



Leveraging Faith Structures to Promote Sustainability of FCI Models in Uganda

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Overview

- Ugandan context
- Faith leader trainings
- Community mobilization
- Case-finding
- Lessons learned, best practices, and next steps



Ugandan Context

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Uganda's HIV Epidemic

5.8%

HIV Prevalence
Among Adults
Aged 15+

1.42

Million People
Living with HIV

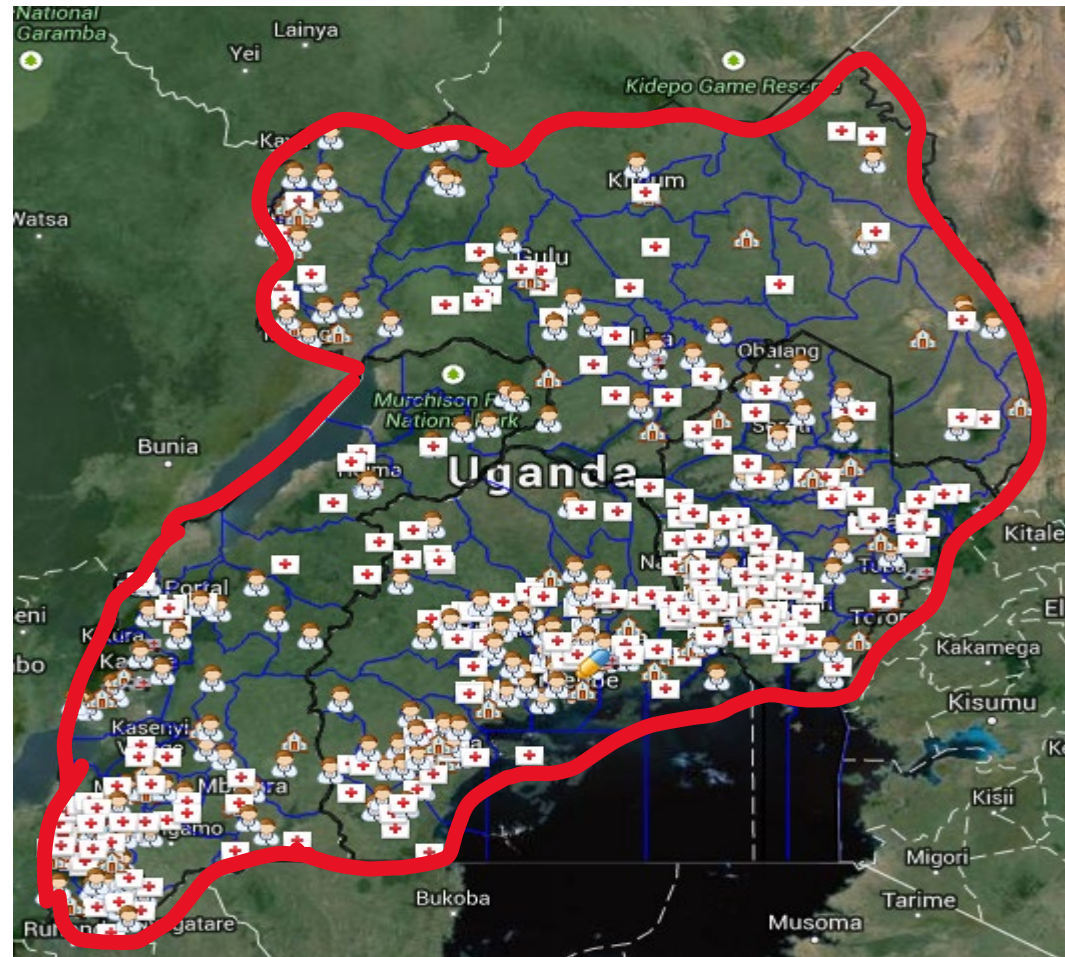
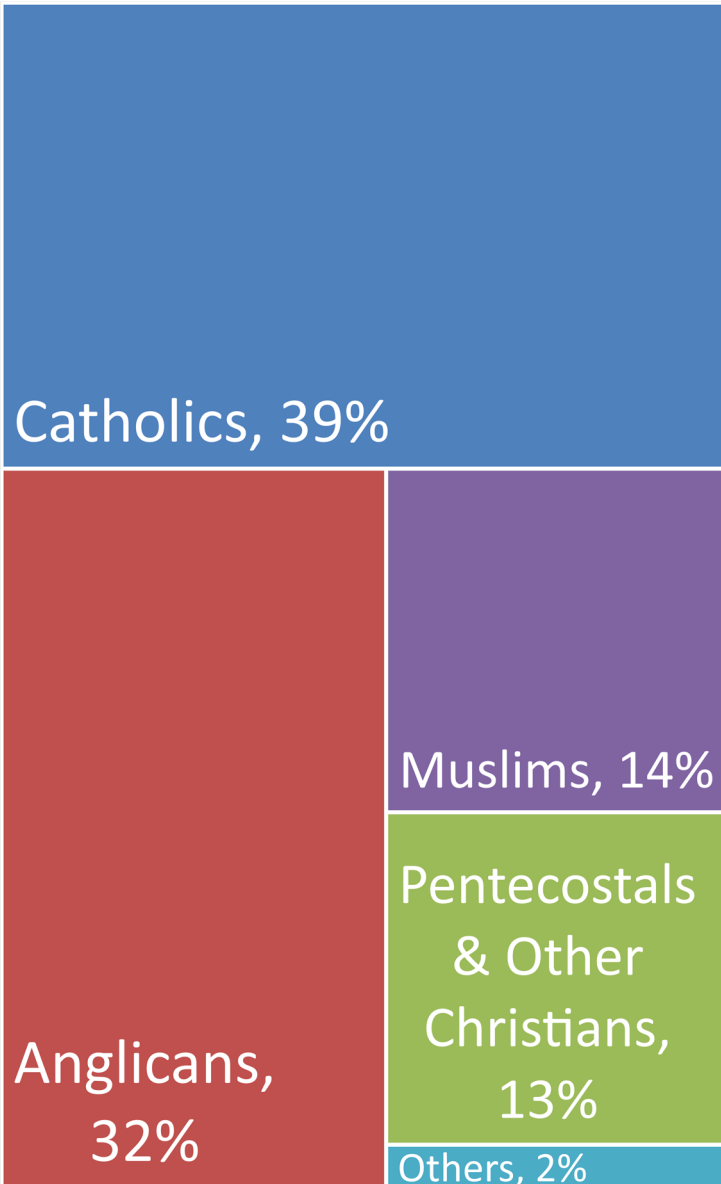
76%

