



USAID DISCOVER-Health Annual Report

FY21: October 1, 2020 — September 30, 2021



FY21 Annual Report

Submitted to:

USAID DISCOVER-Health Agreement Officer's Representative, Musonda Musonda
United States Agency for International Development/Zambia
Embassy of the United States of America
Subdivision 694/Stand 100 Ibex Hill Road
P.O. Box 320373
Lusaka, Zambia

Submitted by:

USAID DISCOVER-Health Project Director, Muka Chikuba-McLeod
JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI)
USAID DISCOVER-Health
45 Warthog Road, Kabulonga
P.O. Box 51186
Lusaka, Zambia

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THIS REPORT

The following sections present results and analysis in relation to the targets and timelines set out in the Project Year Six Annual Work Plan and the Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP). This report covers the whole of the financial year 2021 (FY21). Achievements and targets are annual achievements and targets, unless otherwise specified.

Disclaimer

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Cover photo: National COVID-19 Vaccine Awareness Campaign, May 2021.

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ACRONYMS

AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
AOR	Agreement Officer's Representative (USAID)
ART	antiretroviral therapy
ARV	antiretroviral
BCC	behavior change communication
CHW	community health worker
DQA	data quality assessments
DHA	DISCOVER-Health agent
DREAMS	Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe
DSD	differentiated service delivery
EMMP	environmental management and monitoring plan
ELMIS	electronic logistics management information system
FP/RH	family planning/reproductive health
GRZ	Government of the Republic of Zambia
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HIV+	HIV-positive
HTS	HIV testing services
IEC	information, education, and communication
JSI	JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.
KP-PREV	key populations prevention
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MER	monitoring, evaluation, and research
MIS	management information system
MNCH	maternal, newborn, and child health
MOH	Ministry of Health
MSL	Medical Stores Limited
MSM	men who have sex with men
MTCT	mother-to-child transmission (of HIV)
NAC	National AIDS Council
NGO	nongovernmental organization
PACRA	Patents and Companies Registration Agency
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PIPAT	Program Implementation Process Assessment Tool
PITC	provider-initiated testing and counseling
PLHIV	people living with HIV
PMP	performance monitoring plan
PLHIV	persons living with HIV/AIDS
PMTCT	prevention of mother-to-child transmission (of HIV)
PP-PREV	priority populations prevention
PrEP	pre-exposure prophylaxis
PRISM	partnership for integrated social marketing
PSI	Population Services International
QA	quality assurance
QI	quality improvement
RH	reproductive health
SIMS	site improvement monitoring system
TB	tuberculosis
TMA	total market approach
TWG	technical working group
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
VCT	voluntary counseling and testing (HIV)
VMMC	voluntary medical male circumcision
ZAMRA	Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority
ZDHS	Zambia demographic and health survey



USAID DISCOVER-Health

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY • FY2021: OCTOBER 1, 2020 — SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

The USAID Zambia District Coverage of Health Services Project (USAID DISCOVER-Health) contributes towards HIV epidemic control while also providing reproductive health and family planning, and maternal and child health services and products. The seven-year USAID-funded project is implemented by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI).

TOTAL MARKET APPROACH

- Obtained MOH authorization for pharmacists and other professionals to administer, and train women to use, DMPA-SC self-injection (SI).
- Adapted training materials to guide the SI process in private sector.
- Started selection process for private sector facilities to participate in SI roll-out.

OVERALL PROJECT OBJECTIVES

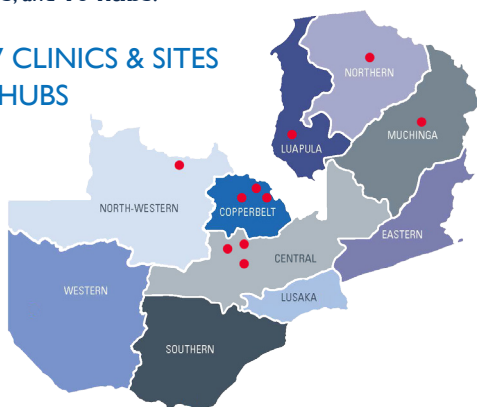
By **March 2023**, USAID DISCOVER-Health aims to:

- Provide HIV treatment to **105,400** anti-retroviral naïve clients
- Circumcise **274,014** eligible males
- Provide PrEP to **60,000** clients
- Screen **43,400** women living with HIV for cervical cancer
- Provide FP services to **312,482** new acceptors
- Provide antenatal care services to **143,568** women
- Immunize **149,100** children (12-23 mths) against measles

DELIVERING LIFE-SAVING HEALTH SERVICES ACROSS ZAMBIA

USAID DISCOVER-Health delivers assistance directly through a national network of outreach clinics and sites. The Project takes health services to underserved communities, which are often in the remotest and poorest parts of the country. By the end of FY21, the Project was supporting health service delivery through **257 clinics and sites**, and **10 hubs**.

257 CLINICS & SITES 10 HUBS



HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY

HTS

17,015 tested positive

10.7% yield from ART

program HTS

45% yield from overall, and

50% from sexual partners

indexing and PNS

ART

17,346 of TX_NEW (**158%**

of annual target)

102% overall linkage rate

77,331 TX_CURR (**134%**

of annual target)

96% viral load suppression

PrEP

38,728 clients initiated

on PrEP (**134%** of annual

target)

63,662 clients ever initiated

on PrEP

PMTCT

2.8% HTS (PITC) yield in ANC

99% linkage from HTS

VMMC

76,571 males circumcised

(**122%** of annual target)

88% aged 15-29

FP/RH

34,681 new FP acceptors

76,376 total women on FP

90% on long-acting reversible
contraceptives

MNCH

831,269 under-five clinic visits

165,099 antenatal care visits

40,624 children received
measles immunization

(**227%** of annual target)

SOCIAL MARKETING

USAID DISCOVER-Health aims to increase the availability and affordability of high-quality health products for target populations.

- Sold **21,457,888** male condoms (**81%** of annual target)



- Added **188** new outlets, achieving a total of **2,362** exceeding the LOP target of **1,062** (**222%**)



PROJECT SUMMARY

The USAID DISCOVER-Health Project aims to improve the lives of Zambians by providing them with better access to quality health care. The Project contributes towards [HIV epidemic control](#), while also providing [family planning/reproductive health \(FP/RH\)](#), and [maternal and child health \(MNCH\)](#) services and products.

USAID DISCOVER-Health is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI). The seven-year project partners with the Government of the Republic of Zambia to deliver assistance directly through a national network of outreach clinics and sites, and product outlets. The Project takes health services to under-served communities, which are often in the poorest and remotest parts of the country.

The mission of USAID DISCOVER-Health is to [improve access to and utilization of integrated quality health services and products for all Zambians](#) through a well-coordinated system. The Project employs the overarching strategy of a total market approach (TMA), which promotes health service and product sustainability by supporting private sector growth, helping to ensure that individuals have access to the priority health services and products they need — whether free, subsidized, or commercially priced — thus promoting greater use.

By March 2023, USAID DISCOVER-Health aims to:

- Provide HIV treatment to [105,400](#) anti-retroviral naïve clients
- Circumcise [274,014](#) eligible males
- Provide Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to [60,000](#) clients
- Screen [43,400](#) women living with HIV for cervical cancer
- Provide FP services to [312,482](#) new acceptors
- Provide antenatal care services to [143,568](#) women (minimum 4 visits)
- Immunize [149,100](#) children 12-23 months against measles
- Sell and distribute [86 million](#) socially marketed condoms
- Transition at least [1 socially marketed product](#) to the private sector

FACILITATING A TOTAL MARKET APPROACH

Key FY21 results:

- Obtained MOH authorization allowing pharmacists, pharmacy technologists, and other professionals to administer DMPA-SC and IM, and train women to self-inject, in the private sector.
- Working with MOH, and other key stakeholders, adapted training materials for DMPA-SC and IM self-injection for private providers.

USAID DISCOVER-Health employs a **total market approach** (TMA) framework, a system in which all sectors — public, subsidized, and commercial — work together to deliver health choices for all population segments. The goal is to ensure that those in need are reached with the appropriate health services and products:

- People unable to pay receive free services and products
- People with slightly greater resources benefit from partially subsidized services and products
- People able to pay purchase their services and products from the commercial sector

This creates room for the private sector to increase its provision of health products and services. The private sector is a critical partner to the government in Zambia's health market. It is important to continue to improve coordination between the public and private sectors, in order to facilitate greater private sector participation in service delivery and product marketing.

In FY21, the Project:

- Working with MOH, obtained buy-in to allow pharmacists and pharmacy technologists to administer DMPA-SC and IM, and train women to self-inject DMPA-SC, in the private sector.
- Adapted public sector training materials for DMPA-SC and IM self-injection for private providers, working with MOH and other key stakeholders.
- Started the selection process for private sector facilities to participate in Phase I of DMPA-SC and IM self-injection roll out, working with The Pharmaceutical Society of Zambia (PSZ).
- Participated in the Family Planning Technical Working Group monthly meetings.
- Participated in a virtual global workshop on family planning, specifically DMPA-SC self-injection.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION

Key FY21 results:

- Trained 411 health care workers from MOH, MOHA, Mopani Copper Mines, and Project facilities in the 2020 Zambia Consolidated Guidelines for HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment.
- Conducted the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) trainer of trainers workshop, comprising 47 technical staff from all service units from the Project, Hubs, and the 2 Mopani-supported facilities, and operationalized GBV service provision across all Project Hubs.
- Oriented ART providers in pediatric surge activities, in preparation for its roll-out in all Project surge sites.
- Rolled-out the pediatric surge activities, including holding collaboration meetings with OVC implementing partners (Project Concern Zambia and Catholic Medical Mission Board-Zambia) to facilitate coordinated and effective service provision to eligible adolescents and children living with HIV, in supported regions.
- Oriented Project staff, from facilities under supported Hubs in Central Province, for site activation in HIV recency testing.
- Participated in all COVID-19 IMS meetings.
- Participated in all TWG meetings, convened by MOH, relevant to the Project's scope of work.
- Participated in all interagency and engagement meetings called upon by USAID.
- Participated and contributed to the launch and roll-out of national guidelines on the treatment of advanced HIV.
- Held Deep-Dive Management and Data Review meetings to review FY20 performance and provide strategic guidance on FY21 Project focus areas.
- Participated and contributed to the formulation of national guidelines for the management of Tuberculosis.
- Transitioned all 38 Project-supported facilities to MOH in the Lusaka, Luapula, Muchinga and Northern provinces.
- Conducted sustainability and site transition meetings with 97% of the supported District Health Offices.

Focus for One-Year Project Extension to December 2021

In FY20, the USAID DISCOVER-Health Project was extended for one year, up to December 2021. The FY21 activities implemented aligned with the key focus areas outlined below.

Key Focus Areas for the Project Extension

1. Continue service delivery in HIV prevention and treatment.
2. Scale up training of MOH providers to equip them with clinical and other competencies to sustain the services in the community posts.
3. Transition all Project facilities to MOH management.
4. Provide services to maintain the quality of care of community posts, while not undertaking any additional or new construction work.
5. Support the national emergency COVID-19 response in Zambia.

While the key focus areas for USAID DISCOVER-Health remain HIV service provision, the Project will continue to support wrap-around MCH, FP, and OPD services, as these serve as an important case-finding platform for HIV services. They also help to destigmatize HIV services, with tremendous benefits for retention of clients receiving HIV services.

Focus for 15-month Project Extension to March 2023

In FY21, on September 9, 2021, the USAID DISCOVER-Health Project was further extended for 15 months, up to March 2023. The following are the key focus areas that will guide implementation for FY22.

Key Focus Areas for the Project Extension

1. Continue service delivery in Central, Copperbelt and North Western Provinces. With a focus on implementation of:
 - High-impact activities to find and retain people living with HIV, in HIV treatment services at community posts, while providing wrap-around maternal child health, family planning/reproductive health, and general outpatient department services.
 - Comprehensive activities to find and retain adolescents and children living with HIV, across the 3 Provinces in HIV treatment, sustaining pediatric surge activities.
 - Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC), prioritizing men aged 15 – 29.
 - Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to at-risk populations at supported sites, with a particular focus on pregnant and lactating mothers (PLM).
2. Differentiated service delivery for at-risk populations. Provision of PrEP as an additional layer for at-risk AGYW in DREAMS Centers, in the above-mentioned provinces, and HIV prevention and treatment services for key populations; including female sex workers, men who have sex with men, and prisoners in all 6 USAID-supported provinces.

3. Technical assistance and mentoring to MOH providers, at supported community posts, to equip them with clinical expertise, and other competencies, to sustain the services.
4. Support for the national COVID-19 response in Zambia and/or resources redirected, or leveraging of resources, in relation to the response. Engagement with the host government for the COVID-19 activities; coordination with various partners/interagency/stakeholders and planned reporting related to COVID-19 activities. This will include the installation of pre-fabricated warehouses in USAID-supported provinces to increase storage capacity for various commodities and to minimize disruption to HIV testing and treatment services during the continued pandemic.

Project-supported Service Delivery Sites and Site Investments

USAID DISCOVER-Health operated in **257 outreach sites** in FY21, with 156 satellite sites and **92 primary sites**, into which the satellite sites report. USAID DISCOVER-Health sites prioritize the heaviest HIV burden and highest unmet need in districts and communities.

Support to MOH HQ, PHO, and DHO program coordination

USAID DISCOVER-Health, is a major player in health service and product provision in Zambia, and works closely with MOH at the central, provincial, and district levels. The Project participates in all national, provincial and district health office technical working groups (TWG) and other meetings that are intended to improve health service delivery coordination.

In FY21, the Project:

- Participated in all national-level TWGs relevant to the Project's scope of work (primarily through virtual platforms due to the COVID-19 pandemic), including ART, PrEP, VMMC, HTS, Supply Chain, Laboratory Services, Adolescents, FP/ RH, and SBC.
- Conducted the GBV trainer of trainers workshop comprising 47 technical staff from all service units from the Project, Hubs, and the two Mopani-supported facilities and operationalized the GBV service provision across all USAID DISCOVER-Health supported Hubs.
- Trained 411 healthcare workers from Mopani Copper Mines (MCM), MOH, MOHA (correctional facilities), and Project facilities in the 2020 ZCGs on ART, TPT, and PrEP guidelines.
- Rolled-out pediatric surge activities including action planning, staff orientation, holding collaborative meetings with OVC IPs (CMMB and PCZ) in preparation of expanding the reach to orphans, vulnerable children and adolescents with HIV services.

- Held Deep-Dive Management Meeting with Project senior managers to review FY20 performance and provide strategic guidance on focus areas for FY21. A follow-on technical deep-dive, data review and FY21 strategies meeting was held with key technical staff from all regions of the Project to review FY20 performance, share best practices, communicate focus areas for FY21 and craft implementation strategies.
- Oriented HCWs from all Project-supported facilities in Chibombo, Kabwe and Kapiri Hubs for site activation in HIV recency testing.
- Trained 34 healthcare workers from MOH, MOHA, and Project facilities in the Advanced HIV Disease Treatment Guidelines.
- Participated in all COVID-19 IMS meetings convened by the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) and MOH, actively contributing to technical and resource support in the Case Management, Logistics and Supply Chain, and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) sub-groups.
- Attended all USAID meetings convened, aimed at improving coordination and collaboration among implementing partners, including the Implementing Partners' Meeting.
- Expanded the TPT surge site strategy led by MOH and USAID to 25 additional sites from the 3 pathfinder sites that the Project implemented in FY20 Q4.
- Participated in the review and drafting of the latest National TB Treatment Guidelines.
- Participated and contributed to the launch and roll-out of national guidelines on the treatment of advanced HIV.
- Led the development of the national RCCE strategy document, through the appointment of the Project's PBI Senior Advisor to the position of Co-Chair in the Risk Communication System Sub-Committee.



COVID-19 prevention sensitization, as part of national RCCE efforts, at a Church in Lusaka.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Key FY21 results:

- Created and rolled out a comprehensive infection control monitoring tool in all primary sites and ensured compliance with infection control protocols and guidelines.
- Supplied 12,680 cylinders (618,000 liters) of Medical Oxygen to the Ndola Teaching Hospital and Kitwe Teaching Hospital.
- Integrated COVID-19 vaccination into the ART and RMNCH programs in supported sites.
- Organized a “Back To School” event preparing learners, parents and teachers to safely return to school.
- Supported MOH with RCCE community-based efforts, along with developing radio and print COVID-19 prevention and vaccine messages.
- Supported MOH’s national vaccine campaigns, with both clinical and RCCE technical and funding assistance.
- Provided infection control equipment to USAID SAFE and EQUIP.

USAID, through USAID DISCOVER-Health, has provided ongoing support to the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) to respond to the COVID-19 emergency in Zambia, since March 2020. The FY21 reporting period saw the second (in Q1) and third (in Q3) COVID-19 waves hit Zambia. This had a significant impact on programming as many planned activities were scaled-back, especially community outreach activities, or postponed. The COVID-19 emergency response support and achievements, both at national and Project level, are discussed below:



COVID-19 supplies arriving at the Cardinal Adams Warehouse in Lusaka.

Technical and Funding Support for COVID-19 Clinical Care and Laboratory Systems Strengthening

In FY21, the Project supported:

Procurement of COVID-19 equipment, commodities and supplies

Including the following (support is at the national level, unless specified otherwise):

- **618,000 litres of compressed medical oxygen** for management of critically ill COVID-19 patients.
- **1,000 tablets** plus start-up connectivity for COVID-19-related data management across surveillance, clinical care and laboratory services.
- Procured infection control supplies and personal protective equipment for the EQUIP, USAID SAFE and USAID DISCOVER-Health projects.

