

# Reaching high risk population using HIV Self Testing approach, Mozambique, 2023

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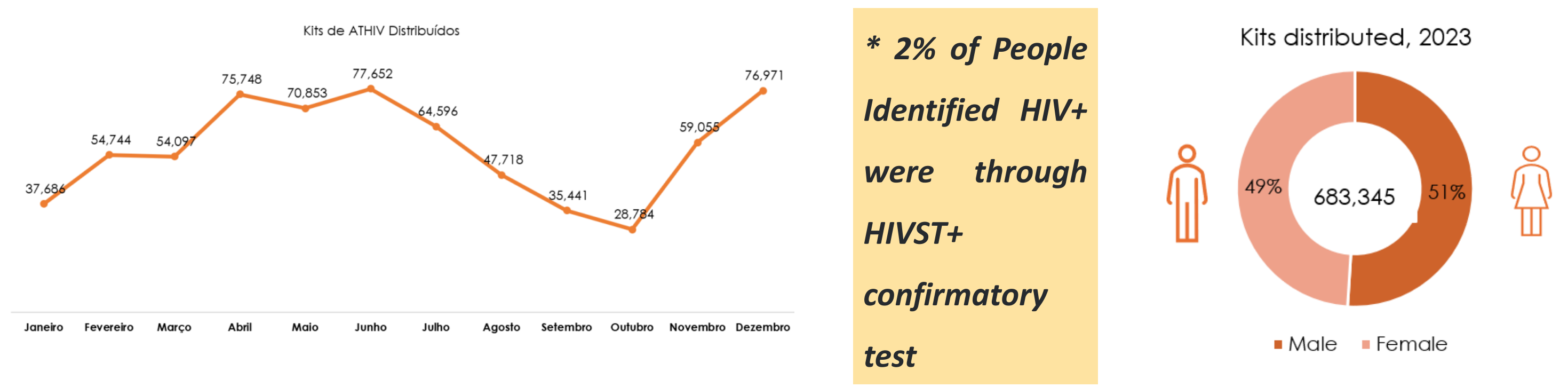
## BACKGROUND / INTRODUCTION

The WHO recommends HIV self-testing (HIVST) as an additional approach for testing. Although HIV testing is offered routinely in all public HTS facilities in Mozambique. There are many missed opportunities for testing among people who present themselves at health facilities, including high risk population who are often not tested. As of 2021 PHIA, an estimated 23.4% of people living with HIV still did not know their HIV diagnosis. To fill the gaps and challenges in HIV testing services, Mozambique introduced HIV Self Test (HIVST) community distribution to increase testing coverage and strengthen uptake of HIV prevention and treatment services.