Men with
HIV Aware of
Their Status

84%

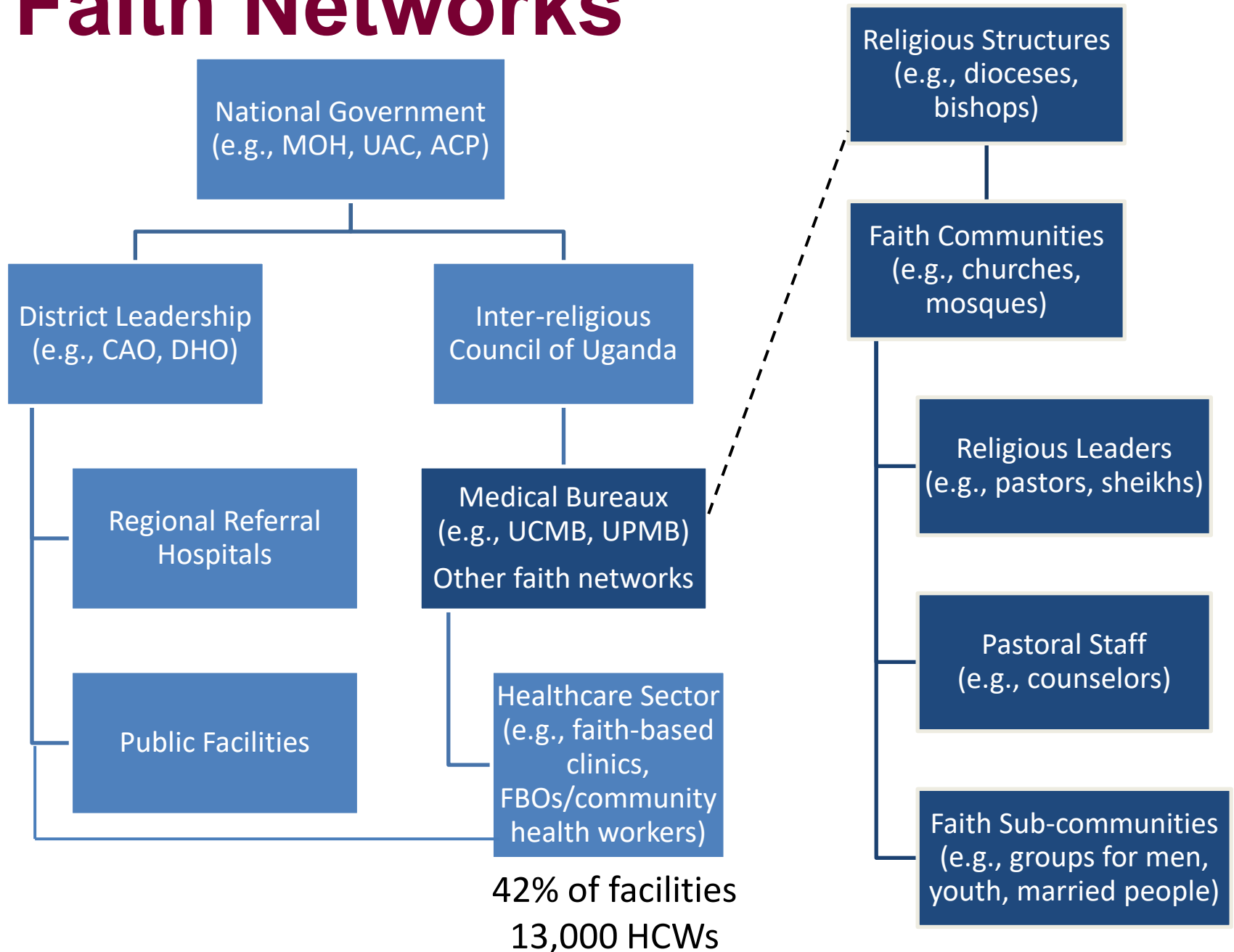
Women with
HIV Aware of
Their Status

Uganda's Faith Context

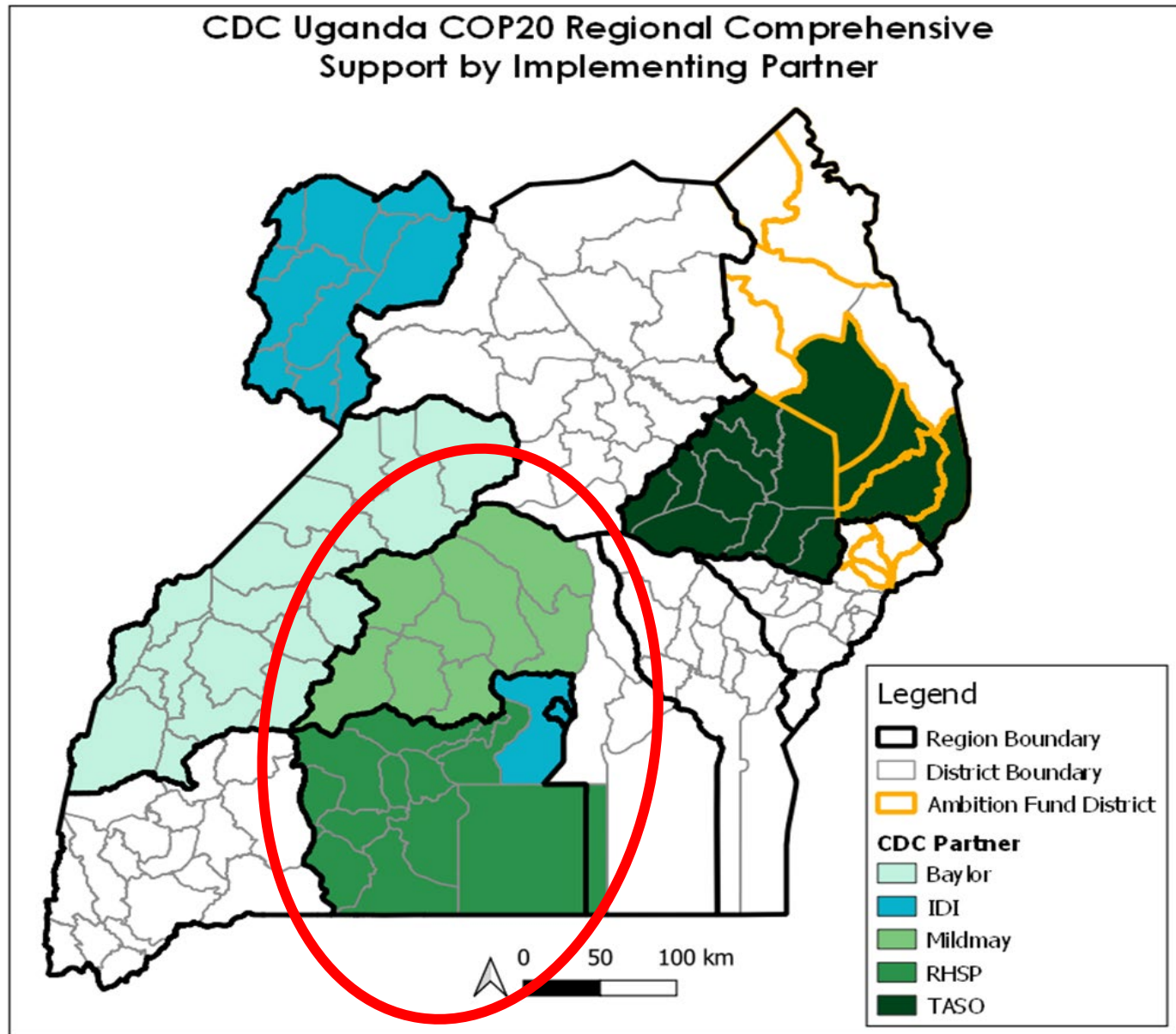


42% of health facilities are faith-based

Faith Networks



Greatest Need in Three Regions



Implementation Model

Faith leader trainings by partner

- Pastor
- Lay leaders – e.g., catechists, youth leaders, family ministry leaders

Community mobilization by faith leaders

- Sermons and announcements/bulletins
- Radio and other media, especially during lockdowns
- Faith community events – e.g., Sunday school, baby shower, youth group
- WhatsApp groups

Community health services by community carers, health workers, and partner

- Static “safe spaces” and “health windows” in faith communities
- Mobile outreaches – e.g., health and wellness day, vaccination campaign
- Outreach during existing meetings – e.g., monthly Men’s Guild meeting

Facility collaboration

- Community health workers, peer counselors, linkage facilitators
- Self-test kits
- Reporting tools, including referral documentation from faith community to facility
- Confirmatory testing
- Treatment initiation

Faith & Community Leader Training/Sensitization & Mobilization

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794 Faith Leaders Trained

February – June 2021



FAITH LEADERS HANDBOOK



HIV PREVENTION, CARE, TREATMENT AND SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS



With support from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, through Catholic Relief Services



COMMUNITY LEADERS HANDBOOK



HIV PREVENTION, CARE, TREATMENT AND SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS



With support from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, through Catholic Relief Services and Clinton Health Access Initiative

Message Cleared by Uganda's AIDS Commission

TRAINING GUIDELINES FOR IMAMS MESSAGES OF HOPE ON HIV/AIDS



UGANDA MUSLIM MEDICAL BUREAU
2021

Gender-based Violence & Violence Against Children Responses

THE
PERTINENT LEGAL ISSUES RELATING
TO VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN
DURING THE COVID-19 ERA

A
COMPILATION OF THE CATHOLIC CENTRE
FOR
LEGAL AID SERVICES

JUNE 2021



AN
ABRIDGED VERSION OF LAWS AND POLICIES
RELATING TO PROTECTION
OF
CHILDREN IN UGANDA
BY
THE CATHOLIC CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID SERVICES
(CCLAS)