Training, mentorship and human resource for health (HRH) support

At the beginning of the third (and most severe so far) COVID-19 wave, it became evident that Zambia required facilities capable of managing critically ill COVID-19 patients in each province. As the critical care facilities in the capital, Lusaka, quickly filled up they could no longer accommodate patients referred from the provinces. USAID, through USAID DISCOVER-Health, quickly stepped in to train provincial teams in the management of COVID-19 patients requiring advanced care, to improve COVID-19 outcomes. This and some of the other support provided in this area during FY21, are described below:

- Supported **medical attachment and training for 107 health workers** (43 clinicians, 44 nurses, 10 biomedical engineers, 10 environmental health technicians) from all 10 provinces, through a 10-day attachment program at Lusaka Centers of Excellence, for intensive coaching in COVID-19 critical care and management. This support decentralized the management of very ill patients to the provincial level and helped save many lives.
- Supported **12 top infectious diseases clinicians** to travel across the country to provide on-site mentorship to facility teams in 6 provinces (Copperbelt, North-Western, Central, Luapula, Muchinga, and Northern) to manage severe COVID-19 cases.
- Case management training for **3,265 community health workers (CHWs)** to provide case management in health facilities and through the home isolation model for COVID-19 patients.
- Hired and seconded **42 healthcare workers** in the Copperbelt province, to help manage the increased workload, resulting from COVID-19.

National and provincial level laboratory and HRH support

In April 2021, during the first round of COVID-19 vaccinations in Zambia, there was a significant amount of vaccine hesitancy amongst the general public and also healthcare workers. It is estimated that at least 70% of healthcare workers prioritized for the first batch of vaccines opted out of being vaccinated, forcing MOH to open up access to anyone eligible, to avoid wastage. In June 2021, as a severe third wave of COVID-19 took hold, with rising illnesses and deaths, there was more willingness to be vaccinated among community members and healthcare workers.

From July 2021, as more vaccines arrived, the Project undertook training, and other site preparation activities, to ensure that all Project-supported facilities had the capacity to become vaccination centers to support rapid roll-out closer to where people live. The Project-supported health posts, being community-based, are ideally located for taking COVID-19 vaccinations to where people are. In collaboration with MOH and ZNPHI, the following achievements were made during FY21 Q4:

- **Oriented 1,879 Project and MOH healthcare workers** in the Copperbelt and Central provinces in COVID-19 vaccination, as a critical step in the phased approach to improve vaccine uptake among recipients of care on ART, clients accessing RMNCH services, and the general population.
- Supported the **COVID-19 vaccination roll-out** beginning on September 24, 2021, with slightly over **41,000 people vaccinated** by September 30, 2021, through integration into ART and MNCH services in Project-supported sites and through supporting MOH campaigns in 2 provinces (Central and Copperbelt).

USAID DISCOVER-Health has re-purposed and/or expanded the roles and responsibilities of Project staff, who continue to provide support and thought leadership in various national COVID-19 sub-committees including: clinical care, procurement and supply chain management, laboratory services, vaccine preparedness and national risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) activities. Additionally, the Project has ensured fidelity to core service and product delivery mandates and objectives during COVID-19, by supporting continuity of frontline HIV/MCH/FP/OPD health service delivery in supported sites and communities, while ensuring and providing for the safety of both staff and clients.



Vaccinations underway in Kabwe.

Technical and Funding Support to Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

In FY21, the Project:

- Developed COVID-19 prevention and vaccine messages, translated into 7 local languages, and carried out community sensitizations in markets, places of worship, schools and on public transport.
- Participated in the content development of the MOH Advocacy, Communication, and Social Mobilization (ACSM) Strategy to introduce new COVID-19 vaccines to Zambia. The strategy was successfully launched by the PS-MOH on 27th May under the theme “Roll Up Your Sleeve, Fight COVID-19 And Take the Vaccine”.
- Developed 18 PSAs in 7 local languages, in which the Traditional Leaders encouraged adherence to COVID-19 prevention methods and vaccine uptake. The PSAs were then distributed to the 156 participating radio stations.
- Aired ‘The 5 Golden Rules’ PSAs in 7 local languages. Across all 10 provinces, the radio spots have a reach of over 14 million people, that’s 81% of Zambia’s population.
- Developed, printed and distributed to all 10 provinces, 100,000 copies of a poster focused on the roll-out of the second dose of the vaccine.
- Supported MOH in COVID-19 data management, through the provision of 4 data entry interns for 35 days.



COVID-19 safety discussion with local Church members in Luangwa.

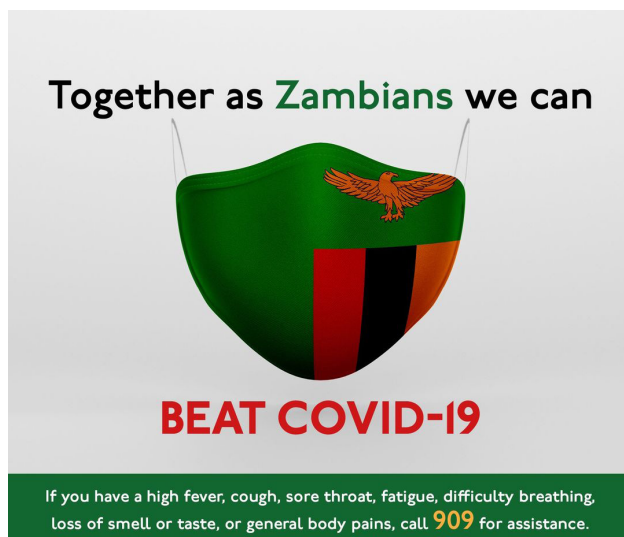
ZNPHI Social Media

USAID DISCOVER-Health continues to support ZNPHI messaging, including management of the ZNPHI Facebook and Twitter pages. The main focus was to raise awareness of the COVID-19 vaccine and prevention methods, namely 'The 5 Golden Rules'.

In FY21, the ZNPHI Facebook page achieved:

- 737,497 engagements
- 37,633,780 post impressions
- 49,159 page likes, a 62% increase on total likes from FY20.
- Total content was viewed 40.4 million times.

The audience demographics show of those reached, 54% were men and 46% women, with the most active audience being between 25 and 34 years old.



COVID-19 Vaccination Facebook post.

Back To School Event

In Q1, USAID DISCOVER-Health organized a “Back To School” event aimed at preparing learners, parents and teachers to return safely to school during the COVID-19 pandemic. The show was an initiative of the U.S. Embassy, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of General Education. The event addressed some of the key questions and anxieties parents and learners had surrounding COVID-19 and the reopening of schools. Musical performances, dance and art were enjoyed by all, along with practical guides on adhering to ‘The 5 Golden Rules’.



Back to School event, Lusaka.

Voter Registration and COVID-19

In Q1, USAID DISCOVER-Health produced an animated video to reinforce COVID-19 preventive measures during Zambia’s national voter registration exercise. Working closely with the Electoral Commission of Zambia, the video guided the general public on how to register to vote in the 2021 general election, whilst adhering to COVID-19 preventive measures. The Project translated the video into 8 local languages, as well as English, in both video and radio format.

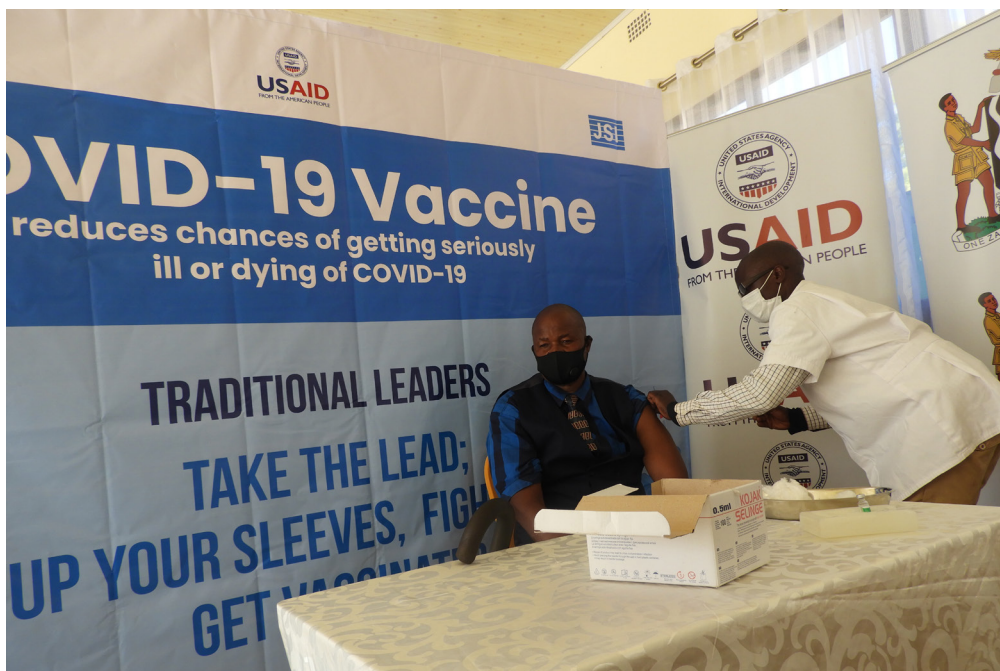
The products were shared on various platforms, including social media. The ZNPHI, ZEA and MOH Facebook pages shared the videos. On the ZEA Facebook page, from the first posting of the video, over 51,000 people were reached and it generated 2,000 engagements.

National COVID-19 vaccine awareness program

In Q3, the Project supported the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs (MOCTA) to conduct a nationwide COVID-19 vaccine sensitization program with 3 key stakeholders; MOH Health Promotion Officers, Journalists and Chiefs and Chieftainesses from all 10 provinces.

Key results included:

- **144** out of the 288 Chiefs were oriented to provide leadership in responding to COVID-19, representing 50% coverage.
- **156** journalists participated, representing public and private media institutions countrywide.
- **172** Health Promotions Officers took part, representing all districts and provinces.
- **325,000** IEC materials were developed, printed and distributed.
- **143** people received a COVID-19 vaccination.



HRH Chief Chitanda receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

Enhancing Resilience of MCH and Other Services and Programs in USAID-supported Provinces

USAID DISCOVER-Health is providing support to the 6 USAID-supported provinces to enhance their preparedness for, and their emergency response to, COVID-19. This support is also intended to safeguard the gains made through programs currently funded by USAID and ensure continued progress in key indicators, primarily in the MCH programs, but also the HIV, malaria, TB and FP programs. This support is in addition to the RCCE support discussed above.

In FY21, the Project:

- Supported **training and mentorship of health facility teams** in COVID-19 triage, isolation, and management, to enhance health services' COVID-19 resilience.
- Supported **5,811 health care workers** in 568 health facilities with COVID-19 support in triage, isolation, WASH and waste management.

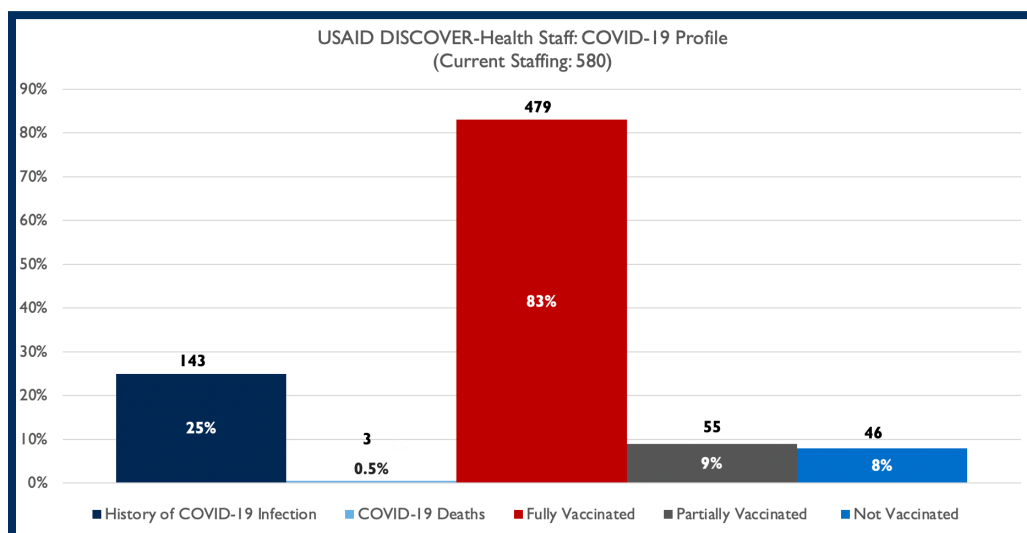
Internal Project Response

USAID DISCOVER-Health directly supports health service delivery in 257 health facilities, primarily focusing on MCH, FP and HIV services, but also supporting general outpatient department (OPD) services.

Teams of above-site support staff at HQ, the 2 Regional Offices and the 10 Hubs back-stop frontline service delivery staff (80% of the staff are frontline healthcare workers), and all are covered by the Project's COVID-19 response plan.

USAID DISCOVER-Health provides infection control supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) to supported site staff (including CHWs and MOH staff), and encourages and supports vaccination. Below is a snapshot of the Project FY21 COVID-19 staff profile:

Graph 1: USAID DISCOVER-Health COVID-19 Staff Profile.



The high vaccination rates among staff and availability of PPE have enabled the Project to continue providing critical care to beneficiary communities, without interruption. Sadly, the Project lost 3 members of staff to COVID-19 during FY21.

OBJECTIVE 1: HIGH QUALITY, INTEGRATED HEALTH SERVICES ARE USED MORE BY TARGET GROUPS

Key FY21 results:

- Initiated **17,346** clients on ART (**158%** of annual target)
- Achieved a TX_CURR of **77,331** (**134%** of annual target)
- Achieved ART program growth of **25%**
- Initiated **38,728** new clients on PrEP (**134%** of annual target)
- Circumcised **76,571** eligible males 15+ year old (**122%** of annual target)
- Provided cervical cancer screening to **14,687** women living with HIV (**84%** of annual target)

USAID DISCOVER-Health implements activities in communities and at health facilities, within a TMA framework, in order to encourage target groups to use key health services and products for improved health outcomes that contribute positively towards national development.

Table 1 shows USAID DISCOVER-Health FY21 achievements against set annual and quarterly targets in key PEPFAR indicators.

Table 1: USAID DISCOVER-Health FY21 PEPFAR Performance.

Indicator	Description	Annual Target	2021 Q1	2021 Q2	2021 Q3	2021 Q4	FY2021 achievement	Target achievement
HTS_TST	# tested for HIV	83,952	46,998	44,311	38,560	33,907	163,776	195%
HTS_TST_POS	# tested and received their positive results	6,135	3,996	4,675	4,370	3,974	17,015	277%
HTS_INDEX	# tested for HIV using index services	16,748	3,809	5,254	5,172	5,041	19,276	115%
HTS_INDEX_POS	# tested and received positive results using index services	4,174	1,471	2,304	2,433	2,477	8,685	208%
TX_NEW	# newly initiated on ART	10,975	4,196	4,753	4,428	3,969	17,346	158%
TX_CURR	# currently receiving ART	57,792	65,246	70,089	73,692	77,331	77,331	134%
TX_PVLS_D	# ART clients with a VL result in medical record	46,094	43,890	46,762	51,620	54,839	54,839	119%
TX_PVLS_N	# ART clients with VL result <1000	43,792	40,988	43,926	49,117	52,593	52,593	120%
PrEP_NEW	# newly enrolled on pre-exposure prophylaxis	28,978	5,749	9,863	10,544	12,572	38,728	134%
VMMC_CIRC	# males circumcised	62,899	13,843	19,472	23,724	19,532	76,571	122%
Cascade Performance								
HTS_Yield	HTS_TST_POS/HTS_TST	7%	8.5%	10.6%	11.3%	11.7%	10%	n/a
Index_Yield	HTS_INDEX_POS/HTS_INDEX	25%	39%	44%	47%	49%	45%	n/a
Index_Contribution_POS	HTS_INDEX_POS/HTS_TST_POS	50%	37%	49%	56%	62%	51%	n/a
Linkage	TX_NEW/HTS_TST_POS	95%	105%	102%	101%	100%	102%	n/a
VL_Coverage	TX_PVLS (D)/(TX_CURR - TX_NEW 6 months prior)	85%	79%	79%	82%	82%	82%	n/a
VL_Suppression	TX_PVLS(N)/TX_PVLS(D)	95%	93%	94%	95%	96%	96%	101%
Derived Calculations								
TX_NET_NEW	TX_CURR (now) - TX_CURR (prior)	n/a	3,136	4,843	3,603	3,639	15,221	n/a
Unexplained Tx Loss/Gain	TX_NET_NEW - TX_NEW	n/a	-1,060	90	-825	-330	-2,125	n/a
Net_New_Ratio	TX_NET_NEW/TX_NEW	n/a	0.75	1.02	0.81	0.92	0.88	n/a
Program Growth	TX_NET_NEW (now) / TX_CURR (prior)	n/a	5%	7%	5%	5%	25%	n/a
Continuity in TX	[TX_CURR (now)] / [TX_CURR (prior) + (TX_NEW (now))]	92%	98.4%	99.2%	98.0%	98.7%	95%	103%

As Table 1 shows, the Project achieved all its FY21 PEPFAR indicator targets and all its HIV cascade performance targets.

Table 2 shows USAID DISCOVER-Health FY21 achievements against set annual and quarterly targets in other key performance indicators.

Table 2: USAID DISCOVER-Health FY21 Additional Key Performance.

