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HIV SELF-TESTING AFRICA



Implementing STAR Project in Zambia: Lessons Learnt

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Background Zambia

- HIV prevalence – 11.2%*
- 46% women and 37% men tested in last 12 monthsg*
- HIV self testing aimed to bridge testing gap
- Target test kit distribution for STAR phase I – 200,478
- Target groups: undiagnosed PLHIV and populations at risk, currently not reached with conventional HTS, male

* Source: ZDHS 2013/14

Background – Distribution Models

Facility-based

- Trained community volunteer based at health facility distributes kits, and serves as a link for self-testers' referrals and community distributors

Community-based

- Trained volunteers distribute self-test kits to general population

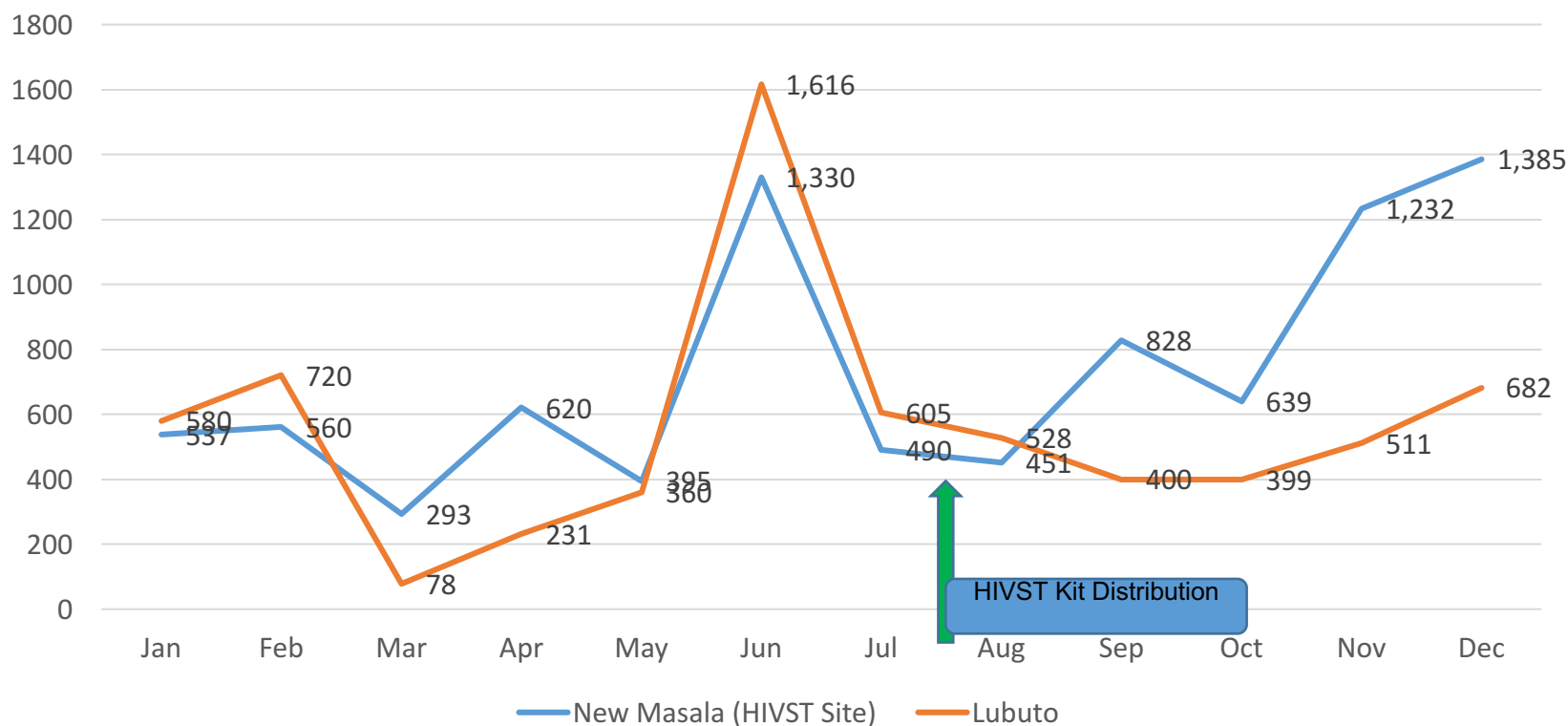
VMMC

- Trained volunteers distribute self-test kits to potential voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) clients