JUNE 2021

*"There Can Be No Keener Revelation Of A Society's Soul Than The Way
It Treats It's Children"- Nelson Mandela*



Mobilization

April – September 2021 (6 months)



KHUTBAS

ON TOPICS RELATED TO HIV/AIDS
PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE



UGANDA MUSLIM MEDICAL BUREAU

2021



Partner Examples

UCMB

- **42** radio talk shows
- **2,520** radio jingles
- **1,848** DJ mentions
- **3,420** spot messages

UPMB

- **256** Sunday services

UMMB

- **200** sermon guides

UOMB

- **>48,000** WhatsApp messages received
- Church Facebook and Twitter posts

Supplemental COVID-19 Funding



HIV Counseling & Testing



794 Faith Leaders Trained/Sensitized

53,826 Community Members Mobilized, Counseled, Screened

15,578 Community Tests,
including **9,101** Supervised Rapid Diagnostic Kits

Case-finding in Catholic Faith Communities

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Catholic Example: Mobilization

April – September 2021 (6 months)

325 faith leaders trained



195 trained faith leaders counseled
and screened for HIV testing



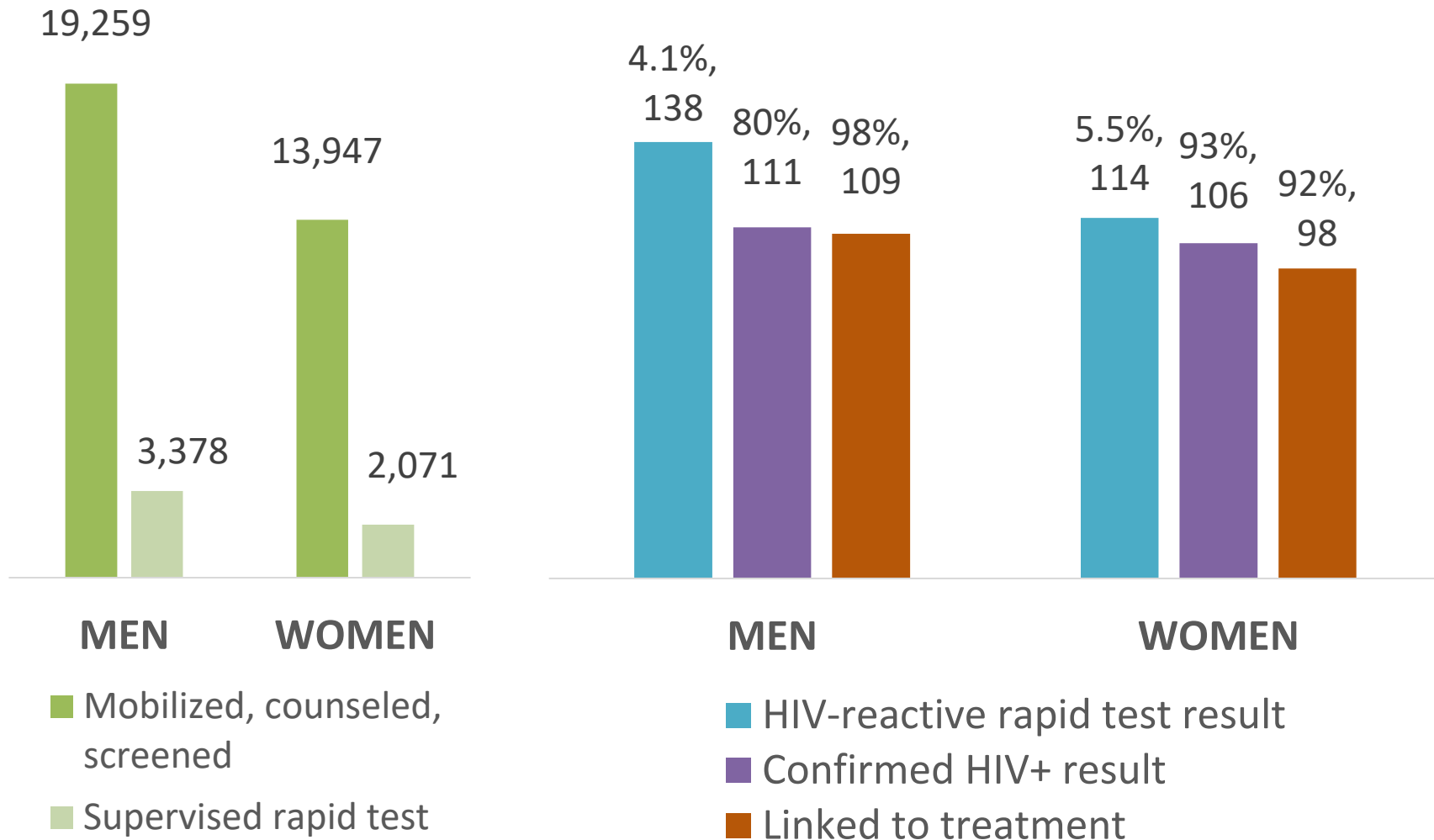
33,206 counseled & screened
19,259 Men (58%) 13,947 Women (42%)