Indicator Description	Annual Target *	2021 Q1	2021 Q2	2021 Q3	2021 Q4	FY2021 achievement	Target achievement
# of children who received DPT3 by 12 months	23,391	7,856	7,887	9,324	8,198	33,265	142%
# of children aged 12-23 months immunized against measles	17,895	22,340	5,802	7,211	5,271	40,624	227%
# of cases of child diarrhea treated	12,000	6,812	4,053	3,883	5,653	20,401	170%
# of antenatal care (ANC) 4th visits	17,228	6,602	7,072	7,354	7,110	28,138	163%
# of pregnant women who received 2nd dose of SP/Fansidar	23,110	8,436	8,634	8,536	8,515	34,121	148%
# of women on contraceptives by type (new acceptors)	37,500	8,016	9,378	8,547	8,740	34,681	92%
# of women living with HIV and on ART screened for CxCa	17,444	2,504	2,626	4,334	5,223	14,687	84%
# of male condom sold	26,500,000	2,952,720	8,963,584	4,504,032	5,037,552	21,457,888	81%

USAID DISCOVER-Health met or surpassed most non-PEPFAR targets in FY21 in MCH and FP service delivery, except the number of male condoms sold, number of women living with HIV screened for cervical cancer (CaCx), and new family planning acceptors at 81%, 84%, and 92% respectively. While meeting targets is desirable for all other indicators, a lower performance percentage is desirable for childhood diarrheal diseases.

Table 3 shows Project FY21 achievements against set annual and quarterly targets in key PEPFAR indicators among pediatric and adolescent clients <15 years old.

Table 3: USAID DISCOVER-Health FY21 Pediatric PEPFAR Performance.

Indicator	Description	Annual Target	2021 Q1	2021 Q2	2021 Q3	2021 Q4	FY2021 achievement	Target achievement
HTS_TST	# tested for HIV	4,155	2,095	2,308	1,726	1,358	7,487	180%
HTS_TST_POS	# tested and received their positive results	183	146	171	125	110	552	302%
HTS_INDEX	# tested for HIV using index services	3,635	607	828	661	485	2,581	71%
HTS_INDEX_POS	# tested and received positive results using index services	128	80	107	82	65	334	261%
TX_NEW	# newly initiated on ART	380	154	178	129	119	580	153%
TX_CURR	# currently receiving ART	2,533	2,347	2,528	2,587	2,604	2,604	103%
TX_PVLS_D	# ART clients with a VL result in medical record	2,077	1,568	1,712	1,864	1,934	1,934	93%
TX_PVLS_N	# ART clients with VL result <1000	1,974	1,187	1,325	1,524	1,626	1,626	82%
Cascade Performance								
HTS_Yield	HTS_TST_POS/HTS_TST	4.4%	7.0%	7.4%	7.2%	8.1%	7.4%	n/a
Index_Yield	HTS_INDEX_POS/HTS_INDEX	4%	13%	13%	12%	13%	13%	n/a
Linkage	TX_NEW/HTS_TST_POS	95%	105%	104%	103%	108%	105%	n/a
VL_Coverage	TX_PVLS (D)/(TX_CURR - TX_NEW 6 months prior)	85%	80%	81%	85%	84%	84%	n/a
VL_Suppression	TX_PVLS(N)/TX_PVLS(D)	95%	76%	77%	82%	84%	84%	88%
Derived Calculations								
TX_NET_NEW	TX_CURR (now) - TX_CURR (prior)	n/a	39	181	59	17	296	n/a
Unexplained Tx Loss/Gain	TX_NET_NEW - TX_NEW	n/a	-115	3	-70	-102	-284	n/a
Net_New_Ratio	TX_NET_NEW/TX_NEW	n/a	0.25	1.02	0.46	0.14	0.51	n/a
Program Growth	TX_NET_NEW (now) / TX_CURR (prior)	n/a	2%	8%	2%	1%	13%	n/a
Continuity in TX	[TX_CURR (now)] / [TX_CURR (prior) + (TX_NEW (now))]	92%	95.3%	98.9%	95.8%	94.8%	94%	102%

These results and achievements are discussed in more detail in the subsequent sub-objectives and sections.

SUB-OBJECTIVE 1.1: Demand Creation and HIV Prevention Services Provided to Priority and Key Populations

The Project's HIV prevention programs combine biomedical, behavioral, and structural interventions that are tailored to address the individual, societal, and structural factors that place specific groups at risk of contracting HIV. The USAID DISCOVER-Health HIV service package includes:

- HTS and appropriate linkage to other HIV services
- Pediatric and adult anti-retroviral therapy (ART) with integrated:
 - TB preventive services
 - Family planning
 - Cervical cancer screening
 - Nutrition assessment counseling and support
- Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)
- Access to condoms
- Voluntary male medical circumcision (VMMC)
- Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT)
- Prevention and behavioral interventions (PBI) including:
 - Information, education, and communication (IEC) support
 - Interpersonal communication (IPC) and other supportive services
 - Measures to reduce HIV-related stigma and discrimination

The Project populations

- **Two priority populations:**
 - AGYW 15-24 years
 - Males 15-44 years
- **One key population:**
 - Prison inmates

HIV Prevention and Behavioral Interventions

Social and Behavior Change (SBC) activities and interventions are implemented across the two Project objectives; service delivery and social marketing. The aim is to encourage people to use health services and products appropriately, in order to improve health outcomes. Messages delivered across multi-media platforms cover the areas of HIV treatment, such as patient education regarding viral load monitoring and the importance of continuity in treatment, and HIV prevention, including PrEP and condom promotion.

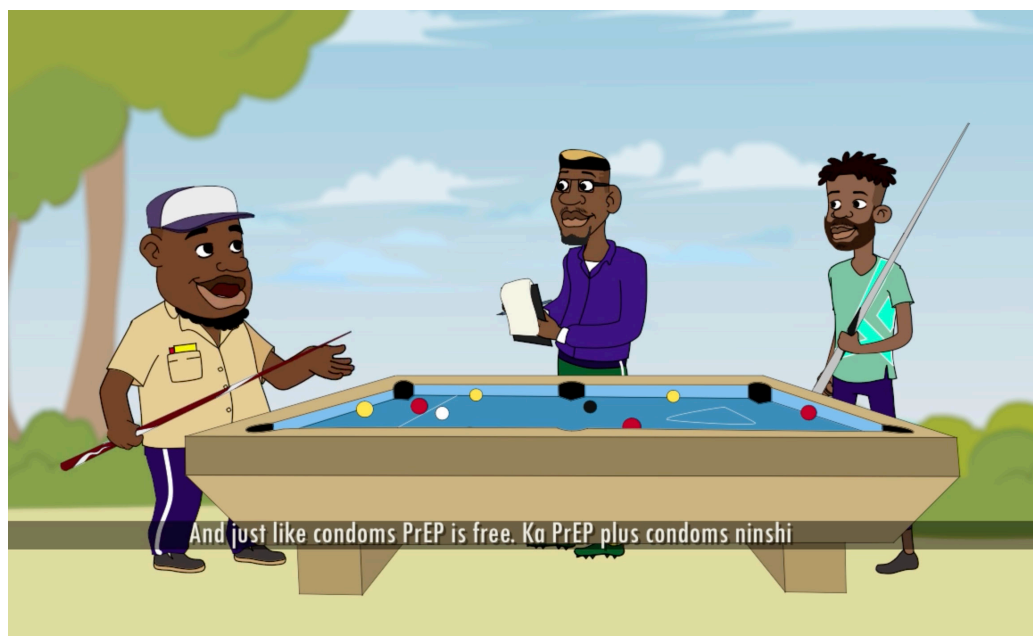
There are three key components to the Project's prevention and behavioral interventions model:

1. **Motivate clients to access services** before service delivery, in particular PrEP, VMMC, HTS, and ART.
2. **Improve provider-client interaction** during service delivery by developing providers' interpersonal skills, and producing and making available materials to inform clients about Project services and products.
3. **Sustain client pro-health behaviors** after service delivery to encourage clients to adhere to treatment and continue to use products.

Zambia Ending AIDS campaign

During most of FY21, the Project continued to support the Ministry of Health to implement the Zambia Ending AIDS (ZEA) campaign through several strategies and platforms, including mass and social media. The Project worked with both MOH and NAC to engage audiences and promote approved HIV prevention options.

While COVID-19 has severely impacted proposed activities, the Project reenergized the ZEA Campaign through an integrated marketing approach, using a saturation plus method. We identified 7 key messages to focus on: HIV testing, delaying sexual debut, condom use, myths around PrEP, PMTCT, ART and the role of men in HIV prevention.



ZEA animated video on condoms.

ZEA Media Products

- Developed and distributed 4 animations focused on young male engagement; condom use, PrEP, ARVs and accessing HIV prevention services. Two of these, focusing on HIV treatment, were broadcast on national TV at the MOH HIV Testing and Treatment Day on September 15, 2021.
- Developed 14 English radio spots and 4 animations, targeting both young men and women, on different HIV Prevention messages based on the thematic areas of the ZEA campaign namely: PrEP, Condoms, VMMC, HTS, ART, delaying sexual debut and PMTCT. The radio spots were aired on 12 radio stations. In addition, developed 98 radio spots in 7 local languages on the same thematic areas as above, these are due to be aired in FY22.
- Developed the 13-episode “I’m In Control” radio drama series, targeting young people and aimed at reducing risky behaviours at universities and colleges. The series promotes positive health-seeking behaviours, through relatable and engaging characters, and addresses barriers such as peer pressure and cultural beliefs.
- Produced the ‘ZEA National Anthem’, a unifying song to identify all ZEA content and events. Guest artists include Wezi, James Sakala, Chef and Towela Kaira.
- The Take Control Magazine, formerly The Sex Life Guide, has been reviewed by the SBCTWG and is awaiting MOH approval. It will be produced and distributed in FY22 through the newly awarded USAID ZAM-Health project.
- Developed the Interpersonal Communication (IPC) toolkit, including the 13-episode radio drama series, “I’m in Control”. The IPC toolkit aims to provide interpersonal communication materials to the target audience, young people at university or college. The topics are selected from the Take Control magazine, include issues around safe sex, living with HIV and peer pressure, and provide the basis of the radio series.
- Developed the ZEA Chatbot, with the aim of sharing HIV information in a conversational and digitally accessible manner. Users can pose questions directly, engage with the materials there and are linked to other social media platforms and resources. It is awaiting MOH approval, with distribution expected in FY22 through USAID ZAM-Health.

ZEA Social Media

Across FY21, the focus of the social media strategy was improved to make the Facebook posts more interactive for users, to increase knowledge about HIV prevention methods, create demand for HIV information and services, and emphasize positive health seeking behaviors. This has primarily been achieved through the relaunch of the “Ask Dr. Mundia” program and service; a clinical expert who interacts with the audience answering their questions, and boosted by pre-recorded videos on a variety of topics, such as ARVs, PrEP or VMMC.

On the ZEA Facebook page, in FY21:

- The audience reached was 51% men and 49% women, with the most popular age demographic between 18-34 years old.
- A total of 828,000 impressions and 57,829 engagements were recorded.



ZEA Facebook post of “Ask Dr. Mundia” program.

Transition of the ZEA Scope of Work to USAID ZAM-Health

In Q4, USAID awarded the ZAM-Health Project to John Snow Health (JSH) Zambia. The USAID DISCOVER-Health Project was expected to close in December 2021, and a major scope of work for USAID ZAM-Health is to take forward MOH support for the implementation of the Zambia Ending AIDS (ZEA) campaign. In line with this, in Q4, the Project began and completed the process of transitioning the ZEA campaign to USAID ZAM-Health. While the campaign was transitioned to USAID ZAM-Health, USAID DISCOVER-Health (extended to March 29, 2023 on September 9, 2021) will continue to collaborate and provide input as products are developed and rolled out, so that the Project’s clients can continue to access and benefit from the menu of supported products and interventions.

Automated Reminders

During FY21, the automated appointment reminder system sent **312,456 automated reminders**, including:

- **308,184 PrEP** appointment reminders and adherence support messages
- **4,024 VMMC** appointment reminders

Other Key HIV Prevention Interventions

Dapivirine Vaginal Ring (DVR-VR)

In addition to the use of oral PrEP, the Zambian Government is considering introducing the Dapivirine Vaginal Ring, as a potential HIV prevention choice. Namely, as part of combination prevention for women at substantial risk of HIV infection, who are unable to or do not want to take oral PrEP.

The Project has been actively involved in this process and informed the development of the national protocol guidelines for DVR-VR studies. The Project has developed a protocol, for a Project-supported study to assess the acceptability of introducing the DVR-VR in Zambia, as an additional HIV prevention option for AGYW (16+) and other women at substantial risk of HIV infection, who are unable to or do not want to take oral PrEP. Additionally, feasibility and acceptability of integrating the DVR-VR into standard service delivery will be assessed at the provider level. The protocol was near-ready for submission for IRB approval by the end of reporting period.

HIV Prevention Indexing

Building on the Project's experience with PLHIV indexing, the Project is now indexing for HIV prevention, to elicit sexual contacts from high HIV-risk AGYW that are on PrEP, to reach sexual partners. These 'missing men' may be at high HIV risk and may benefit from PrEP, or may unknowingly be living with HIV and would benefit from ART.

There was a phased roll-out of the reverse indexing model. In carrying out this activity, the PrEP point-person, together with community mobilization officers, oriented 10 PrEP mentors in reverse indexing.

In August, this was piloted in Chingola in 6 sites, and in just 2 months 570 male partners were reached; 105 of them were tested for HIV, 29 were linked to PrEP, 3 tested positive and were linked to ART. Additional review and analysis will be undertaken in FY22 Q1 and Q2.

Layering of PrEP for DREAMS AGYW

USAID DISCOVER-Health provides PrEP to DREAMS girls as an additional option and as part of an integrated HIV prevention service that also includes HIV testing services, family planning, and condom provision. PrEP is provided as a layered service in 40 DREAMS Centres, across 9 districts of Lusaka, Kabwe, Kapiri Mposhi, Luanshya, Ndola, Kitwe, Mufulira, Kasama and Chingola.

In FY21, the Project:

- Conducted 93 PrEP surges in all 40 DREAMS Centres. The surges target the DREAMS girls in the community safe spaces and provides them with access to PrEP. As well as, following-up with clients who missed appointments and determining their current risk. If still at risk, counselling is provided to support adherence to PrEP. If no longer at risk, the client is discharged from active care, and advised to return to care if their risk were to increase.
- All 10 districts participated in the monthly district stakeholder meetings, facilitated by the DREAMS Centres, in order to enhance the effective coordination of HIV interventions for AGYW.
- Trained 119 staff on PrEP and conducted refresher PrEP trainings in 5 Project Hubs.
- Trained 12 DREAMS Centre Managers, 36 DREAMS Connectors, 236 DREAMS Mentors and 104 PrEP Mentors on PrEP reporting using the Project-supported real-time information management system (RIMS).
- Rolled-out PrEP services, in collaboration with USAID Z-CHPP, in all 12 newly opened DREAMS Centres in 3 districts; Luanshya, Kasama and Mufulira. The new sites were added in FY21Q2.
- Conducted community engagement meetings in all 40 DREAMS Centres, explaining to the community stakeholders and gatekeepers what PrEP is and how it works, in order to gain their buy-in and help create a supportive environment for HIV prevention and specifically PrEP, for AGYW.



Skills training and mentoring on offer at a DREAMS Centre.

Layering of PrEP for Open Doors Key Population Groups

USAID DISCOVER-Health works in collaboration with the Open Doors Project to reach out to Key Populations (KPs) with prevention messages and to provide linkage to services such as PrEP and ART.

In FY21, the Project:

- Engaged additional peer supporters from the MSMs, transgender and FSW populations as mentors to mobilize and appropriately link those eligible within their networks to services, to provide adherence support, and to follow-up those with missed visits.
- Conducted PrEP refreshers in Kapiri Mposhi, Kabwe and Chingola. A total of 161 key population peer educators (52 MSM, 106 FSWs and 3 Transgender people) were re-oriented in PrEP messaging and equipped to mobilize others in their networks for HIV prevention services.

Support to the Zambia Correctional Service (ZCS)

Prison inmates (from 28 partner prisons out of 140 total prisons) are a key population for USAID DISCOVER-Health. The Project helps the prisons to make high-quality HIV prevention, testing, and treatment services available to inmates in supported prisons.

In FY21, the Project:

- Provided health services, including KP_PREV, HTS, ART and PrEP to inmates at partner Zambia Correctional Service (ZCS) prisons.
- Reached a total of **13,707** inmates with KP_PREV; **407 new** inmates with ART, and **1,577 new** inmates with PrEP.

1,577

Prison inmates
on PrEP



Prison officers and prison inmates dance to the popular 'Jerusalem' song: World AIDS Day 2020 at Mwembeshi prisons.

- Sensitized inmates on the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine and shared COVID-19 prevention methods, as well as providing infection control supplies, such as soap and cleaning materials.
- Provided secretariat services to the Prisons Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) to ensure coordinated provision of health services to inmates by the ZCS partners.

The continued risk of COVID-19 among inmates prevented the Project from conducting the training of peer educators and PrEP surges. The shortage of PrEP drugs also negatively affected continuity in PrEP and uptake of PrEP among prison inmates.

Faith Community Initiative (FCI)

The USAID DISCOVER-Health faith community initiative (FCI) for finding men and linking them to HIV services is informed by the Zambia Male Characterization Study and the HIV prevention HCD studies.