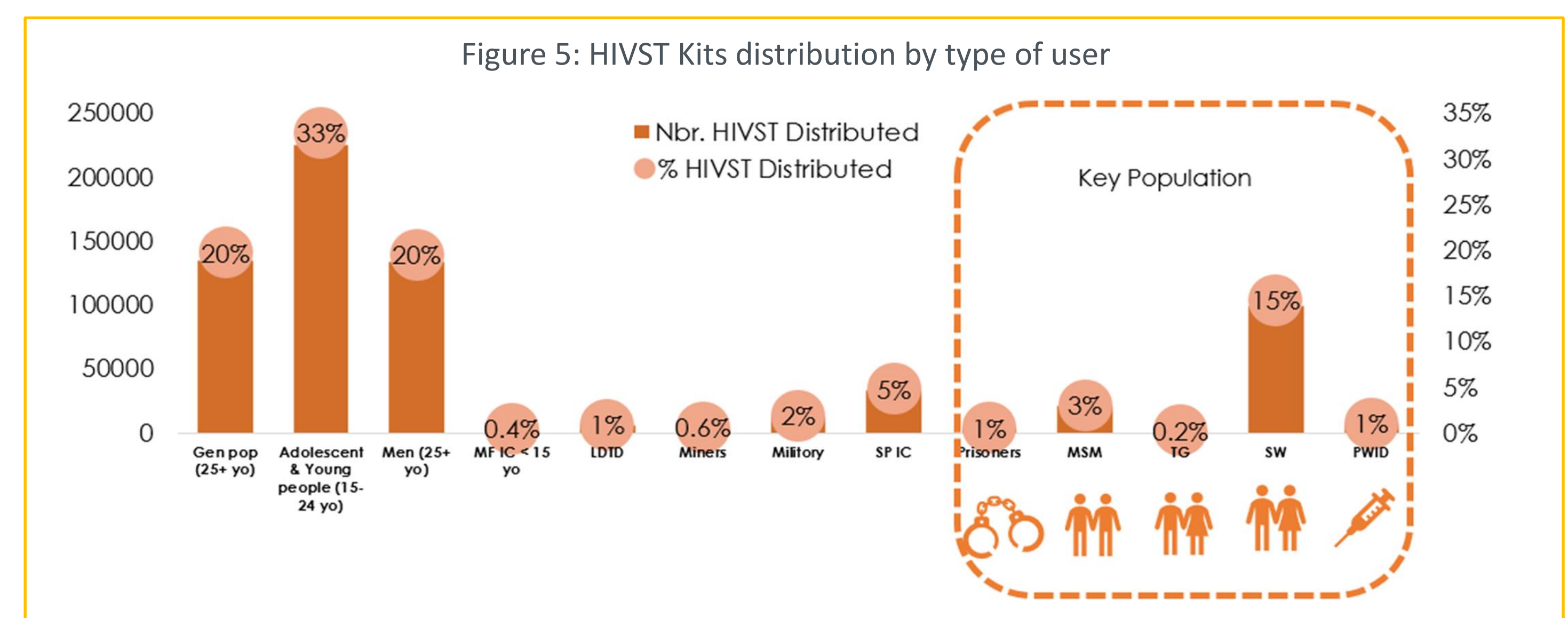
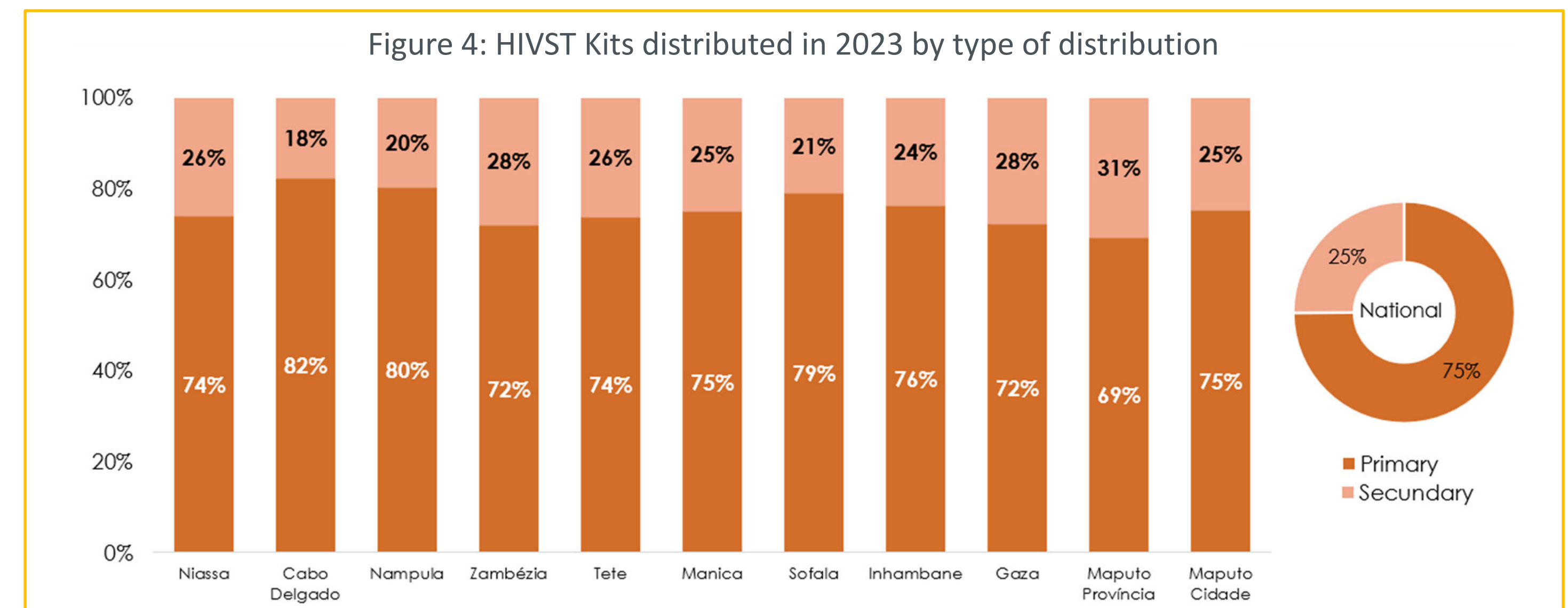
