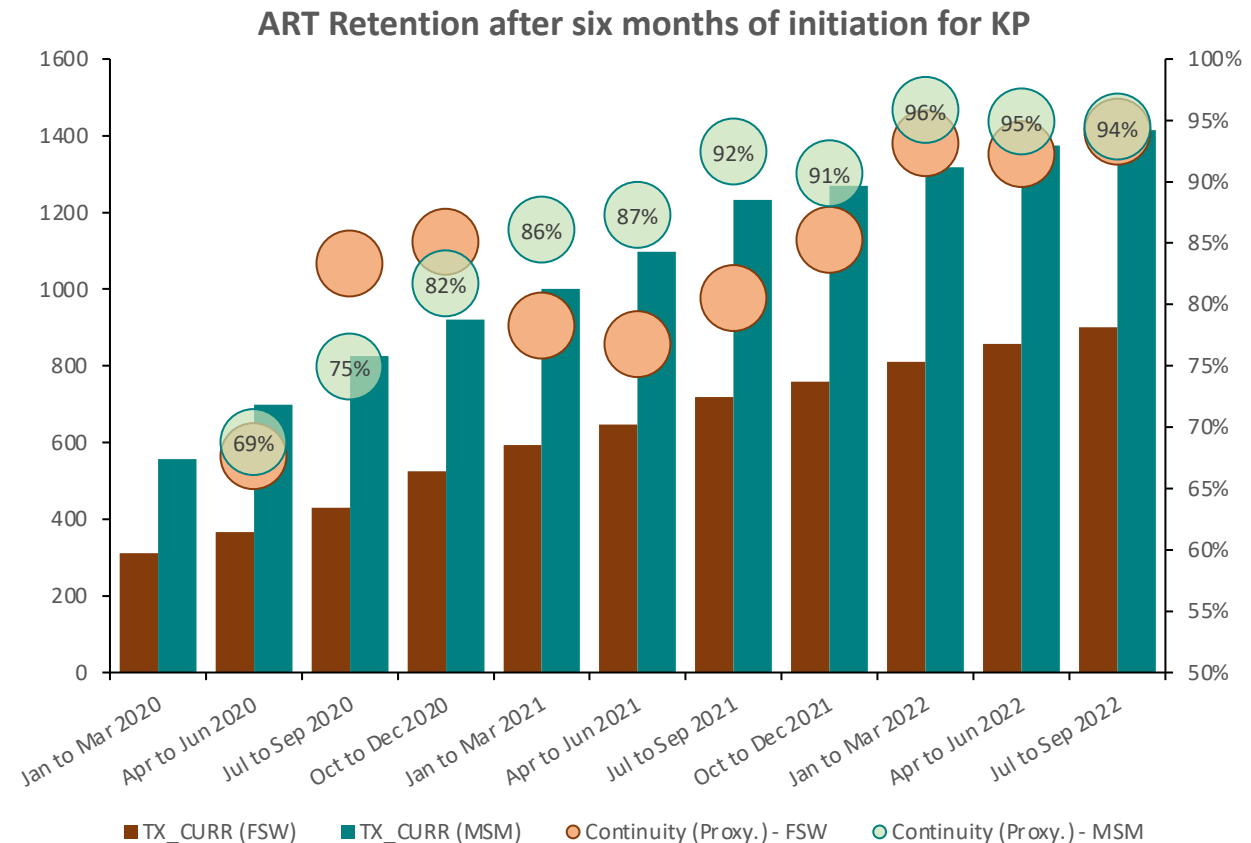




# KP TX Continuity

- Reviewed interruption in treatment (IIT) data in June 2020
  - 66% had interrupted treatment
  - 19% could not be traced
  - 10% self transferred to other facilities
  - 5% had died
- Interruption In Treatmentt occurred mostly within the first 6 months of initiation
- New clients 3x more likely to interrupt treatment than old clients.

Back to Care (B2C) Campaign instituted for IIT clients in July 2020 led to improved ART retention for KP





## B2C Strategy

- Monitoring, establishing and updating list of clients who interrupt treatment
- Generating facility appointment list for every clinic day
- Training providers on phone communication skills
- Providing pre-visit calls to remind, and follow-up calls to clients who were not able to attend appointments
- Using the Healthy Living (Digital Health) Platform to educate and trace IIT clients.
- Providing each facility with logistical support in the form of airtime, stationery, transportation.
- Documenting visits, reasons for non-attendance, and analyzing to inform refresher trainings
- Rescheduling appointments to more suitable time or instituting more appropriate client-centered drug pick up model



# Conclusion

- A variety of HTS strategies targeted at finding and linking KP to care
- Linkage to treatment improved following introduction of specific interventions to address challenges, including identifying drug pick schedules and locations that meet needs of KP
- Interruption in treatment a key challenge to attaining the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 95s
- Back to Care strategy critical to addressing treatment interruption.



Thank you!