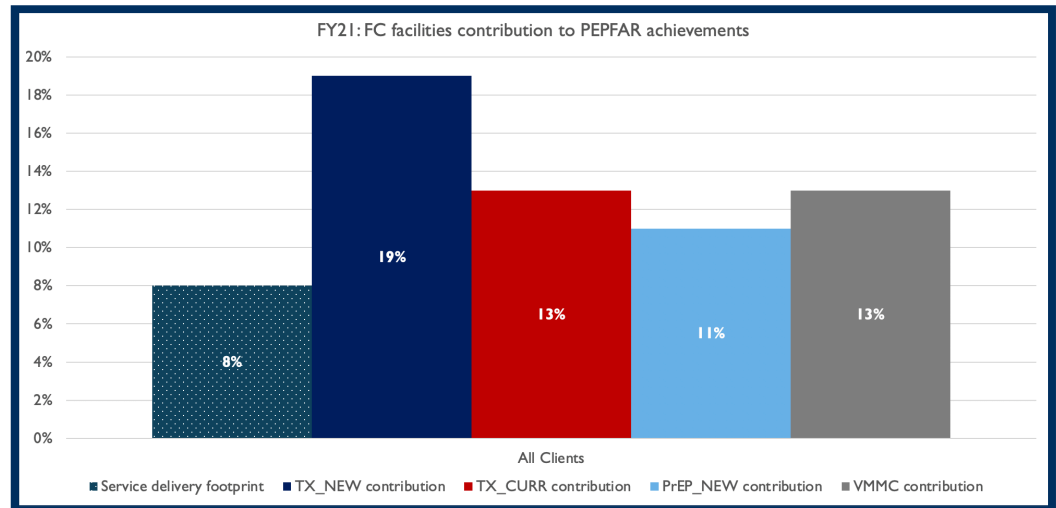
The program also focuses on finding children living with HIV and linking them to ART and where appropriate, OVC services. USAID DISCOVER-Health programming leverages the ethos of caring, spiritual ministry, and volunteerism that faith community (FC) partners bring to the table, to provide holistic interactions and support to clients in their health seeking journeys.

The Project is working with **29 congregations from 8 denominations** to mobilize catchment area community members at risk of HIV to access HTS and link them to ART, PrEP, VMMC and other HIV and health services, as appropriate.

In FY21, the Project:

- Trained **771 church leaders** to better understand the HIV epidemic and raise community awareness by using their platforms to increase the uptake of HIV prevention and treatment services.
- Trained **269 community health workers** in HIV counselling, mobilization and mentorship skills to engage men and link them to treatment services.
- Trained **3,600 male congregants** and **4,133 female congregants** to understand PrEP and HIV treatment and the importance of a supportive environment, including countering faith healing messages that lead to an interruption in treatment and poor health outcomes.
- Supported **25 FC partner pastors** and equipped them to supervise and mentor lay counselors, involved in case finding for men and children. This is a sustainability measure as the Project prepares for the eventual handover of the health posts, hosted by the FC partners, to them and MOH. The pastors were also equipped to work with 162 catchment-area church leaders to address faith healing preaching that discourages adherence to ART.
- Worked with the **8 FC partner secretariats** towards Churches Health Association of Zambia (CHAZ) affiliation for additional support, and Health Professionals Council of Zambia (HPCZ) accreditation of the 29 health posts for compliant and strategic coordination and management of the facilities.

Graph 2: FY21 FC Sites Contribution to PEPFAR Achievements.



Graph 2 shows:

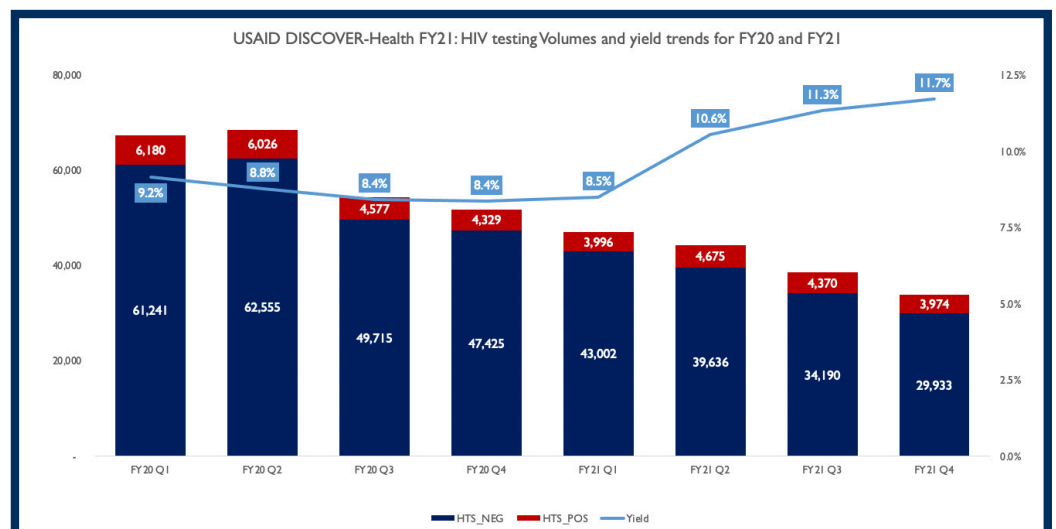
- The FC facilities performed above their footprint across key PEPFAR indicators for all client categories.
- The availability of church platforms for client interactions and case-finding, even during COVID-19 waves, supported continued provision of critical HIV services.

HIV Testing Services (HTS)

HTS is an entry point to both HIV prevention and HIV care and treatment services, including VMMC, ART, PrEP, PMTCT, and condoms. The Project's HTS activities are targeted to achieve high coverage of HTS for priority and key populations, ensuring that high-yielding testing modalities are used as much as possible. HTS activities ensure appropriate linkage to ART, PMTCT, PrEP, condoms, and other HIV preventive services.

As Graph 3 shows USAID DISCOVER-Health continued to reduce its HTS volume and increase HIV positivity yields, resulting from the effective use of HTS screening tools and prioritizing indexing.

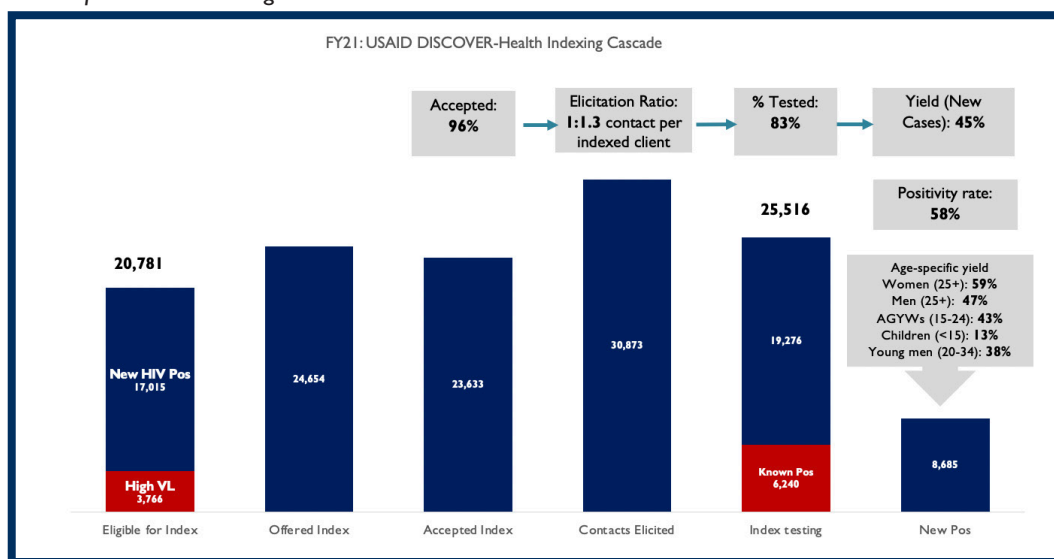
Graph 3: FY20 and FY21 HTS Volumes, Positives and Yield.



Index Case Contact Tracing and Partner Notification Services

USAID DISCOVER-Health has shifted HTS activities to the higher yielding index testing modality, especially with curtailed community outreach, as a result of COVID-19. The Project has a policy of immediately indexing at least 95% of newly identified HIV positive clients. The Project also indexes all of those who are found to be virally unsuppressed on viral load monitoring. Graph 4 shows the indexing cascade.

Graph 4: FY21 Indexing Cascade.



USAID DISCOVER-Health provides ongoing provider supervision and mentorship in indexing, especially around eliciting sexual partner contacts and PNS. There have been no reports of intimate partner violence (IPV) resulting from the Project's indexing program since inception.

As Graph 4 shows,

- **24,654** newly identified HIV positive clients, virally unsuppressed clients and clients with other risk factors were offered indexing and **96%** accepted.
- **30,873** contacts were found and offered HTS and of these **6,240** were known positives.
- **19,276** clients, untested contacts, were counselled and tested through indexing.
- **8,685 tested positive for HIV**, for an **HIV indexing yield of 45%**.

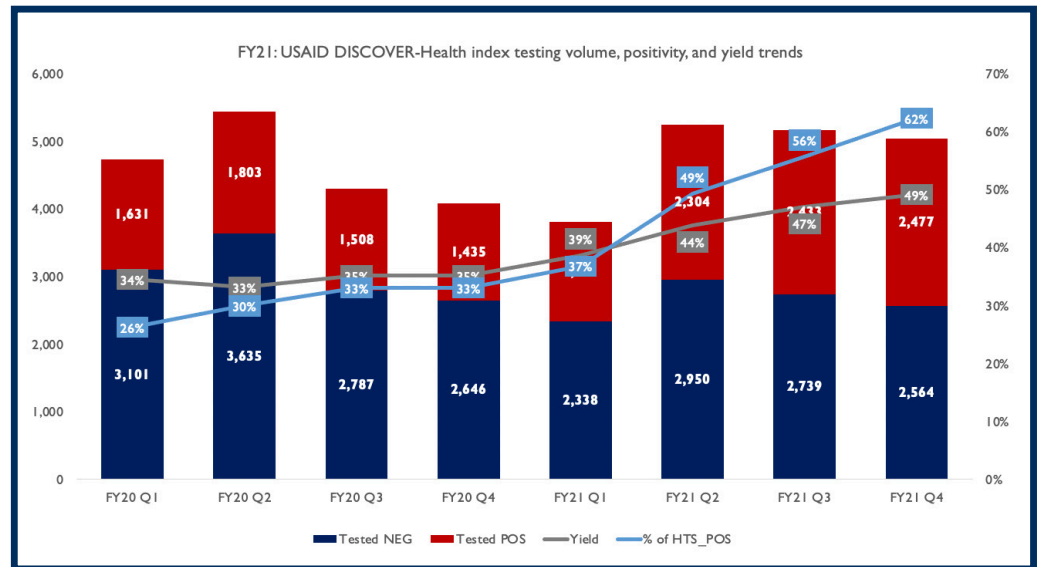
The FY21 result of 19,276 people tested was slightly higher than in FY20 (18,546). The testing efficiency has remarkably improved from 34% yield in FY20 to 45% yield in FY21. The higher overall yield resulted from intensive ongoing provider mentorship and supportive supervision in contacts elicitation, and a more supportive strategy for partner notification.

The high yield rates reflected among priority groups (43% among AGYW, 38% among 20-34 year old men and 13% among children) are a result of intensified efforts to find the missing HIV positive AGYW, young men and children, and link them to ART.

8,685

tested positive
through indexing

Graph 5: FY21 HTS: Index Testing Volume, Positivity and Yield.



As Graph 5 shows, the proportional contribution of indexing to the total number of newly identified HIV positive clients rose from 33% in FY20 to 62% in FY21.

HIV Self-Testing (HIVST)

USAID DISCOVER-Health rolled out HIVST in order to increase HIV testing among groups who are typically hard to reach, by providing them with oral HIVST kits, both as primary points of contact and through their partners.

In FY21, the Project:

- Distributed oral HIVST kits in 32 sites.
- Focused on **men and AGYW**, groups which are typically hard to reach through health facilities.
- Distributed **7,571 HIVST kits**, but was unable to meet high demand due to stock-outs at both national and district level.

HIV self-testing was almost equally used by male (49%) and female (51%) clients; 12% of users were under 20 years old, 27% were 20-24 years old, 22% were 25-29 years old and the remaining 39% were 30 years old and above; 293 (3.9%) of the assisted tests had a positive HIV result, and were linked to ART.

In addition to the assisted tests, 667 unassisted tests were distributed, for a total of 8,238.

**Distributed
7,571
HIV
self-test
kits**

SUB-OBJECTIVE 1.2: HTS and Biomedical HIV Services (ART, PMTCT, PrEP and VMMC) Availed to and Used by Target Groups

In addition to the behavioral HIV prevention interventions and HTS discussed above, USAID DISCOVER-Health provides biomedical HIV services including adult and pediatric ART, TB/HIV treatment, PMTCT, and PrEP services as part of a package of integrated HIV, FP/RH, and MNCH services. The Project also provides both mobile and static VMMC services. Clients who are seen in Project FP/RH and MNCH service platforms are screened and offered targeted PITC. While those seen in the VMMC platform are also screened and provided with HTS in line with national guidelines. Those found to be HIV positive are linked immediately to Project HIV prevention, treatment, and support services. Those found to be HIV negative are linked to HIV prevention services, including PrEP, condoms and VMMC.

TX_NEW and TX_CURR Performance:

USAID DISCOVER-Health exceeded its **FY21** TX targets.

TX_NEW 158% of annual target

TX_CURR 134% of annual target

These results were due to enhanced case-finding activities guided by data, which prioritized index case testing.



MCH Services, Kapiri Mposhi.

Provision of Adult and Pediatric ART Services

USAID DISCOVER-Health adult and pediatric HIV treatment (ART) activities are continuously evolving to provide differentiated services to ensure high ART linkage and initiation rates for ART-naïve children and adults who know their HIV-positive status or are newly diagnosed with HIV, through **‘Test and START.’** Project activities also ensure that ART clients, including transfer-ins on lifelong ART, are retained on and adherent to ART, including through the support of **‘case manager’** community health workers (CHWs) trained to provide ART adherence support.

In FY21, the Project contributed to important key priority PEPFAR and MOH performance indicators in the HIV treatment cascade, as discussed below.

USAID DISCOVER-Health exceeded its TX_NEW FY21 target (10,975), with a result of 17,346.

In comparison to FY20 where higher quarterly TX_NEW results were recorded, in FY21 the quarterly TX_NEW remained consistently below 4,800. This is a result of the combined effects of the following: the Project’s reduced geographical scope, with the handover of 13 high-volume facilities in Lusaka; reduced testing volumes due to the use of screening tools; and curtailed community outreach activities due to COVID-19. In FY21 Q4, the TX_NEW result dipped below 4,000 for the first time.



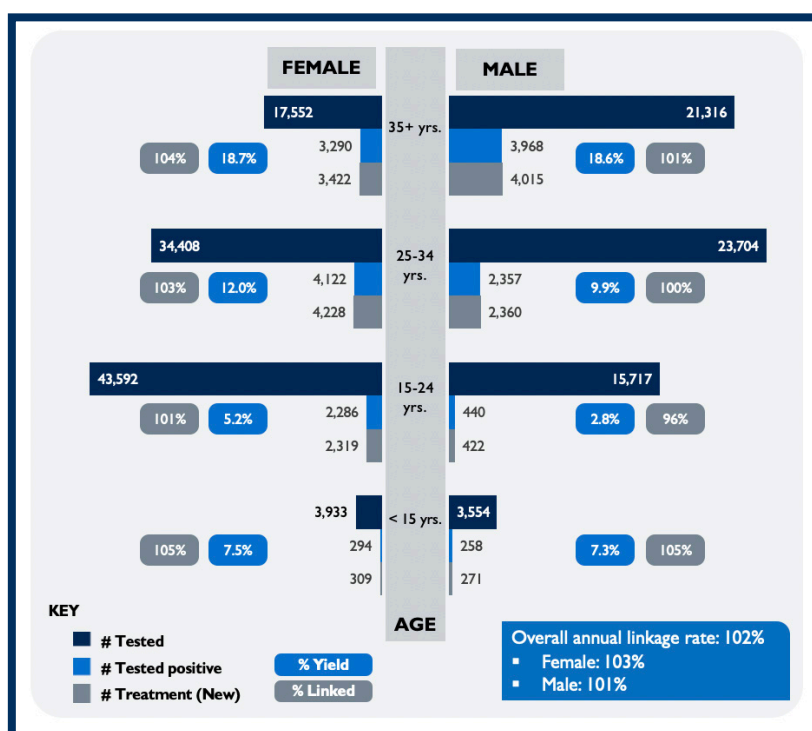
Orientation in case management and indexing, Sikalembe Health Post, Northern Province.

The HIV Treatment Cascade and Progress Towards the 95 95 95 Goals

The Project monitors its HIV treatment cascade performance across specific age and sex categories. The primary objective of HTS is to successfully link at least 95% of newly diagnosed PLHIV to ART and retain them, while the goal of HIV treatment is to achieve viral suppression in at least 95% of clients who are on ART.

Progress Towards the Second 95 (Linkage Rates)

Graph 6: FY21 Linkage Rate by Age and Sex.



The HIV treatment cascade by age and sex is shown in [Graph 6](#).

Of the clients tested, **17,015** (10.4%) tested positive for HIV and **17,346** (102%) were initiated on ART at DISCOVER-supported facilities.

The overall FY21 linkage rate is **102%**, while the linkage rate from Project HTS is **99%**, indicating very few missed opportunities to link newly identified HIV positive people to treatment in Project-supported sites. Clients were successfully linked and initiated on ART through **'Test and START'**.

The linkage rate is **100% or higher** across all age-groups and across all sexes, except for males 15-24 years old, who had a linkage rate of 96%.