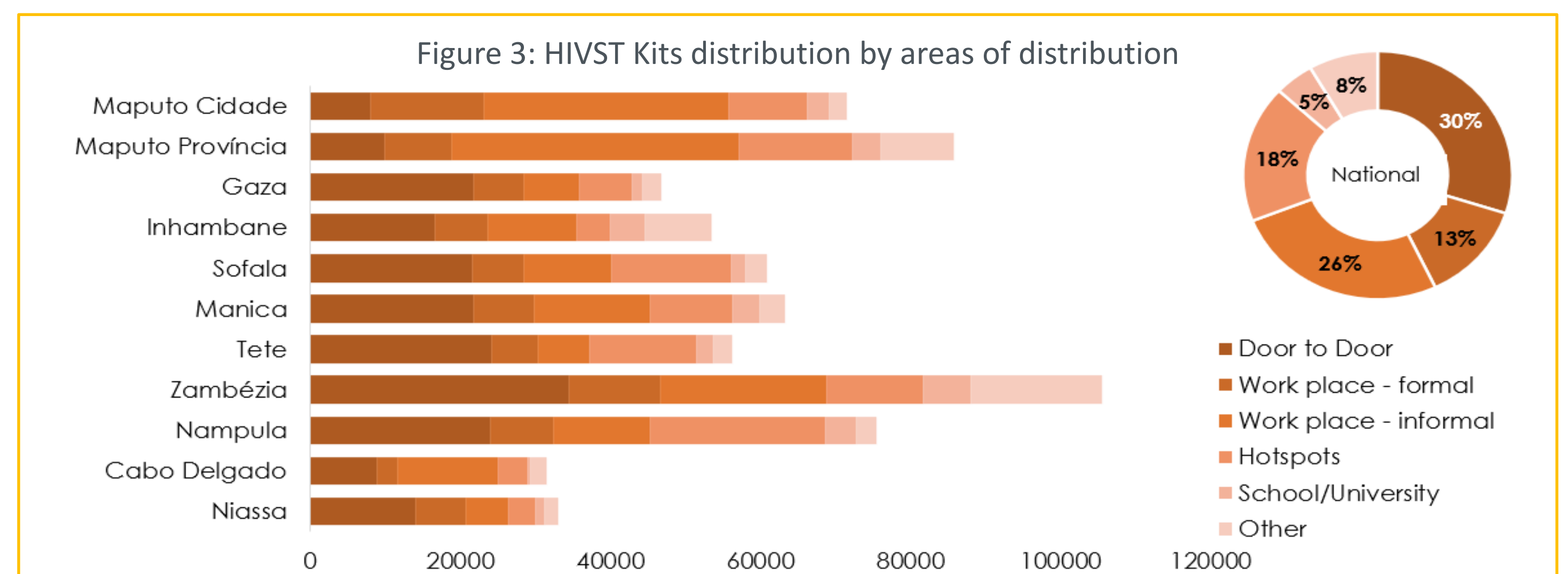


