



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

Infectious Diseases Institute

College of Health sciences, Makerere Univeristy



“Hello, I’m calling because someone whocares about you informed me that you may have been exposed to HIV” Counsellor Faridah, IDI Mulago

For decades, assisted partner notification (APN) has been an important part of the management of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The Ministry of Health (MOH) recognizes APN as one of the innovative strategies in supporting community structures to play a catalytic role in ‘tracing to test and treat’ HIV infected and exposed individuals. APN enhances linkages and referrals to HIV testing services. APN is a voluntary process where trained health care workers encourage index clients to disclose their previous or current sexual partners. These sexual partners are then followed up through phone calls or physical tracing and counselled on possible sexual exposure to HIV. Sexual partners are thereafter offered HIV testing services Following the adoption of APN as a key strategy for intensified identification of new HIV cases

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in 2017 by MOH, the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) at Makerere University with funding from PEPFAR through the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has scaled up APN implementation to 71 health facilities in Kampala and Wakiso districts. Between July 18 and September 2019, we reached 9,403 eligible clients and a total of 7,299 consented to APN services. The latter linked us to a total of 10,240 sexual partners and we followed them up. We successfully notified 9,103 of possible HIV exposure and half of these (4,773) were tested

for HIV. We found almost 30% of notified and tested clients HIV positive. We linked over 1,000 to HIV services while 1,474 of those notified were found to be HIV

positive and already in HIV care. Globally, as we move towards epidemic control by 2030, the APN strategy will continue to be pivotal in the identification of the remaining HIV cases.

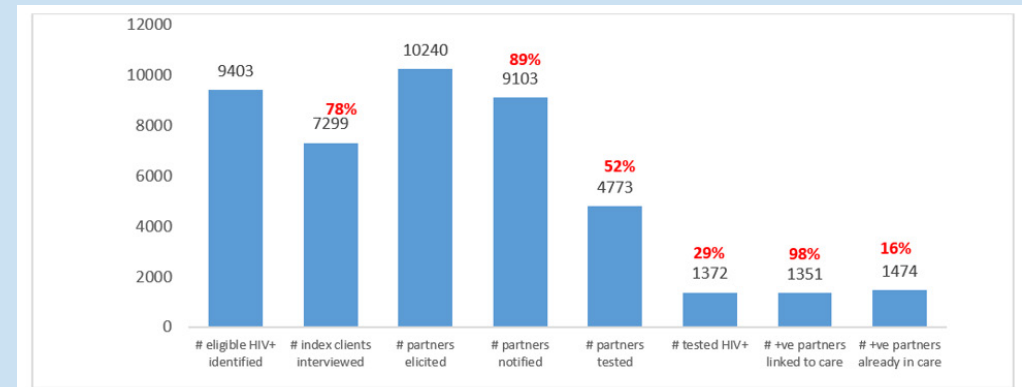


Figure 1: APN in 71 health facilities in Kampala Region (July-Sept 2019)