Finding the Missing: Children under 15, AGYW 15-24, and Males 15-34

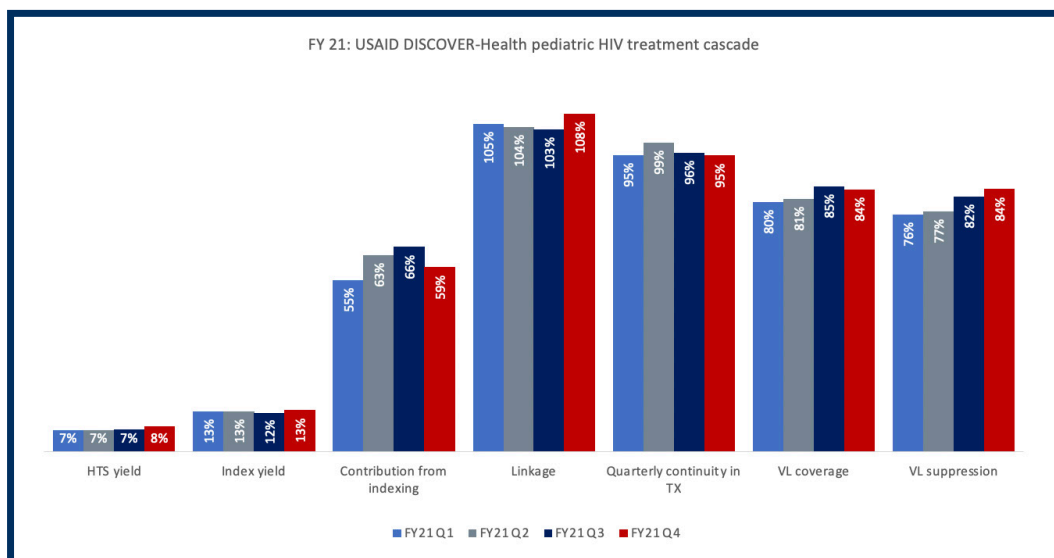
Despite achievements made in identifying individuals living with HIV in Zambia, there is still a significant unmet need among some sub-populations, including men 20-34 years old and children and adolescents living with HIV (C/ALHIV) <15 years old. In FY21, the Project maintained its momentum in case-finding for groups that were determined to be generally under-represented in HIV treatment in Zambia.

Finding the Missing: Pediatric Surge

USAID DISCOVER-Health is participating in the pediatric surge. During Q1, the Project re-oriented ART, RMNCH providers and CHWs, in pediatric client management and strengthened supply chain, retention and other systems to ensure optimal case-finding, treatment, retention and viral suppression.

**Overall
Linkage Rate**
Total: 102%
Male: 101%
Female: 103%

Graph 7: FY21 Pediatric HIV treatment cascade.

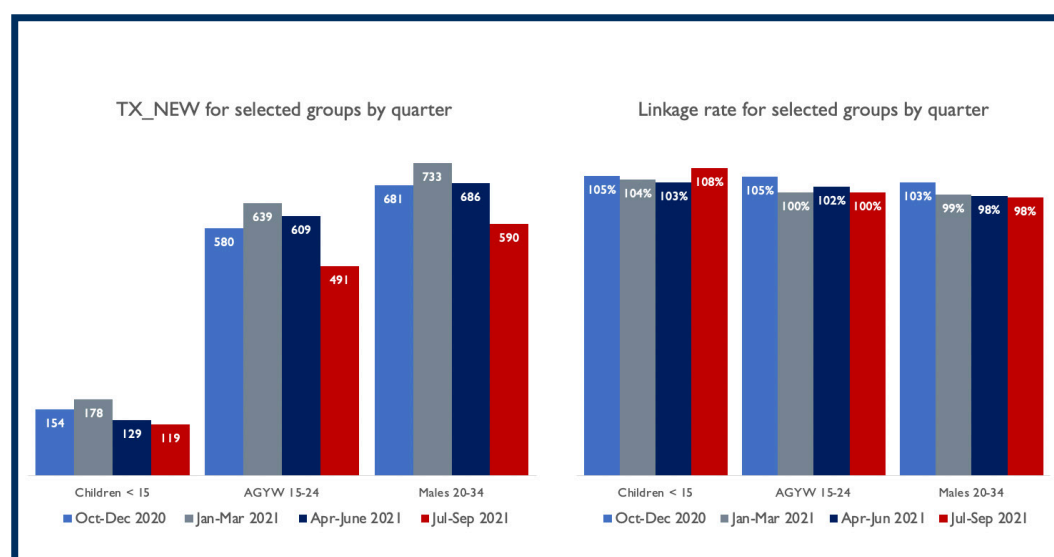


As [Graph 7](#) shows, USAID DISCOVER-Health FY21 performance has improved across the year. The Project works collaboratively with other implementing partners to monitor achievement of HIV epidemic control in catchment areas, and tailor pediatric case-finding efforts accordingly.

Focus Area: Finding and Retaining Men in HIV Treatment Services

As the ZAMPHIA 2016 study showed, nearly 65% of HIV-positive men under 30 and women aged 15 to 19 years old were not aware of their HIV status. Among people living with HIV (PLHIV) who know their status, one quarter of men aged 25 to 34 years, and women aged 20 to 24 years, were not on ART. As a result, among men younger than 35 and women younger than 25, viral suppression rates were lower than 40%. While recent national data show improvements in finding AGYW and men aged 20-34 living with HIV, and linking them to HIV services, gaps still remain and must be bridged to improve health outcomes and for HIV prevention.

Graph 8: FY21 Finding the Missing Children under 15, AGYW 15-24, and Males 15-34.



As [Graph 8](#) shows, the Project continued to find PLHIV among these priority populations but with a declining trend from Q2 across all groups. It is unclear whether or not this is an effect of HIV epidemic control in catchment areas, leading to declining numbers of PLHIV not yet on ART. There is a need to study this phenomenon at the country level, in order to appropriately guide the national response.

The FCI partners have effectively leveraged faith platforms and their ethos of empathetic and respectful care and support, contributing significantly to increased case-identification among both pediatric clients and young males. Indexing of males newly initiated on ART had a knock-on effect of increased case-identification among AGYW 15-24 and their sexual partners.

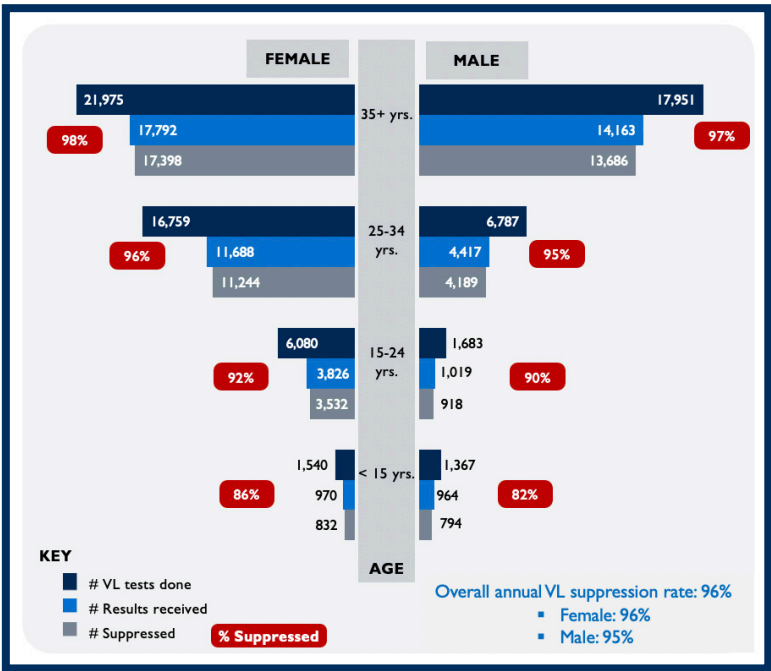
In FY21, a total of 528 young males were identified as HIV+ and linked to treatment at the FC sites, representing 19% of all TX_NEW (2,690) among this age group. Additionally, 99 children younger than 15 years old were identified as HIV+ and linked to treatment, representing 17% of all TX_NEW (580) among children.

Progress Towards the Last 95 (Viral Load Suppression)

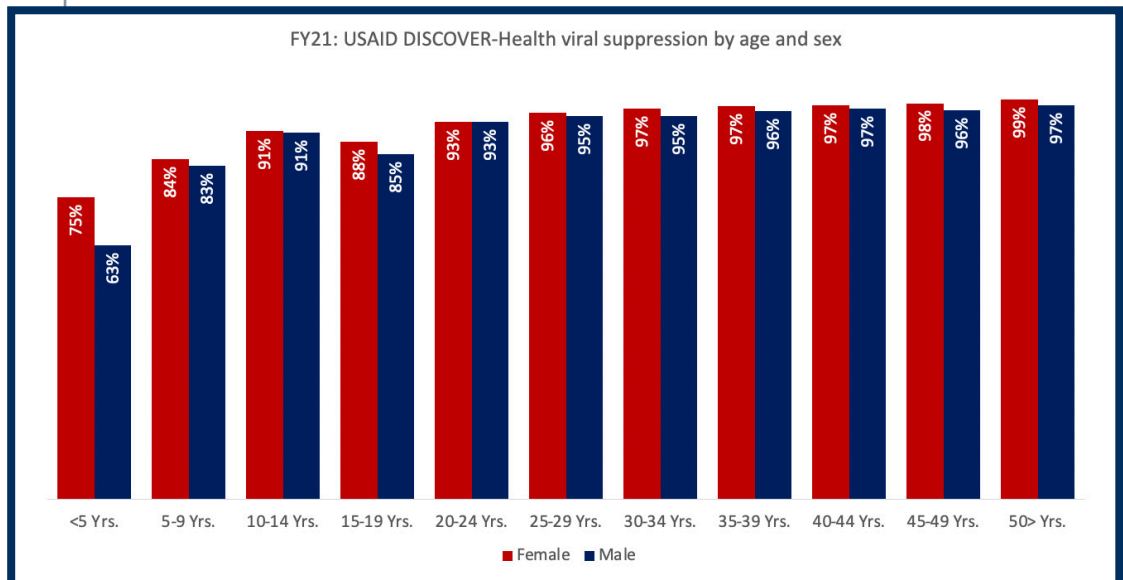
The Project monitors performance towards the ‘last 95’ for clients on ART. There has been a noticeable improvement in the VL coverage as a result of provider mentorship and support in this area.

[Graph 9](#) and [Graph 10](#) show the viral suppression rates across age and sex.

Graph 9: FY21 Viral Suppression Rate by Age and Sex.



Graph 10: FY21 Viral Suppression Rate by Age and Sex.



In FY21, the VL suppression rate increased across all age categories, reaching the overall 96%, compared to 93% in FY20.

Age-group/Quarter	FY21Q1	FY21Q4
<15 years	72%	84%
15-24 years	89%	92%
25-34 years	93%	96%
>35 years	95%	97%

This comes as a result of a widespread use of more efficacious ART regimens.

Viral suppression rates were lowest in the under 15s for both sexes (82% for males and 86% for females), but with improvements for both sexes compared to FY20 levels (74% for males and 79% for females). [Graph 10](#) shows the age-disaggregated pediatric viral suppression rates. The improvements in viral suppression rates are a result of fast-tracked transitioning to optimized pediatric ART regimens. We expect to see more improvements especially for the younger age-groups, as more regimen options become available in the health posts where these clients are in care (health posts are the lowest level of the health system and are often prioritized last for supplies).

The FY21 result of 82% testing coverage is up from 76% in FY20. Competition with COVID-19 testing, especially in Central Province, affected performance in VL coverage as testing backlogs had yet to be cleared.

Although viral suppression rates have increased across all age-groups compared to FY20, those among children and young people remain relatively low and continue to be a major focus for FY22, including prioritising transitioning to more efficacious regimens and/or better formulations for younger children.

USAID DISCOVER-Health sites are predominantly located in high population density and lower socio-economic status (SES) neighbourhoods. The COVID-19 crisis has the potential to negatively affect household income and lead to food insecurity among our ART clients, both from inability to work due to illness and limited economic opportunities. The Project is closely monitoring the impact of poor nutrition on HIV treatment outcomes, including viral suppression rates, by routinizing nutrition assessment, counselling, and support (NACS).

96%
clients on
ART
virally
suppressed

Client Continuity in HIV Treatment

ART Program COVID-19 Adjustments

The Project has continued to demonstrate resilience in delivering HIV services, despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The introduction of tele-health services and multi-month dispensation of ARVs and other medicines, while upholding stringent infection prevention measures for staff and clients, has ensured continuity care for clients. In Q1 and Q3, as the second and third COVID-19 waves hit, activities such as in-person technical supervision and capacity building sessions, were curtailed or suspended.

The Project instituted a number of measures aimed at supporting ART client adherence and continuity in treatment, as well as protecting clients from COVID-19. These included the following:

- 6 months MMD wherever possible, in order to reduce the clients' interactions with facilities and potential COVID-19 exposure.
- Tele-health support, for adherence and retention, by providing case managers with adequate talk time to make phone calls to clients.



ART providers at work, in Chingola.

Continuity in Treatment

As part of optimizing performance in the second 95 of the HIV treatment cascade, the Project implements interventions that facilitate continuity in treatment people on ART. This includes the triple case-management approach; a structured appointment system instituting early reminders; and same-day tracking of clients who miss pharmacy and clinical appointments.

Table 4: Annual Project Proxy Retention.

Reported Indicators	Annual Target	FY21 Result
FY21 Total TX_NEW	10,975	17,346
FY21 TX_CURR	57,792	77,331
FY20 TX_CURR (*)		62,110
Derived Indicators (FY21)		
TX_NET_NEW [TX_CURR (recent) - TX_CURR (previous)]		15,221
NET_NEW Ratio [TX_NET_NEW / TX_NEW]		0.88
Continuity in treatment [TX_CURR (recent)] / [TX_CURR (previous) + TX_NEW (recent) + RTT]		95%
Program Growth TX_NET_NEW (recent) / TX_CURR (previous)		25%

As shown in Table 4, the Project FY21 proxy continuity in treatment is 95%. The Project had a mortality ratio of 1.1% in FY21.

TLD Transitioning

The Project continued to transition eligible clients on ART from TLE to TLD, registering 96% of active clients on TLD. The continued technical support to providers and the timely supply of TLD with a long shelf-life significantly contributed to this improvement.

- By the end of FY21, 74,155 (96%) active ART clients were on TLD, out of a possible 77,331. Comparatively, at the end of FY20 39% of clients were on TLD.
- Of those on TLD, 62% were females (45,651 females vs. 28,504 males), in line with their 61.5% proportional representation in TX_CURR.

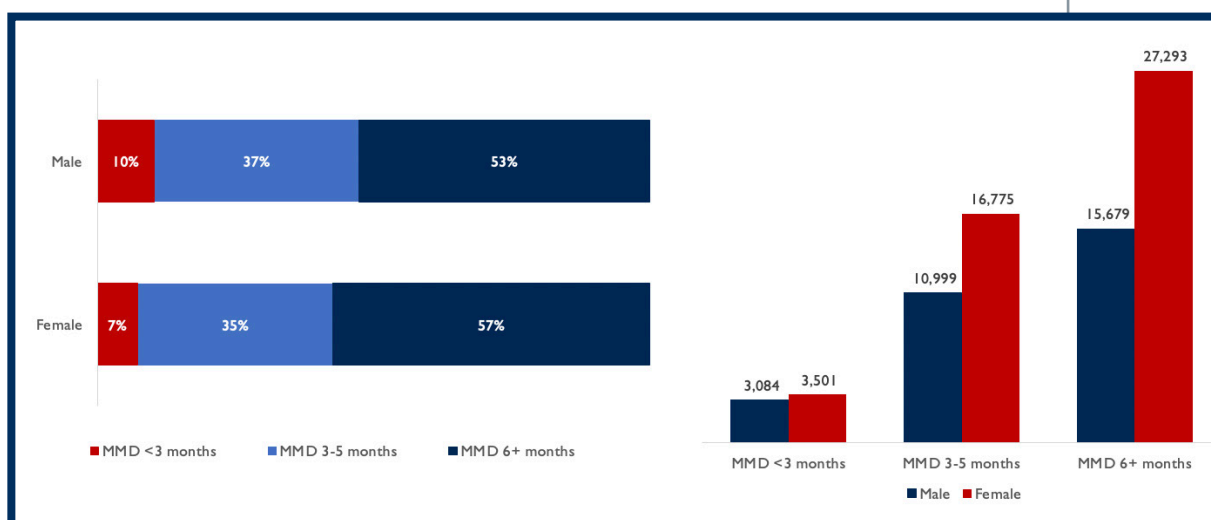


Pharmacist at work in Ndola.

Six-month Scripting and Dispensing

The Project offers multi-month dispensing (MMD) at 100% of its sites, in line with MOH and PEPFAR guidance, fast-tracking implementation in order to reduce the clinic/pharmacy visit burden on clients, to further improve continuity in treatment, especially during the COVID-19 epidemic. A steady supply of TLD, with longer expiry dates, and increasing VL testing services created an enabling environment for the implementation of MMD, such that 56% of the TX_CURR (77,331) was on 6-month MMD in FY21, a significant improvement from 33% in FY20. [Graph 11](#) shows the sex differentials in MMD.

Graph 11: FY21 MMD by Sex and Dispensation.



In FY21, the Project achieved:

- 56% of clients on 6-month MMD. The percentage on 6-month MMD has significantly increased in the past four quarters, due to improvements in ARV supplies.
- 36% of active clients on 3-5 months MM, for a total of 91% on 3+ month MMD.