## RESULTS

Nationally, 683,345 HIVST kits were distributed during this period, 75% were primary distribution and 51% were distributed for men. Most of kits were to 15-24 adolescents and young people (n= 224,893), men aged 25+ years old (n= 133,852), key population (n= 132,531) and sexual partners of index case (n= 32,850). \*Contribution of HIVST to people identified HIV+ were assessed using a proxy indicator calculated as the total number of confirmatory HIVST+, divided by the total number of positive test results.



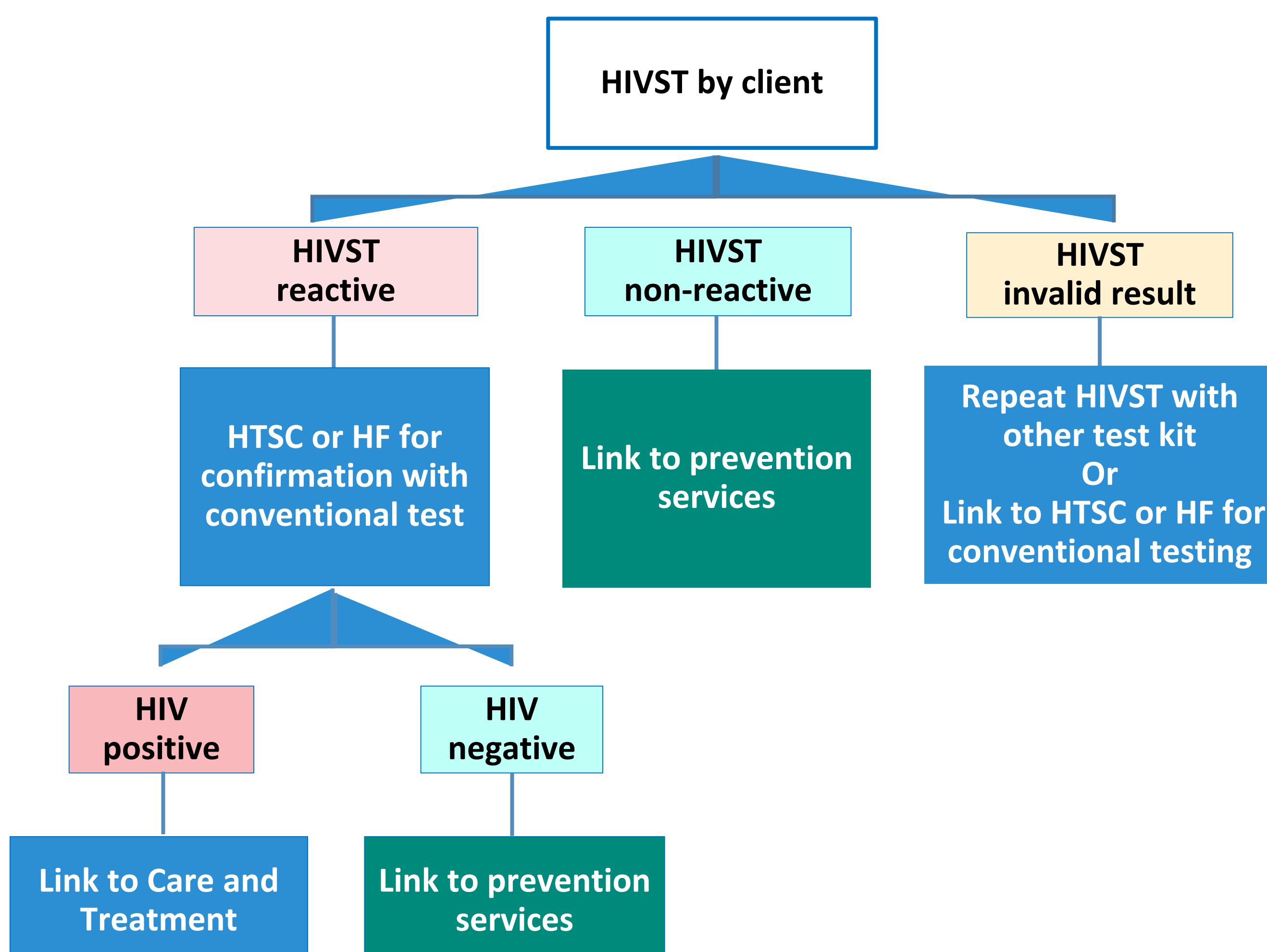
\* Supply chain issues between June to October.



## METHODS

In 2021, the Ministry of Health conducted a HIVST pilot in 5 main provinces. And in May 2022 Mozambique expanded nationally the distribution of HIVST in the community areas such as formal and informal workplaces, hotspots for key population, home places, prisons, places of concertation by adolescents and young people and men, technical schools, universities, play parks, gardens, bars, football fields, etc. to ensure HIV testing diagnosis for all key and vulnerable population. HTS providers, lay counselors and other communities' actors were trained using a HIVST package to ensure standardized approach implementation. Aggregated HIVST program data from January to December 2023 was analyzed to better understand the promoting testing through HIVST in the country.

Figure 1: The HIVST Algorithm



## DISCUSSION

Mozambique is one of the high HIV prevalence countries which implements HIVST to ensure the eligibility for HTS of people who are truly at risk of HIV infection. Data confirms that the implementation of HIV Self Testing in the community allows the increase and rapid access of population for HIV diagnosis, allows the identification of people living with HIV.

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The promotion of the HIVST strategy in communities, using local media, radios and public spaces helped in the dissemination of information and facilitated the work of community actors.

