

# Decentralized Drug Distribution, A Successful Patient-Centered Approach among Hard to Reach Sub-Populations Across Six USAID Afya Yangu Southern Supported Regions.

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## INTRODUCTION

Successful lifelong antiretroviral treatment (ART) requires patient-centered care that:

- respects clients' convenience and needs
- assures uninterrupted care across dynamic life circumstances.

FY2021: **16,487** clients interrupted treatment in the USAID Afya Yang Southern partly due to accessibility challenges:

- hard-to-reach areas, mobile populations, cross borders, casual workers of big projects.

We describe USAID AYS experience using Decentralized Drug Distribution (DDD) approach to enhance patient centered care



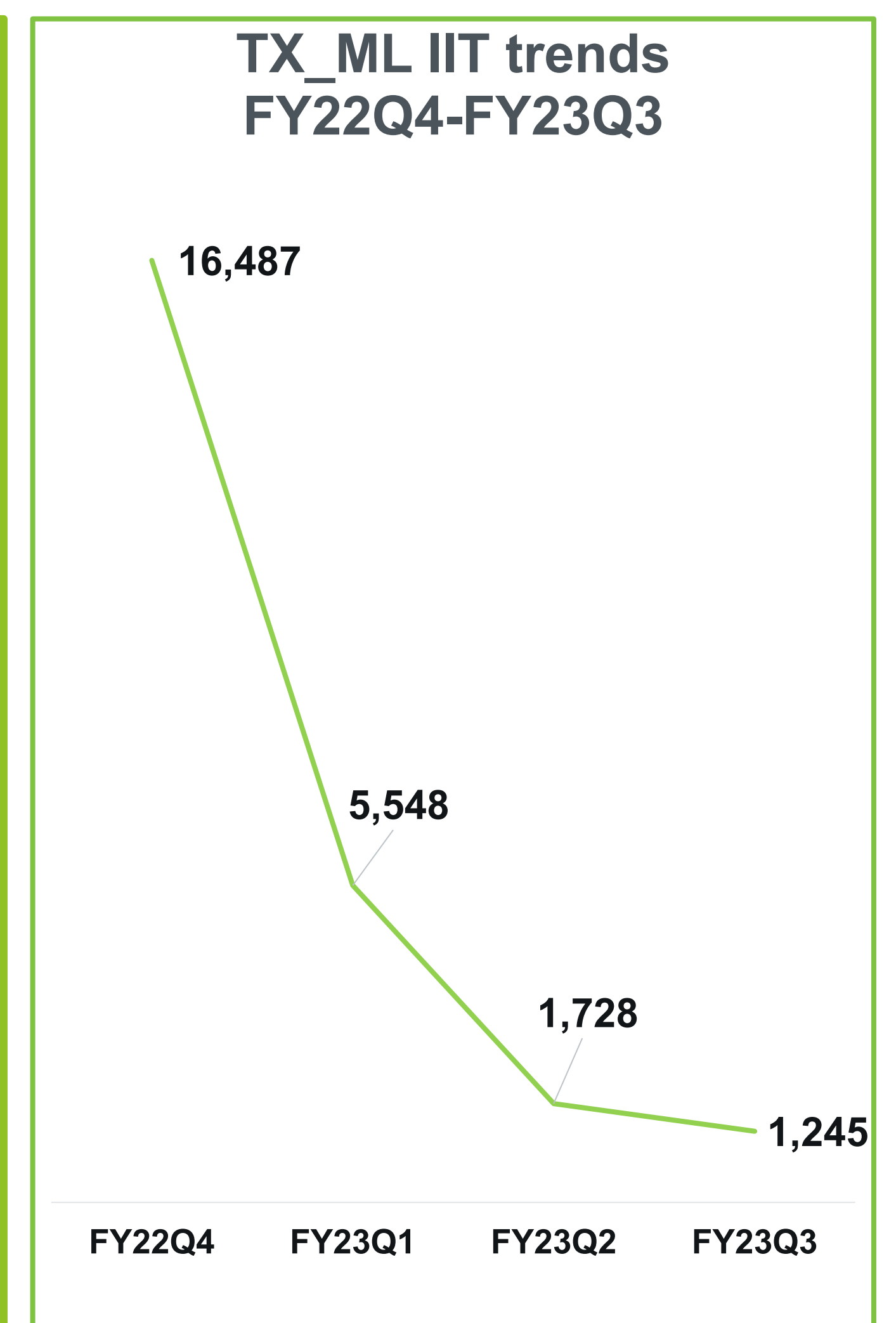
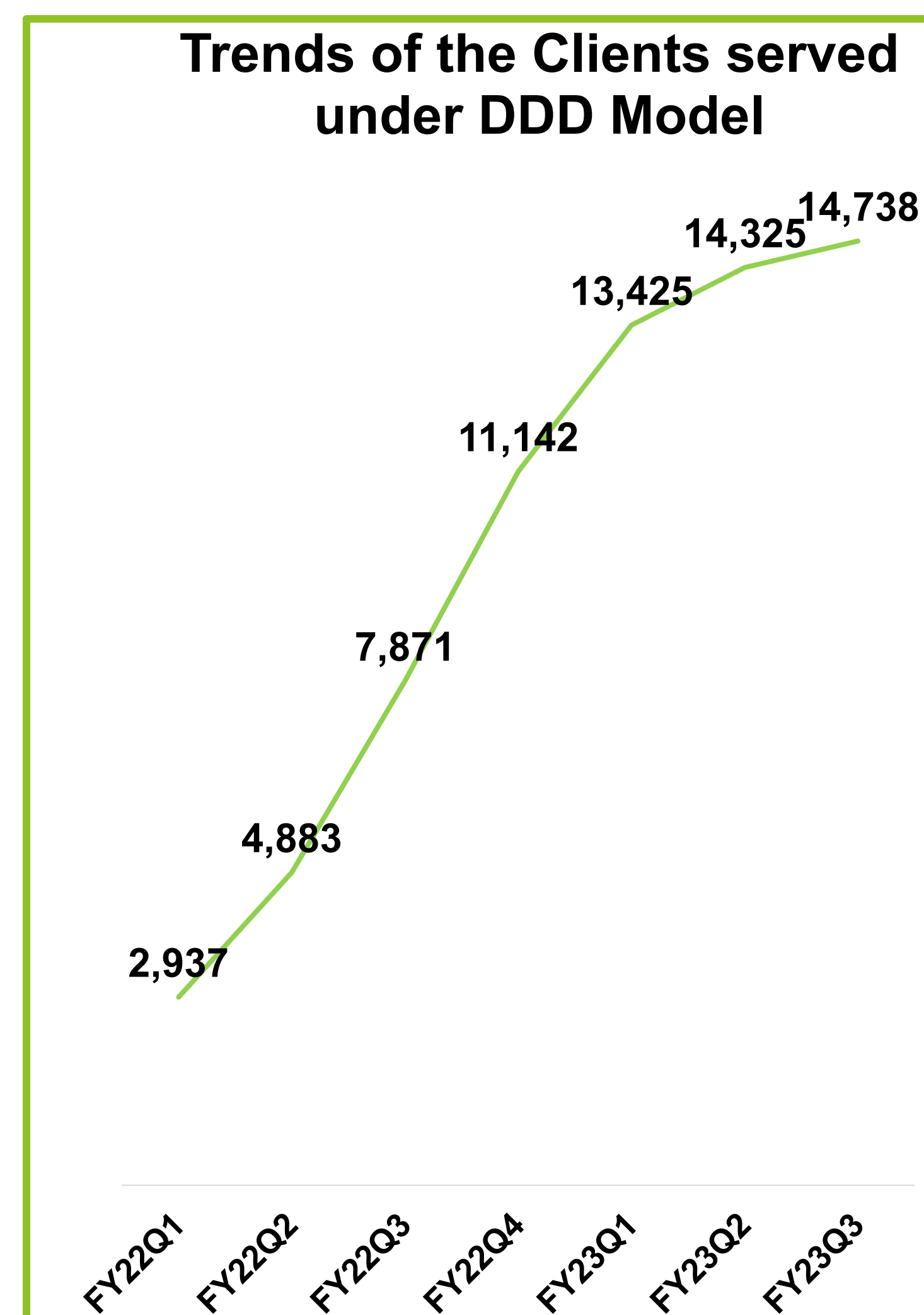
## METHODS