TB Preventive Treatment and TB/HIV

As part of standard of care, clients on ART returning for scheduled or unscheduled clinic visits are screened for TB. The Project refers individuals suspected of having TB to catchment area higher-level health facilities for further diagnostic testing. Where active TB is confirmed, TB treatment is initiated at higher-level facilities and clients return to Project supported sites for continuity care. Isoniazid preventive therapy (IPT) is provided, in line with the 'national management of latent tuberculosis infection guidelines', in all the Project supported sites.

TB_PREV Performance:

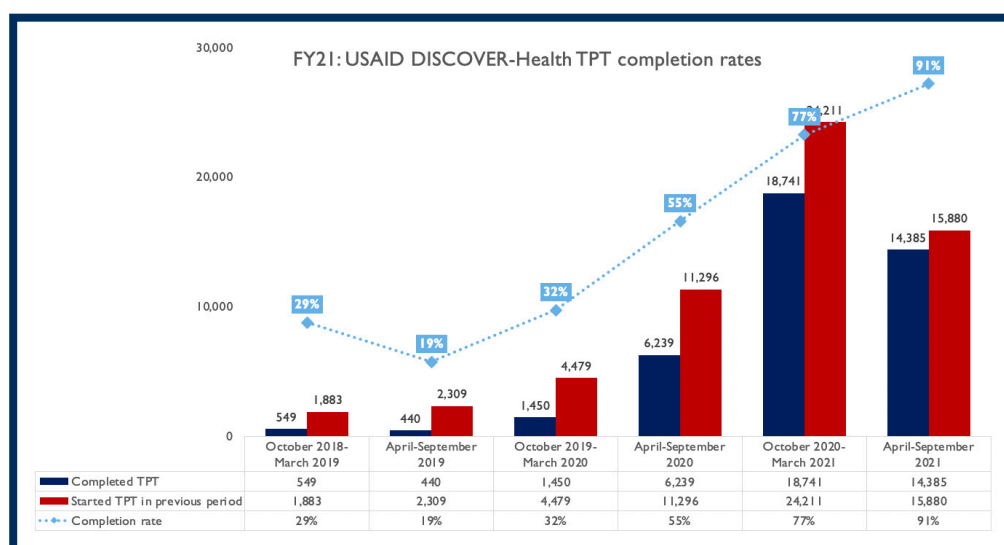
USAID DISCOVER-Health exceeded its **FY21** TB_PREV target.

TB_PREV 159% of annual target

In FY21, 74,956 (97% of all TX_CURR) had documented screening for TB, and 1,093 (1.5%) were suspected to have active TB. All were referred for TB diagnosis and where TB was confirmed, initiation of TB treatment was done in higher-level referral facilities.

The USAID DISCOVER-Health FY21 TB prevention target was 20,865 people to complete a course of TPT during the year. The FY21 result was 33,130 clients who completed their standard course, out of the 40,091 who started in the previous reporting period, for a 159% achievement of the annual target. As [Graph 12](#) shows, the overall completion rate for the year was 83%.

Graph 12: FY21 TPT completion rates.



However, it has to be noted that TPT often took longer than the recommended 6 months to complete, because of Isoniazid and Pyridoxine supply shortages. Improvements in drug supplies in the April to September 2021 period led to a significant improvement in completion rates, with 91% of clients completing their therapy.

USAID DISCOVER-Health is yet to introduce the effective and shorter course 3HP TPT regimen because clients in health posts, the Project's level of operation, are prioritized last in the national rollout plan.

Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) Services

USAID DISCOVER-Health PMTCT activities aim to ensure that all pregnant women seen at Project sites across service platforms (OPD, HIV, MNCH, FP/RH) or through community-based outreach, are tested for HIV or have a known HIV status. Those who test positive for HIV are initiated on ART. To optimize linkage, all pregnant mothers who test positive at Project sites are initiated on ART within the MNCH service room or escorted to the ART room. The Project aims to achieve high quality of care for both mothers and their infants, ultimately aiming to achieve virologic suppression in the mothers and zero HIV seroconversion for their children.

PMTCT_STAT, PMTCT_ART, PMTCT_EID Performance:

USAID DISCOVER-Health exceeded its **FY21 PMTCT** targets.

PMTCT_STAT 151% of annual target

PMTCT_ART 142% of annual target

PMTCT_EID 194% of annual target

USAID DISCOVER-Health ensured that all **(100%)** pregnant women knew their HIV status and were supported to be on ART **(99%)**.

In FY21, the Project provided PMTCT services in all primary sites and below is the PMTCT cascade for this period.

Of the **44,766** pregnant women provided with antenatal care in Project-supported sites:

- 41,948 **(94%)** newly tested for HIV
- 1,182 found to be HIV positive for a 2.8% yield
- 2,818 **(6%)** had an already known HIV positive status, with 2,788 (69%) already on ART
- 1,285 clients were eligible for ART, and 1,256 **(99%)** were newly initiated on ART

99%

**HIV positive
pregnant
women
on ART**

41,948

**Pregnant
women
tested for
HIV**



Pregnant and Lactating Mothers receiving MCH services and COVID-19 vaccination, Chililabombwe.

PMTCT- STAT

151%
of target

PMTCT- ART

142%
of target

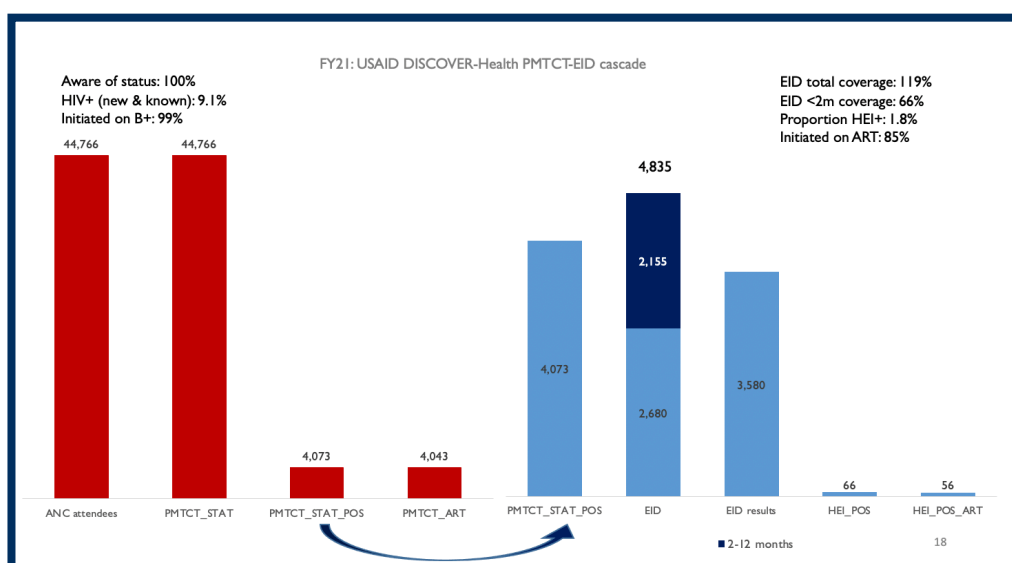
PMTCT- EID

194%
of target

The Project adjusted to ensure the safe delivery of ANC, and other essential services, during the COVID-19 pandemic, and service utilization remains high.

Although USAID DISCOVER-Health provides antenatal care and PMTCT services at its supported sites, it does not offer delivery services, except in a handful of sites that have during the life of project been upgraded by MOH. Most antenatal clients seen in Project sites access delivery services from higher-level health facilities. After delivery, clients are advised to return to the facility where they delivered for their two-week postnatal visit and most of them do; dry blood spot (DBS) for EID is collected during this visit at the parent facility. Mother-infant pairs for the most part, return to Project sites when the baby is older.

Graph 13: FY21 PMTCT_EID Cascade.



In FY21, of the **4,835** infants tested for HIV, **2,680 (55%)** were tested within **2 months** of being born and **2,155 (45%)** between **2-12 months**:

- 3,580 (74%) received their test results
- 66 (1.8%) were confirmed HIV positive
- 56 (85% of those HIV positive) were commenced on ART
- Of the 10 babies who were not initiated on ART: 5 are still being tracked, 2 are lost to follow up with their mothers, 2 died and 1 was referred to another facility not supported by the Project.

The Project reviews the cases of all the babies found to be HIV positive to try and understand the reasons why they seroconvert, in order to identify any possible PMTCT program weaknesses and strengthen the program, and thus reduce the number of seroconversions. The positivity rate of exposed infants decreased from 2.6% in FY20 to 1.8% in FY21.

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Services

Focus Area: Scaling-up PrEP for AGYW, PBFW and KP

The **38,728 clients newly initiated on PrEP** by the Project during **FY21** included DREAMS girls, negative partners in sero-discordant relationships, pregnant and lactating mothers (PLM), MSM, and FSW, and other eligible clients at substantial risk of HIV. The achievements in PrEP uptake are a result of the effective targeting of these priority and key populations and effective roll-out in Project sites, as well as collaboration with USAID Z-CHPP project and USAID Open Doors project, whereby USAID DISCOVER-Health layers PrEP onto other services in these programs.

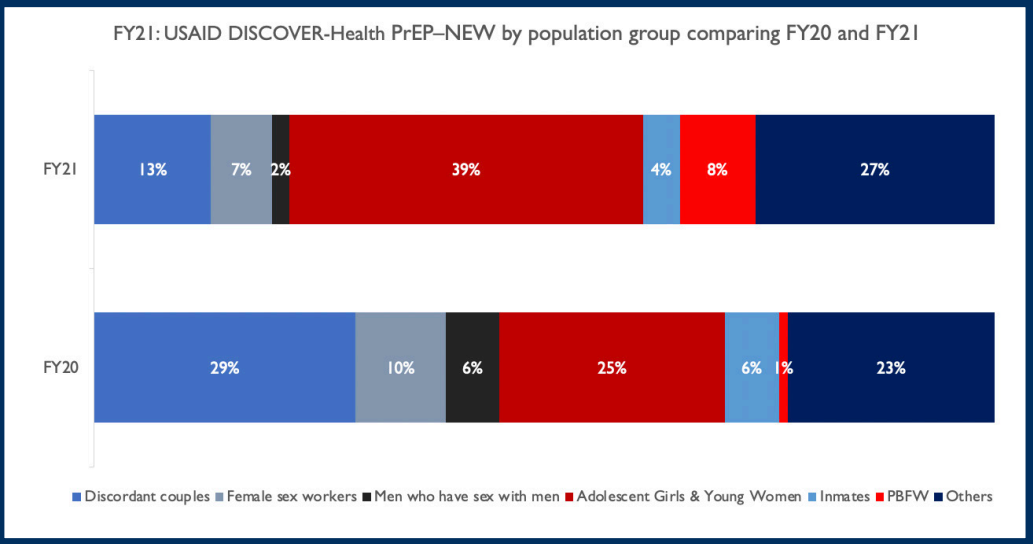
PrEP Performance:

USAID DISCOVER-Health exceeded its **FY21** target.

PrEP_NEW **134%** of annual target

The PrEP program is anchored by a strong community-based national SBC program and a peer support system, led by trained psychosocial counsellors.

Graph 14: PrEP_NEW by Population Group FY21 and FY20 Comparison.

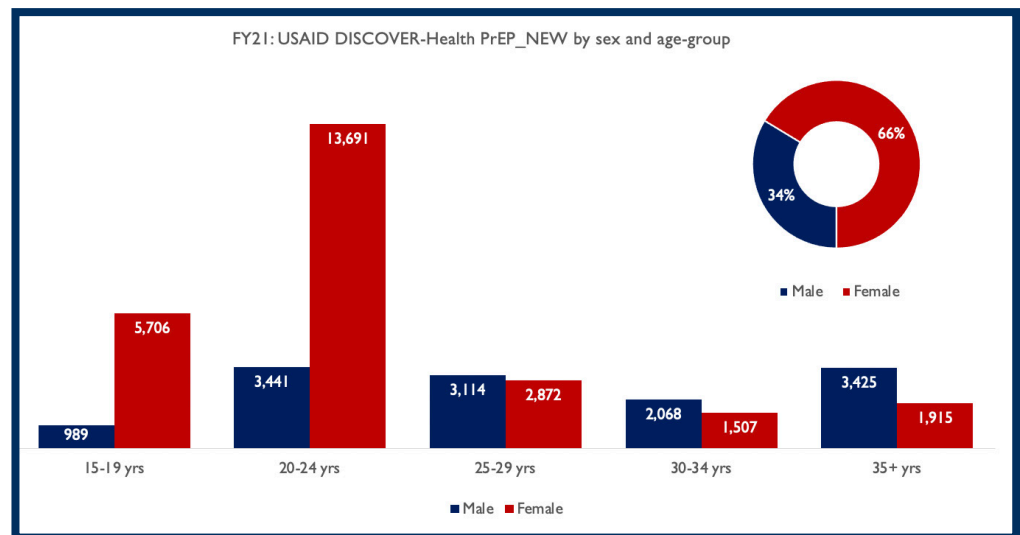


Graph 14 highlights the performance of the Project in reaching different population groups during FY21.

The FY21 result of **38,728** is much higher than the **FY20 (15,383)** and **FY19 (7,697)** results. This comes despite reduced surge activity due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and PrEP ARV shortages at national level. In Q1 and Q3, with the scale-back of community-based activities, the Project adapted and continued to reach clients through person-to-person networks and HTS platforms, and offer PrEP with a relatively high uptake. CHWs have continued to provide support to existing clients via telehealth, while the automated appointment reminders notify clients of upcoming visits.

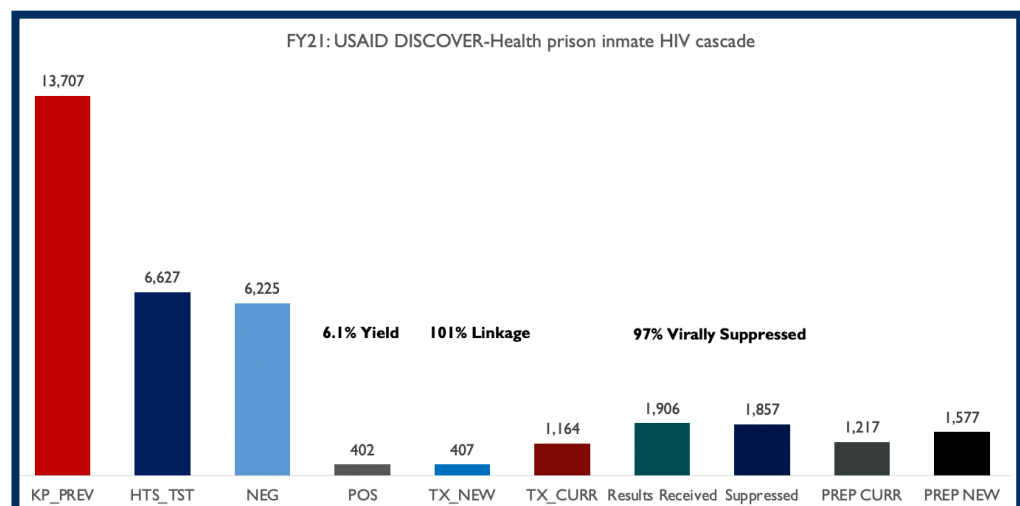
As shown in [Graph 14](#), the FY21 population proportions in PrEP service utilization show HIV-negative members of sero-discordant couples drop from 29% to 13%, while the highest proportional increases were for AGYW (from 25% to 39%) and pregnant and breastfeeding women (from 1% to 8%). For more on the Project's efforts to increase PrEP uptake amongst pregnant and breastfeeding mothers see the Success Story on page 72.

Graph 15: FY21 PrEP_NEW by age and sex.



[Graph 15](#) shows that PrEP uptake was higher among **females (66%)** compared to **males (34%)**. In the 15-19 age group PrEP uptake was more than **five times higher among females (5,706) than males (989)**, while for the 20-24 age group PrEP uptake was nearly **four times higher among females (13,691) than males (3,441)**, mirroring the disproportionately higher HIV risk profile of AGYW. The higher PrEP uptake in males aged 35+ (**3,425**) compared to females (**1,915**) of the same age-group, reflects the high HIV-risk perception among these men and the relatively low HIV-risk perception among women. The relatively low uptake for ages 25-34, for both males and females, is concerning because these age groups are of the utmost importance in reaching HIV epidemic control in Zambia. There is a need to address messaging in order to more effectively communicate with this age group and increase their PrEP access and utilization.

Graph 16: FY21 Prison Inmate ART and PrEP Cascade.



In an unprecedented move, in FY19 the Zambia Correctional Service granted authorization to USAID DISCOVER-Health to provide PrEP to prison inmates. This came in addition to the provision of ART services, which began in FY17.

Graph 16 shows the uptake of both services among the prison inmate population. High viral suppression rates, combined with PrEP provision for those at substantial risk of HIV, reduces HIV spread amongst this group. The HTS yield during FY21 in partner prisons was 6%, which is lower than the overall FY21 Project HTS yield of 10%.