60% of trained leaders
mobilized & counseled
community members

Each faith leader
counseled and screened
170 community members

Mobilization and Case-finding

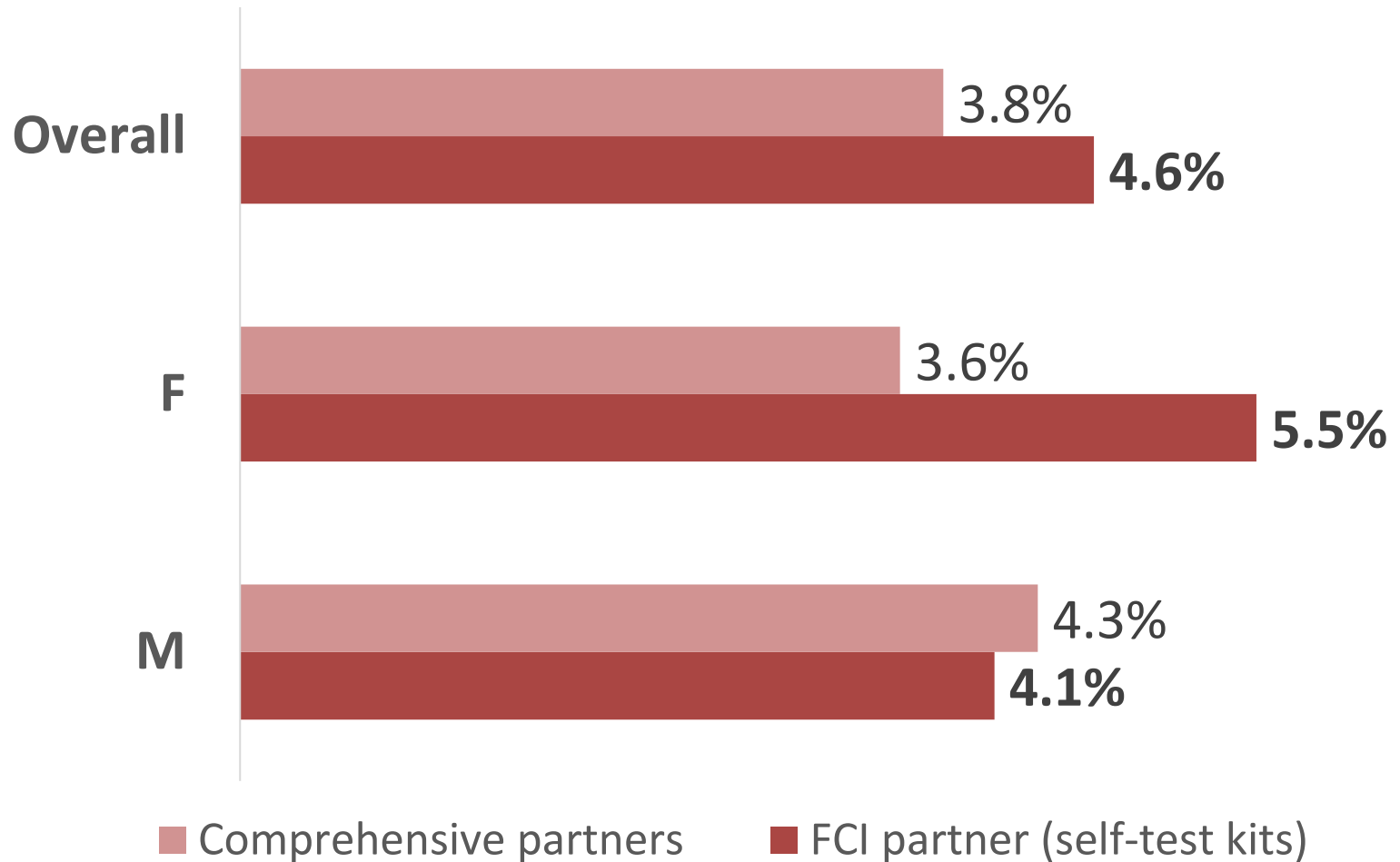
April – September 2021 (6 months)