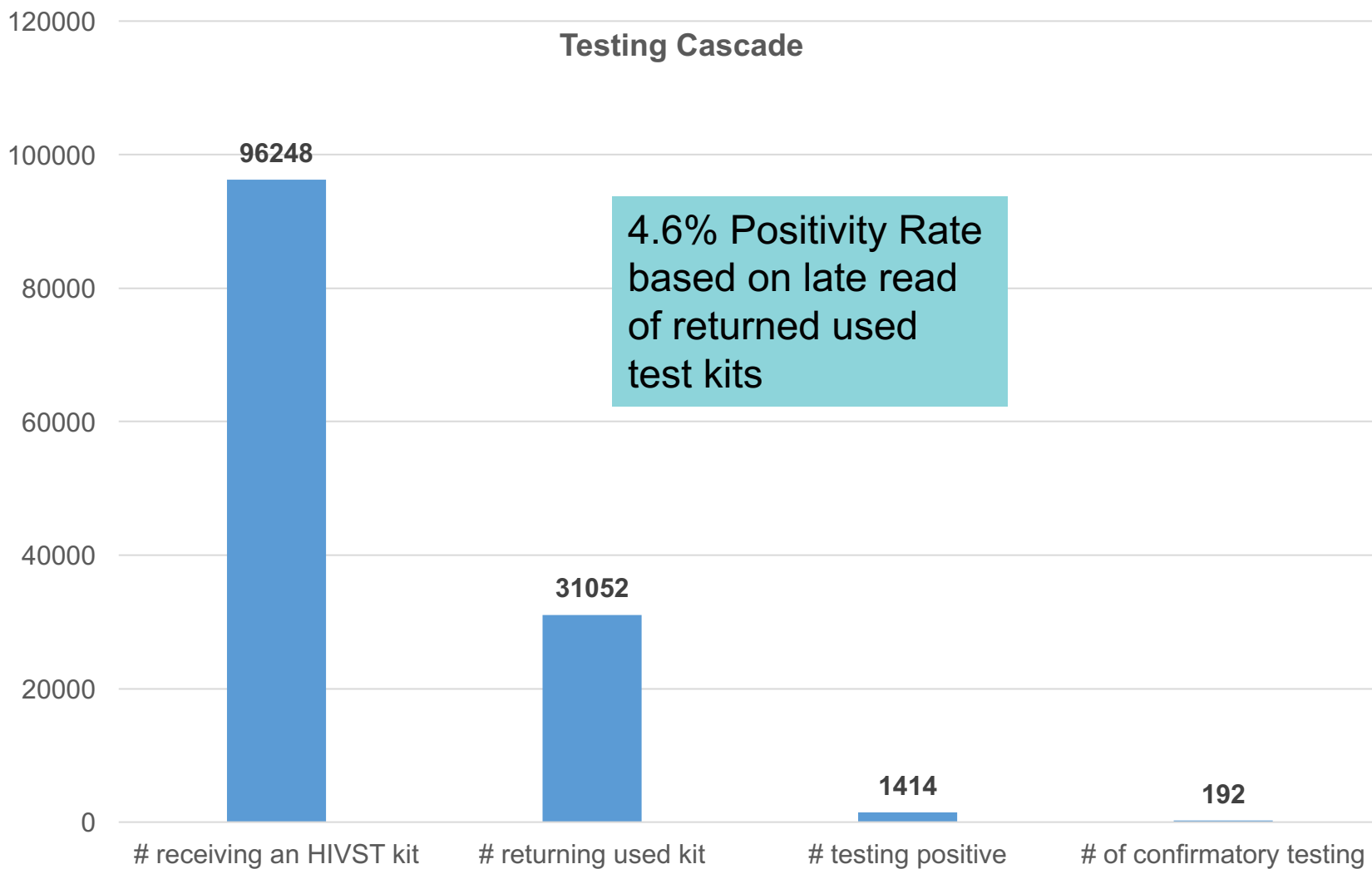


Impact HIV Testing Uptake

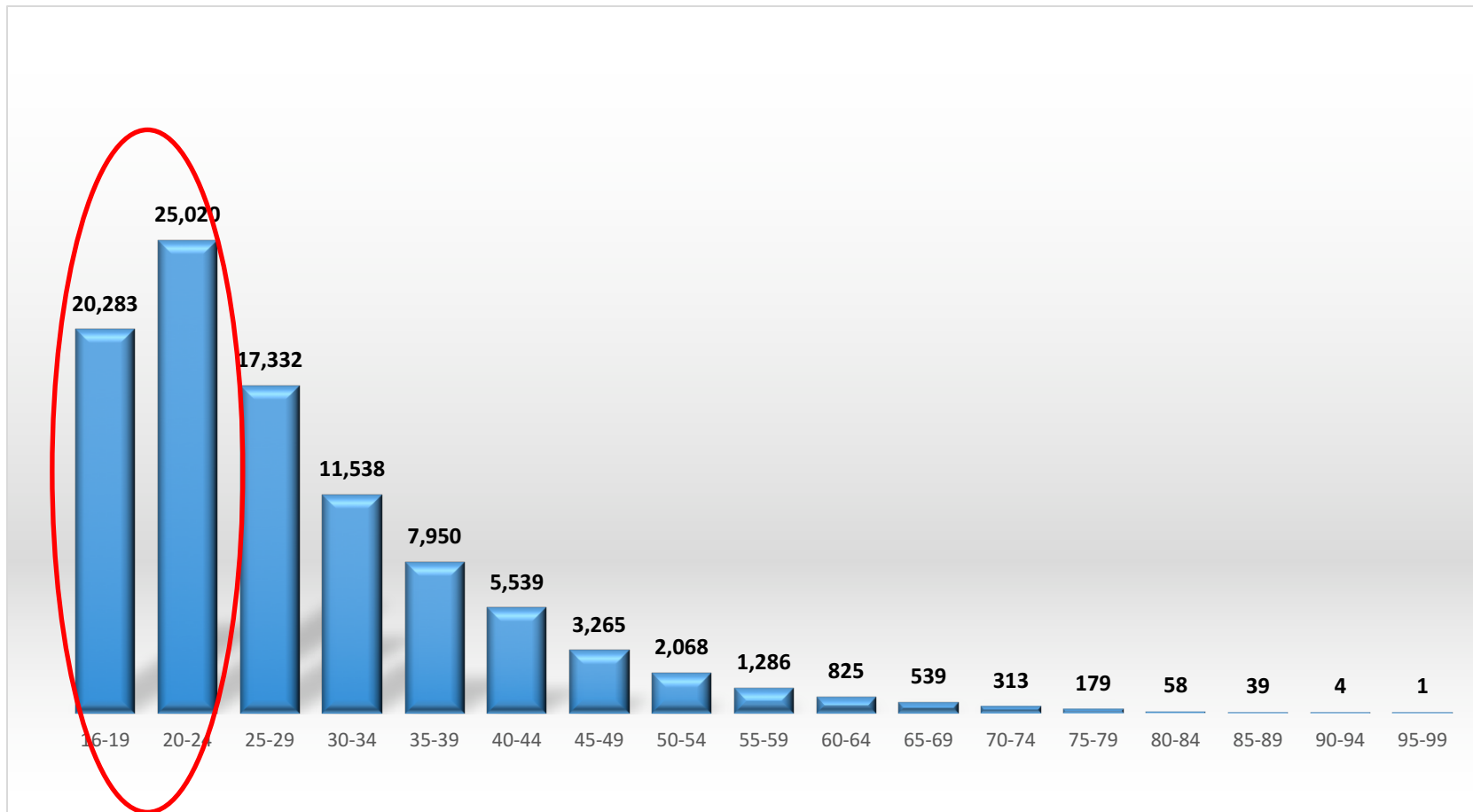
Figure 1: Number of people tested for HIV by select facilities in Ndola District in 2016