Cervical Cancer Screening Services

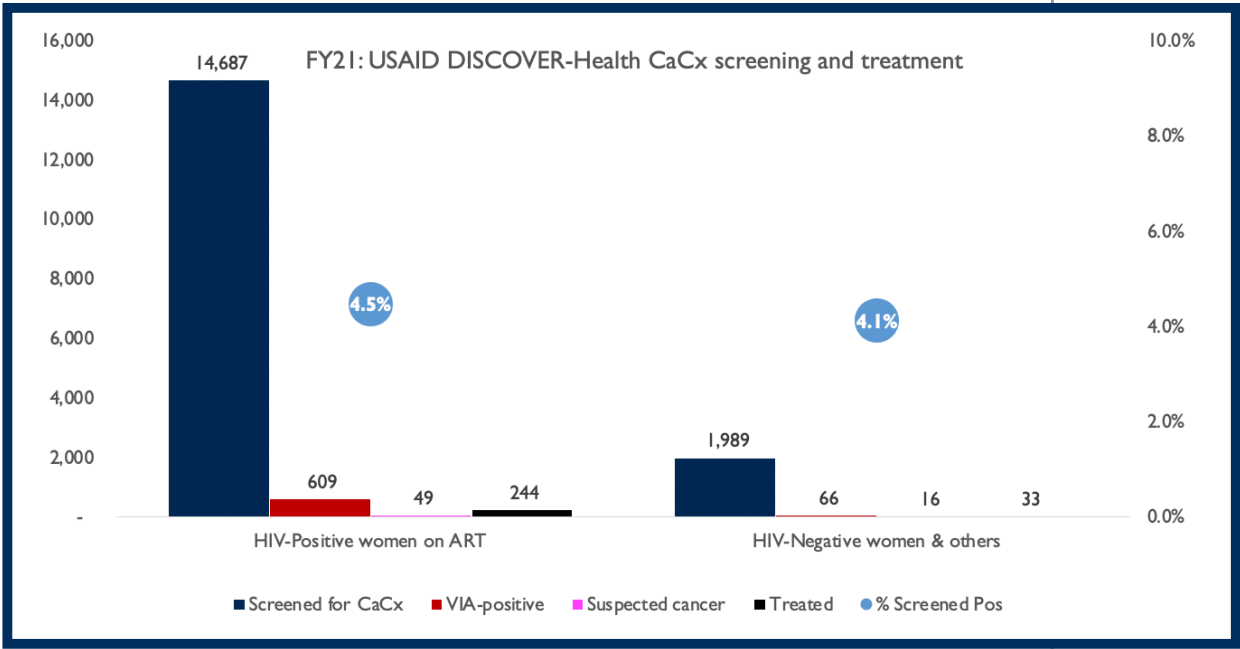
USAID DISCOVER-Health implements cervical cancer (CaCx) screening using visual inspection under acetic acid (VIA). Teams of trained providers treat small pre-cancerous lesions using thermo-coagulation. Clients with large or multiple lesions, and in need of more advanced treatment, such as loop electrosurgical procedure (LEEP), are referred to higher-level facilities for further management. Referred clients are followed-up by assigned case managers to ensure that the referral has been acted on. The Project’s cervical cancer screening activities primarily target women living with HIV (WLHIV).

Cervical Cancer Screening for WLHIV Performance:

USAID DISCOVER-Health achieved **84%**
of its **CaCx_SCREEN FY21 annual target.**

Graph 17 shows the FY21 performance.

Graph 17: FY21 Cervical Cancer Screening and Treatment.



In FY21, the Project screened 14,687 women living with HIV (WLHIV) for cervical cancer for an annual achievement of 84%. This is a significant increase from 8,263 in FY20, as a result of procurement of equipment, coaching of more health personnel and the provision of outreach activities at satellite sites.

While USAID DISCOVER-Health can provide treatment with thermo-coagulation for some VIA positive women, the Project does not have the equipment to provide other forms of treatment, such as LEEP, for more advanced lesions, and refers clients to higher level facilities for treatment and management.

Among the 658 (4.5%) WLHIV who had abnormal results:

- 244 (37%) VIA-positive were treated with thermo-coagulation at Project sites
- 365 (56%) VIA-positive were referred for treatment at higher level facilities
- 49 (7%) with suspected cancerous lesions were referred for more advanced treatment, at higher level facilities.

An additional 1,989 HIV negative women were screened for cervical cancer and 82 (4.1%) screened VIA positive or had a suspected cancerous lesion. Of these, 33 (40%) were VIA-positive and were treated with thermo-coagulation on site, while 33 (40%) VIA-positive women and 16 (20%) women with cancerous lesions were referred for treatment at higher-level facilities.



USAID DISCOVER-Health service delivery: a team effort centred on the client.

Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) Services

VMMC Performance:

USAID DISCOVER-Health achieved **122%**

of its **VMMC_CIRC FY21** annual target.

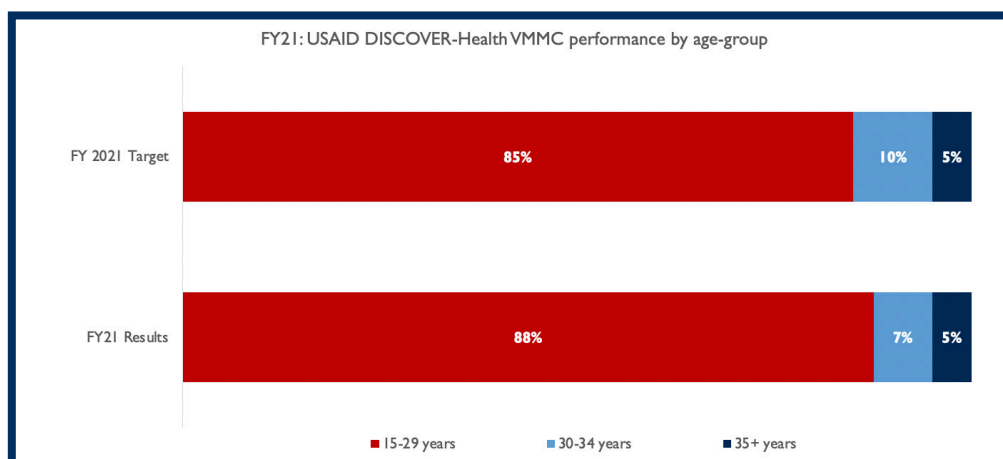
Focus Area: Scaling-up VMMC Prioritizing Men 15-29

The scale up of VMMC for HIV prevention is a critical component of fast-track strategies to achieve epidemic control. The Project's VMMC activities primarily target males aged 15-29 and also men 30-34, who are key to HIV epidemic control in Zambia.

VMMC activities are to a large degree seasonal in Zambia, beginning slower in Q1 and Q2 during the country's rainy season, and accelerating in the subsequent two quarters. The COVID-19 epidemic has also negatively impacted performance, with the scale-back of community mobilization activities.

Despite these challenges, the FY21 result of 76,571 surpassed the FY20 result of 53,444 men circumcised. The Project has adapted by increasing network-based outreach and prioritizing site-based service delivery.

Graph 18: FY21 VMMC Achievement by Age-group.



As Graph 18 shows, **88%** of circumcisions were in the 15-29 years age-group and **95%** in the 15-34 years age-group, for high epidemic control impact.

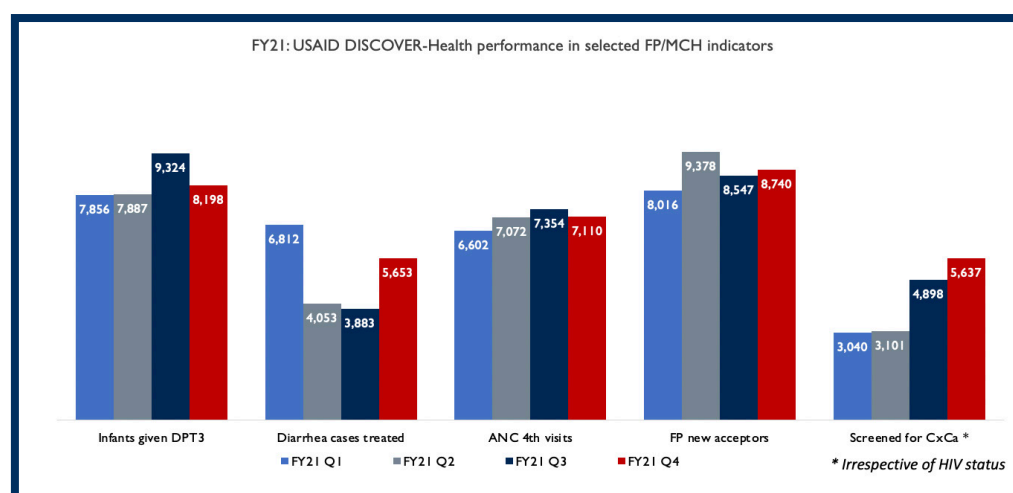
In FY21, the Project continued to strengthen VMMC service provision:

- Circumcised **76,571** males.
- Using the HIV risk screening tool, **2,074 (3%)** had an HIV test, with **19 (1%)** testing HIV positive. All 19 were initiated on ART.
- Provided post-operative **review to 99% and 94%** of circumcised clients on **days 2 and 7**, respectively.
- Registered 37 adverse events (AEs), with 33 moderate and 4 severe, for an **AE rate of 0.05%**.

SUB-OBJECTIVE 1.3: Services in FP/RH & MNCH are More Readily Available and Used by More People in the Target Groups

USAID DISCOVER-Health FP/RH services provide a wide range of high-quality family planning methods; oral contraceptives, injectable contraceptives, implants, male and female condoms, and intra-uterine devices. FP/RH and MNCH services are provided in all 92 primary Project sites. PITC is a standard of care for the Project's FP/RH and MNCH services. However, clients are screened for risk to HIV infection before they are tested.

Graph 19: FY21 Performance in Selected FP and MCH Indicators.



In FY21, the Project:

- Recorded **831,269 clinic encounters** of under-fives at the Project's sites, highlighting the importance of the health posts in meeting the healthcare needs of clients.
- Immunized 40,624 children (**227% of target**) aged 12-23 months against measles.
- Immunized 33,265 children (**142% of target**) under five with DPT3.
- Provided family planning services to 34,681 (**92% of target**) new acceptors (first-time users of family planning).
- Treated 20,401 cases (**170% of target**) of child diarrheas.

Under normal circumstances, USAID DISCOVER-Health does not expect to meet the target for the 'number of childhood diarrhea cases treated' indicator. However, sites supported by USAID DISCOVER-Health serve mostly poor neighborhoods. Despite counseling about preventing childhood diarrheal disease including use of available water purification methods (such as boiling and water purification agents) clients are making tough economic choices, with water purification requirements competing with other needs including food and shelter, which are often prioritized.

34,681

New FP
acceptors

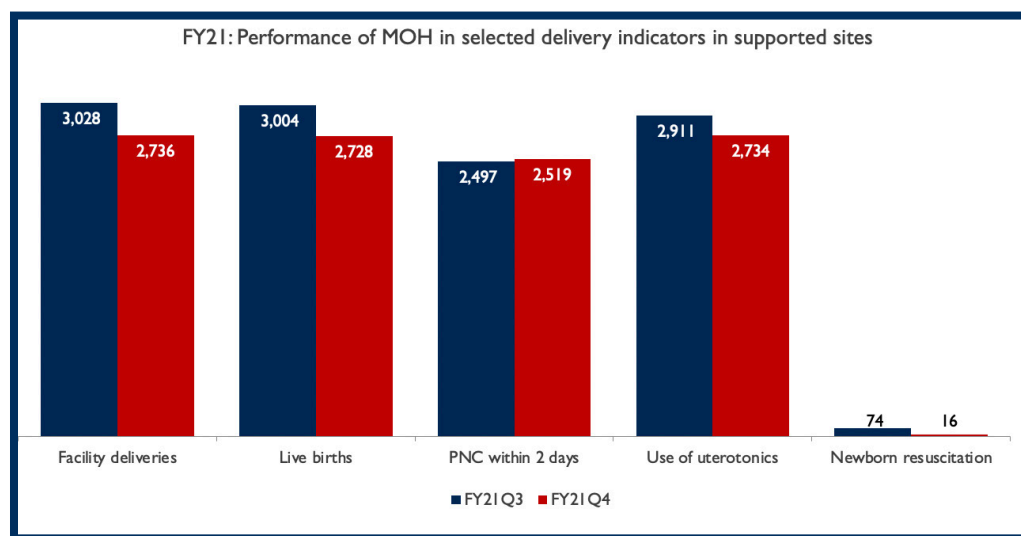
40,624

Children
immunized
against measles

During the life of the USAID DISCOVER-Health Project, 38 health posts have been upgraded by the Ministry of Health to offer the full range of MNCH services including antenatal care, delivery, postnatal care and child health services. The Project aims at a zero mortality for both mother and baby, thus continuous mentorship in delivery techniques and neonatal resuscitation is provided, as well as ensuring availability of emergency drugs in the delivery rooms.

Graph 20 highlights the performance of these 38 sites in selected delivery-related indicators.

Graph 20: FY21 Performance of MOH in selected delivery indicators in supported sites.



A total of 5,764 facility deliveries were recorded and of these:

- 5,732 (99.4%) were live births, while 32 (0.6%) were still births.
- 36 women were referred to higher-level facilities for delivery.

Of the 5,764 women who delivered at the 38 facilities:

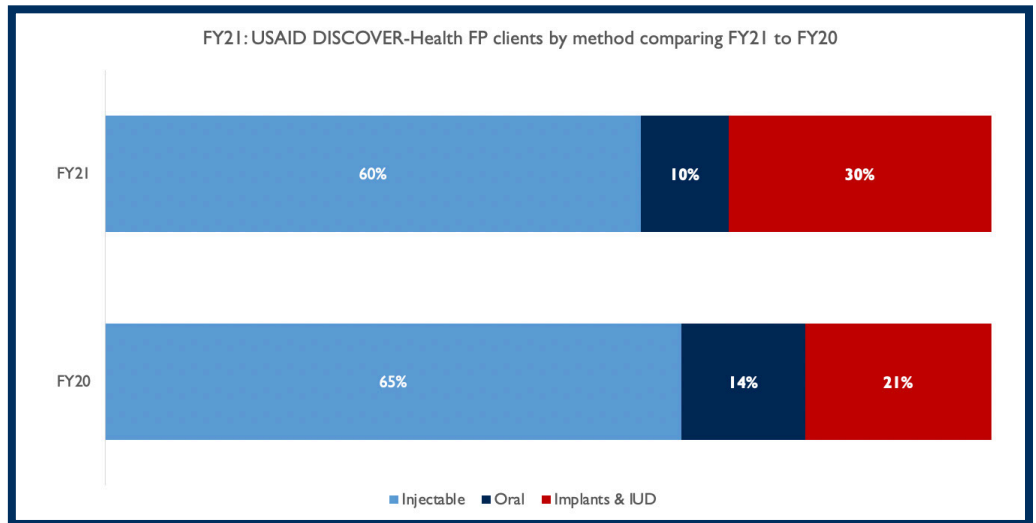
- 5,645 (98%) women were reviewed within 48 hours post-delivery.
- 5,016 (88%) were given uterotonics for active management of third stage labor.

In FY21, the Project:

Recorded a total of 236,709 family planning attendances. This result was less than the 284,493 achieved in FY20. This is primarily because of the Project's reduced geographic footprint, after handing over 13 high-volume sites to MOH in Lusaka. Despite an aggressive third wave of COVID-19, clients continued accessing essential services, including family planning services. To facilitate this, the Project implemented measures to assure safety for clients and staff during COVID-19, including making available infection control supplies and personal protective equipment, and assisting clients to maintain physical distancing.

Of the family planning clients seen in FY21, 34,681 individuals were first time users. [Graph 21](#) shows the comparison in modern contraceptive method choice between FY21 and FY20.

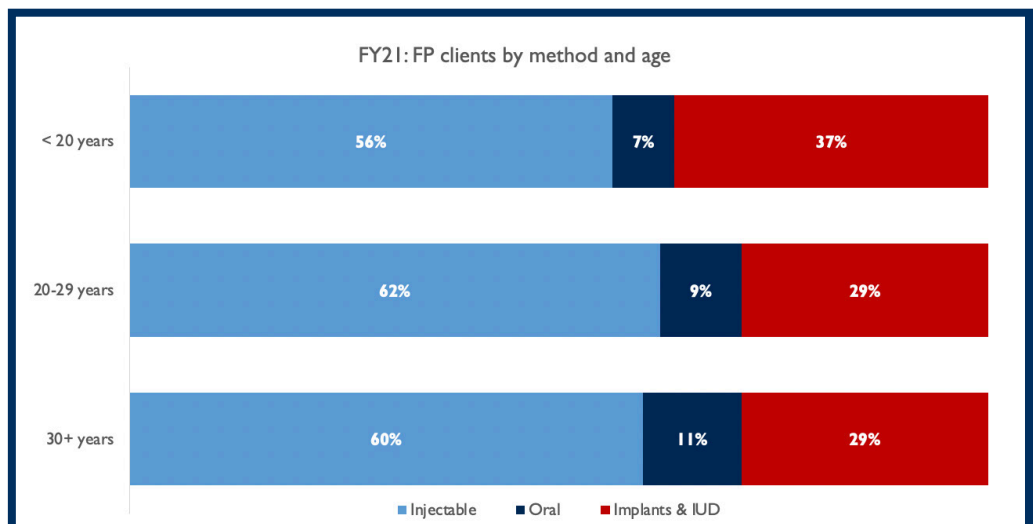
Graph 21: Distribution of FP Clients by Method Comparing FY21 to FY20.



Injectables have been steadily increasing in popularity for women in Zambia, particularly those under 24 years of age, although a reduction is noted in FY21, with the pendulum swinging towards implants and IUDs.

[Graph 22](#) shows a comparison in modern contraceptive method choice for FY21, by age.

Graph 22: FY21 FP Clients by Method and Age.



Oral contraceptives continued to lose market share among these clients. Clients report that they prefer the injectables and long acting reversible contraception (LARC) due to ease of access, reduced side effects, and no action required on their part until the next dose.