- ❑ The program mapped all clients on ART from 107 facilities and identified those who had interrupted treatment.
- ❑ A total of **15,497(94%)** were tracked and re-initiated ART, and those who consented received subsequent ART refills at conveniently selected DDD refill models
- ❑ Information on the availability of DDD refills models (Outreach ART refills, satellite ART centers and Community ART refills) was offered to all clients, including those re-engaged in treatment.
- ❑ The registrations, schedules and ART pick-up point were jointly agreed upon by service providers and recipients of care after initial consents.
- ❑ Comprehensive refill services including HVL, short FP methods, TB screening and TPT initiation were provided on an individual appointments.
- ❑ Client's CTC2 cards were properly and timely documented by service providers during the services and data entries into CTC2 database were done at the mother facilities.
- ❑ Internal data capturing system (PRODMIS system) and CTC2 Analytics were used to monitor the implementation.



## RESULTS

- As of June 2023, a total of **256 ART refill sites** were activated serving **14,738 (5%)** of the total clients on treatment compared to **2,937** clients in September 2021.
- Of those **13,368(90%)** were served through outreach ART refill, **1,100(7%)** Satellite ART centers and **270(3%)** Community ART Refills
- DDD refills models contributed significantly to reducing the number of IITs from **16,487** clients in September 2021 to **1,245** clients in June 2023.
- Adherence to appointment increased to **99.5%** in June 2023 compared to 94% in September 2021 before scaling up ART services close to recipients of care.
- Retaining clients on treatment increased from **96%** in September 2021 to **99.7%** by June 2023 due to the provision of friendly services that reflected client's needs, preferences and expectations.
- Through the DDD model the program managed to support sub-populations with different challenges from high-burden regions including **409 casual workers** at Mufindi tea plantation Iringa, **85 mobile clients** in Kilosa Morogoro, **55 Mobile minors** and **16 Cross-border clients** in Ruvuma



## CONCLUSION

- ❖ The DDD refills model was associated with reduced treatment interruption.
- ❖ The Differentiated Service Delivery (DSD) model reduce challenges in accessing ART services and promotes retention on treatment and appointment adherence.
- ❖ Using DDD models to refill antiretrovirals will reduce client load at care and treatment clinics, reduce client waiting times, and improve client-provider interactions, continuity of treatment and client satisfaction

## Acknowledgment

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