HIV Case-finding by Sex

Compared with FY21 results of regional partners

Test Positivity



Finding Men Living with HIV

Regional Partners

31% of tested persons were men

Every 1,000 tests identified

**13 men and
24 women
with HIV**

FCI Partner

62% of tested persons were men

Every 1,000 tests identified

**25 men and
21 women
with HIV**

Costing

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Costing Analysis

New Costs

One-time

Per-event

Per-month

Excluded Costs

Faith community
resources

Free platforms

Costs of existing
HIV programs

Costs Beyond Traditional PEPFAR Work

April – September 2021 (6 months)

Faith leader trainings by partner

- \$20,085 total for 13 two-day trainings of 25 persons each
= **\$62 per faith leader** (325 faith leaders trained)
- Cost savings if virtual (Project ECHO) or more attendees per session

Community mobilization by faith leaders

- FREE sermons, announcements, and existing bulletins
- FREE or very inexpensive religious radio, TV, and other media
- FREE existing faith community events
- FREE WhatsApp groups
- \$16,380 total for transport/airtime
= **\$14 per faith leader per month** (195 faith leaders, 6 months)

+ \$16,281 for reporting tools, PPE, airtime to ensure linkage
= **\$52,746 to mobilize, counsel, and screen 33,206 people = \$1.59pp**

Benefits Beyond HIV

Catholic Men's Guild Day

300 Men Reached with HIV, GBV, VAC
Messages of Hope

HIV & STI

111 screened (37%)
28 tested for HIV
2 HIV+ (7.1%)
2 linked (100%)

COVID-19

45 vaccinated (15%)

Hypertension

24 screened (8%)
4 adherence counseling
4 pre-hypertensive
counselling



\$817 for tents, chairs,
mobilizers, transport,
health workers

= \$2.72 per person
plus vaccines & tests

Conclusions

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Challenges & Lessons Learned

- Faith communities closed during COVID-19 lockdowns
- Ugandan FCI partners not funded for commodities
 - Regional partners withheld self-test kits during stockout
 - Kits accessed by FCI partners covered ~20% of need
 - Low COP20 conventional testing targets/funding
 - Consider faith community targets during COP planning
- Re-training needs
 - Trained faith leaders transferred out; untrained in
 - Eligibility screening by faith leaders
 - CQI and ensure partner or facility staff at events
- Community-Facility linkage
 - Facilities not sending linkage feedback to faith leaders

Best Practices & Next Steps

- MOH engagement and alignment
 - FCI partners accessed MOH tools
 - FCI partners worked with MOH to approve messaging
 - MOUs with District Health Officers
- Enthusiastic religious leaders
 - Offered free static “safe spaces” and “health windows” for services, including to female sex workers
 - Volunteered to visit clients in the community to offer counseling and hope
 - Hands-on role as trusted community leaders
- Regional partners already engaging faith leaders
- Leverage other demand creation and anti-stigma activities (e.g., finding men for circumcision programs)
- Multiple models with reasonable above-site costs
 - Minimal operational costs after set-up

Acknowledgements

- CDC FCI Partners
 - Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau
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