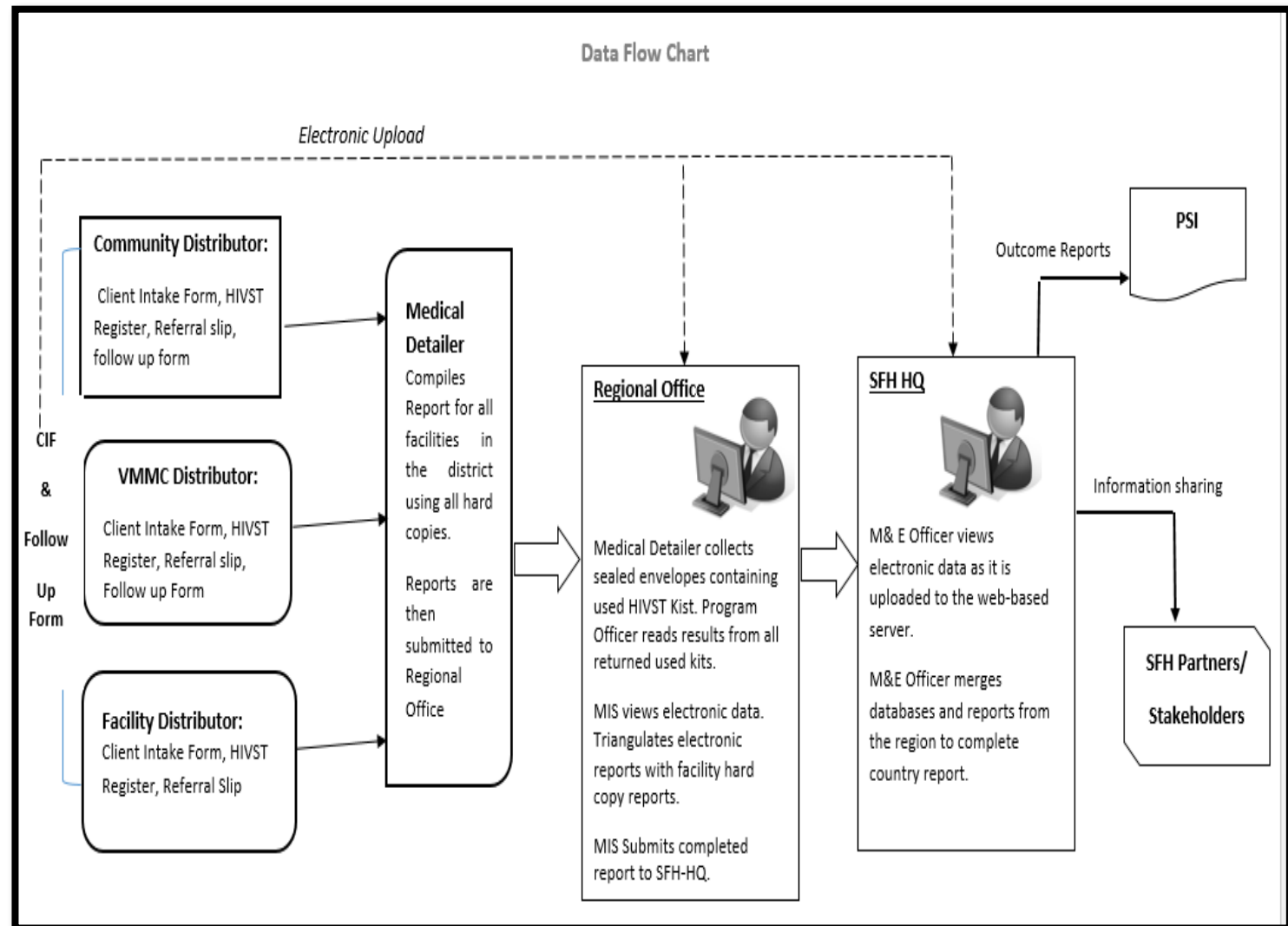
Linkage



Community based distribution: Reaching Young People



Monitoring and Evaluation



Operational Issues

- Phased approach allows for adjustment in implementation
- Performance based payment for distributors
- Continuous community based distribution, timing of saturation and exit strategy
- Pipeline forecasting and HIVST stock management
- Facility level storage of test kits enhances distributor stock management



Stakeholder Engagement

- Stakeholder/Partner Engagement key to program success
 - Identify key stakeholders early and engage early
 - Engage stakeholders throughout implementation
- HIVST Steering Committee provides
 - Program direction
 - Coordination and sharing of lessons learnt amongst implementing partners
 - Platform for development of national HIVST operational framework



Lessons Learned

- High acceptability for HIVST all models of distribution
- Scalability in the public sector
- HIVST reaches populations
- HIVST uptake high among men and young people
- No adverse events associated with HIVST
- Complementary models of distribution considered in phase II
- Distribution at workplaces and through pharmacies



Thank you

Questions?

Contact

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