SUB-OBJECTIVE 1.4: Health Service Delivery Systems and Special Programs and Initiatives

To ensure effective, cost-efficient, and quality services, there is a need to strengthen health systems and supportive services. Some of the cross-cutting activities and systems that underpin health service delivery are discussed below.

Health Service Provider Training and Support Supervision

USAID DISCOVER-Health places a strong emphasis on continuous training of service providers in order to ensure that health service provision is of high quality. FY21 activities focused on improving quality of care in the PMTCT-EID, CaCx screening, ART and PrEP in PLM through appropriate supervisor mentorship, support, and training. Training MOH counterparts is critically important to site and service sustainability as the Project transitions sites to MOH.

In FY21, the Project:

- Provided onsite orientation to 90 Project providers, 75 MOH providers and 188 CHWs in cervical cancer screening, in order to improve screening coverage.
- Reduced HIV sero-conversions among exposed infants to less than 2%, which was achieved through both onsite and virtual mentorship of service providers and CHWs.
- Conducted gender and sensitivity training for 32 Project staff, to build skills to work with key populations.
- Participated and contributed to the National COVID-19 Vaccine rollout and scale-up activities, including integration into Project ART and RMNCH service platforms.



Technical support supervision taking place in Mufulira.

Focus Area: Scale up training of MOH providers for service sustainability

USAID DISCOVER-Health works at the lowest level of the health system, the health post, which ordinarily only provides basic first aid services. By design, and with MOH approval, the Project expanded the range of services provided in the supported health posts to include comprehensive HIV, MCH and FP services, in addition to other general outpatient services.

A key consideration in sustaining services in these sites beyond the LOP is ensuring firstly that MOH assigns staff to carry out the range of supported services, and secondly that the staff are trained, supervised and equipped to perform them.

In FY21, the Project:

- Trained 411 healthcare workers from Mopani Copper Mines, MOH, MOHA and USAID DISCOVER-Health facilities in the 2020 ZCGs on ART, TPT, and PrEP guidelines.
- Trained 37 healthcare workers from MOH, MOHA, and USAID DISCOVER-Health facilities in the Advanced HIV Disease treatment guidelines.

Laboratory Services

Laboratory services are a crucial component of quality health service provision and are integral to USAID DISCOVER-Health service delivery, including ART, TB/HIV, PrEP, MNCH, and PMTCT. Service providers collect specimens that are transported to a specific laboratory for evaluation. The most challenging aspect of the system for the Project is to obtain timely test results from MOH laboratories.

In FY21, the Project:

- Monitored laboratory equipment, distributed laboratory accessories and ensured availability of reagents to maintain uninterrupted laboratory services.
- Managed a sample referral system for all sites and maintained a fully functional laboratory system.
- Monitored and ensured compliance for SOPs for Laboratory tests (VL, EID, Microscopy, HTS, GeneXpert, Hematology and clinical chemistry).
- Purchased Disa*Lab hardware equipment for 8 hub laboratories; to improve results turnaround time, eliminate human error and promote real-time tracking of results.
- Installed Disa*Lab at Musumali Health Post (Mansa) and Mwanjuni Health Post (Chibombo).
- Participated in the MOH Laboratory Technical Working Group meetings.
- Conducted routine Technical Support Supervision (TSS) visits to all hubs.
- Trained 16 laboratory staff in Laboratory Quality Management System to enhance knowledge and skills, to improve the quality of laboratory services offered.



Laboratory Services, Ndola.

OBJECTIVE 2: PROVISION OF INTEGRATED HEALTH PRODUCTS AND SERVICES IS SUSTAINABLE

Key FY21 results:

- Sold **22,021,648** male condoms (83% of annual target), this includes 4,435,344 Maximum Classic and 17,586,304 Ultimate condoms.
- Added **188 new sales outlets** for condom distribution.
- Transitioned Klori-Pure to the private sector (Pharmanova Zambia Limited)

USAID DISCOVER-Health aims to increase the availability and affordability of high-quality health products for target populations within a TMA framework. The goal is to ensure that those in need are reached with the appropriate products:

- Those with no ability to pay receive free products, typically residents of rural areas or informal settlements in cities.
- Those with slightly greater resources benefit from partially subsidized products.
- Those with the greatest ability to pay purchase products from the commercial sector.



Health promoters, Lusaka.

In FY21, the Project continued supporting the development, marketing, distribution, and sale of PEPFAR supported male condoms, i.e. the Ultimate and Maximum brands.

The socially marketed water purification solution Klori-Pure was transitioned to the private sector and continues to be marketed and distributed as a commercial product by Pharmanova Zambia.

In agreement with USAID, the Project prioritizes market growth (especially private sector market share) over volume sales. Project-supported demand generation activities and product deliveries are concentrated in outlets that are located in target audience communities that are under-served and key for HIV epidemic control.

Priority brands currently sold in the market by the project are:

- *Ultimate* male condoms.
- *Maximum* Classic male condoms.

For emergency situations to control diarrheal outbreaks:

- *Klori-Safe* water purification solution is distributed for free via MOH. Any partner assisting MOH mitigate diarrheal disease outbreaks, caused by contaminated water, can buy Klori-Safe for free distribution from Pharmanova, through USAID-DISCOVER Health.

Due to the worsening COVID-19 situation in Q1 and Q3, Project Sales and Distribution Officers (SDOs) primarily operated virtually, conducting order generation, detailing and merchandising via phone and email. Commercial distributors continued with the physical distribution of products to outlets.

SUB-OBJECTIVE 2.1: High-Quality Health Products are more available, accessible, and affordable

USAID DISCOVER-Health continues to increase access to condoms and maximize efforts to improve overall market segmentation, total market trends, and market sustainability.

Product Sales and Distribution

USAID DISCOVER-Health distributed socially marketed condoms through two private sector distribution specialists, Horizon and Sterelin Medical Diagnostic. The Project monitors performance closely and works with the distributors to maximize sales through proper segmentation, promotion, marketing, and advertising. Project SDOs target consumers not reached by the two distributors.

The Project used a TMA lens, to guide product sales and distribution to targeted populations.

In FY21, the Project:

- Sold **22,021,648 male condoms** (83% of annual target). This includes **4,435,344 Maximum Classic** and **17,586,304 Ultimate condoms**.
- Collected 100 male condom orders, worth **1,021,900 pieces**, from various customers, countrywide, via phone and email. The SDOs collected and relayed these orders to the commercial distributors for sales, distribution and delivery.
- Added **188 new sales outlets**. The Project now has 2,362 outlets, exceeding the LOP target of 1,062, with a percentage achievement of 222%.

Product Marketing, Promotion, and Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) Activities

In FY21, due to COVID-19, the Project relied primarily on mass media for continued product awareness and demand generation. Mass media campaigns started in Q1 and continued running across FY21.

In FY21, the Project:

Undertook the following activities:

Mass Media Roll Out

- Ultimate condom TV advert aired on 3 national TV stations (280 spots).
- Ultimate condom Radio advert aired on 11 commercial and community Radio stations nationwide (4894 spots).
- Maximum Classic condom TV advert aired on 2 national TV stations (80 spots).

- Maximum Classic condom Radio advert aired on 4 commercial and community Radio stations (800 spots).

Klori-Pure Campaign Support to Pharmanova Zambia Limited

In FY21, an agency was engaged, Giraffe Creative Media, to manage the marketing communications campaign for Klori-Pure, as support to Pharmanova. This contract ended in Q3 and Pharmanova then took over responsibility for marketing and communications.

- Executed wall brandings on **320** walls across Lusaka, Central, Eastern, Copperbelt and Southern provinces before the transition to Pharmanova.
- Pharmanova sold **285,654** Klori-Pure (250ml bottles) to trade outlets, disinfecting **190,531,218** liters of water.

SUB-OBJECTIVE 2.2: Private Sector contributes measurably to sustainability

The health market in Zambia is developing quickly but it is still relatively small and limited by the size of potential segments that can support increasing degrees of cost recovery. There is, however, great potential to improve the way that government and donor resources are applied in the market. The transition of Klori-Pure from subsidized to the private sector is a major achievement in the Project's sustainability strategy and objectives. The product continues to enjoy high sales and is expected to continue to be successful and profitable, and to achieve significant public health impact.

Research and Positioning for Product Sustainability

In Q1, the Project finalized the contract with Pharmanova for the transition of *Klori-Pure* to the private sector to be marketed as a commercial product. The six-month contract ended in Q3 and an evaluation was carried out to assess brand performance and sustainability on the market. The final recommendation was made to completely transition the product to Pharmanova, following the excellent performance on product coverage, sales and distributions across the country.

In FY21, the Project:

- Completed the formal evaluation of Pharmanova's performance, which recommended the complete transition of *Klori-Pure* to a commercial brand.
- Continued collecting *Klori-Pure* sales data to monitor the performance of Pharmanova.

SUB-OBJECTIVE 2.3: Establish a Social Marketing Youth Leadership Initiative and Internship Opportunities

In FY21, no interns were engaged. Community-based social marketing activities remained partially on hold due to COVID-19 for most of FY21.

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Key FY21 results:

- Supplied commodities and supplies to support the Project's service delivery and social marketing activities.
- Supplied COVID-19 commodities, and other infection control supplies, to all Hubs for Project staff and other implementing partners, USAID SAFE and EQUIP.
- Supplied 12,680 cylinders (618,000 liters) of Medical Oxygen to the Ndola Teaching Hospital and Kitwe Teaching Hospital.

Health service delivery cannot function optimally without a supply chain that ensures an adequate supply of essential health commodities to the people who need them, when they need them. USAID DISCOVER-Health manages a significant supply chain component for its outreach sites and products. The Project accesses public sector commodities to use at outreach clinics and sites. Commodities include: ARVs, HIV test kits, laboratory commodities, contraceptives, male and female condoms, VMMC kits, and TB drugs.

Socially marketed commodities are procured either by the Project or through USAID. They are then stored in the commercially managed warehouse (Yash Pharmaceuticals), and the Project central and hub site warehouses, before being distributed through various channels. These include sales and distribution officers and commercial distributors.

The Project uses the electronic logistics management information system (eLMIS), which is used and recommended by MOH, to improve access to, and visibility of, data by users and decision-makers.

Supply Chain Systems Strengthening

USAID DISCOVER-Health has a robust supply chain system. The Project has agreements with MOH, MSL, PHOs, DHOs, and parent health facilities, in order to access public sector commodities for health service delivery activities at Project sites.

In FY21, the Project:

- Completed the monthly reporting and requisitioning (R&R) using eLMIS for all public sector commodity areas, in order to facilitate assembly, packing and supply of essential medicines by ZAMMSA. Service delivery sites submitted paper-based R&Rs to the hubs, in order to ensure that consumption was accounted for and that the sites were replenished in a timely manner.
- Worked with PHOs, DHOs and parent health facilities to facilitate the mobilization of commodities, given stock-outs experienced in some facilities. Worked with ZAMMSA to ensure allocated commodities were distributed to hubs through routine deliveries by the Project. Particularly, in support of the TLD transition process.

- Distributed commodities from the Project's central warehouse to hub warehouses to ensure uninterrupted supply of products.
- Monitored commodity stock levels at the central, hub and site levels for all consumables procured by the Project to avoid stock outages and wastage.
- Participated in the virtual Supply Chain Partners meeting with an objective of enhancing working relationships between service delivery partners and partners supporting the national supply chains in Zambia.
- Monitored COVID-19 commodities and specialized equipment at the sub-contracted warehouse.
- Conducted technical support and supervision visits to all hubs and sites to ensure integrated pharmaceutical management and accurate stock tracking.



COVID-19 supply handover at Medical Stores Limited, Lusaka.

Product Forecasting, Procurement, Warehousing, and Packaging

USAID DISCOVER-Health supply chain and clinical services staff participate in MOH's national annual forecasting and quantification meetings for ARVs, Cotrimoxazole, Isoniazid, Vitamin B6, laboratory and HIV test commodities, family planning and essential medicines, and VMMC commodities. While other public health commodities are generally available, stock-outs of pharmaceuticals and laboratory reagents are experienced at national level from time to time. The Project also forecasts and generates a procurement plan for socially marketed commodities; male condoms and contraceptive pills are procured through USAID, while other products are procured by the Project. The supply chain unit provides oversight of Project related operations at the sub-contracted managed warehouse. It also directly manages all other Project warehouses, including a central warehouse and the hub warehouses.

In FY21, the Project:

- Packaged 2,465 shippers of *Maximum Classic* condoms, 7,992 shippers of *Ultimate Vanilla*, 14,362 shippers of *Ultimate Banana*, and 13,883 shippers of *Ultimate Smooth* and made available for sale.

- Received test results from Zambia Compulsory Standards Agency (ZCSA) for 15,007,600 Ultimate condoms, which complied with the ZCSA standards.
- Participated in the MOH National Logistics COVID-19 meetings that assess national commodity status and needs.
- Participated in the national annual forecasting and review meetings for essential medicines, Family Planning commodities and ARVs, to ensure Project commodity needs were accounted for.
- Received 66,300 supplies of Tenofovir and Emtricitabine (TE) for AGYW needing PrEP in DREAMS districts.
- Received 1,513,152 cycles of combination oral contraceptives (Combination3) through USAID procurement.
- Handed over all socially marketed commodities, including packaging materials, to USAID ZAM-HEALTH.

Supply Chain Data and Reporting System

In Q3 of FY21, there was a stock-out of SD Bioline at ZAMMSA which negatively impacted HTS and PrEP activities. In response, the Project sourced SD Bioline from other facilities within respective provinces and districts. However, ZAMMSA received stock towards the end of May and facilities were able to cover their needs for the rest of the quarter.

Additionally, in Q3 FY21, TE was in low stock and was consequently rationed.. This negatively affected all of the Project's PrEP activities, as needs were not met. Generally, there was improved stock availability of essential medicines, including ARVs, both centrally and at facility level. This resulted in a marked improvement in the MMD of ARVs, as well as the transition of patients from TLE to TLD. TLE stock was available in good quantities but reserved for clients who needed it most.

MOH, working with PSM, continued using the alternative distribution system through the PHOs and DHOs to alleviate the challenges faced by ZAMMSA.

STRATEGIC INFORMATION, DATA MANAGEMENT AND DATA WAREHOUSING

Key FY21 results:

- All **101 primary sites** reporting into DATIM by using SmartCare.
- **241 facilities** (99%) are fully equipped with SmartCare and provided monthly TDBs for use and submission.
- **91 SmartCare data entry clerks** working to ensure facility data is captured and updated.

The USAID DISCOVER-Health monitoring and evaluation system continuously generates data that monitor progress towards objectives. Data are analyzed at Project-aggregate level as well as hub, district and facility levels; and eventually used by USAID, Project staff, MOH, beneficiaries, and key stakeholders.

During FY21, the Strategic Information team performed the following activities:

- Collected and submitted monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) PEPFAR indicators for weekly, monthly and quarterly reports.
- Routinely monitored critical indicator trends and patterns, including data used for the periodic meetings with the Donors.
- Participated in, and often led, the quarterly DATIM automated data import process with other PEPFAR partners.
- Participated in the virtual implementing partners meetings on various aspects of SMARTCARE development, updates and management.

Manage Data Collection and Reporting

USAID DISCOVER-Health ensures the information collected for Project monitoring and planning is accurate, timely, and relevant. As part of this process, the Project emphasizes adequate data collection training and makes data collection tools available for all work processes. USAID DISCOVER-Health uses MOH HMIS forms and registers for routine data capture for service delivery at all outreach sites.

In FY21, the Project:

- Prepared data for the monthly and quarterly reports and other reporting requirements, ensuring timely submission of quality data and reporting to USAID.
- Successfully participated in, and often led, the DATIM automated data import process with all participating PEPFAR partners.
- Prepared data for conferences and other forums, providing support to the wider dissemination of Project results.

Supporting Service Quality and Ensuring Data Quality

USAID DISCOVER-Health ensures that quality data are generated at all levels by applying appropriate data quality checks, techniques, and tools on a regular basis. These protocols ensure Program data are timely, accurate, and relevant for decision-making and reporting.

In FY21, the Project:

- Organized a meeting of all SI staff in the field to assess performance, discuss challenging indicator definitions and develop ways forward for future project reporting requirements.
- Conducted regular mentorship of SI staff, clinical staff and community liaison staff on indicators' definitions, use of HMIS tools and data collection.
- Project staff in the regions participated in various data quality assessment (DQA) conducted in conjunction with MOH and/or USAID.

Information Management and Data Warehousing

USAID DISCOVER-Health has a robust data management system that safeguards against data loss and corruption. Core components include:

- A server-based database that is inaccessible from outside USAID DISCOVER-Health offices; and that provides regular daily back-up to protect data integrity.
- Adoption of the automated DATIM import option as a better and safer option of reporting Project data into the PEPFAR database.
- Use of the Programme Implementation Process Assessment Tool (PIPAT) for daily data reporting by service delivery providers (both clinical providers and CHWs), which informs high frequency reporting and weekly summaries.
- The PrEP client management system that provides an electronic dataset of all clients initiated on PrEP. After a system upgrade, data entry has become more user-friendly and stringent to minimize entry errors.

SmartCare roll-out

- SmartCare sites have been maintained at 241 (89 Copperbelt, 86 Central, 11 Luapula, 16 Muchinga, 19 Northern, and 20 North Western), reaching almost all primary and satellite Project sites. All sites submit their respective monthly TDBs to BroadReach.
- Maintained 91 Data Entry Clerks. They work on a rotational basis to ensure all sites are reached and updated.
- The March 2021 SmartCare upgrader is operational on all laptops, covering the 241 facilities, in order to enable consistent reporting and use of the modified and corrected indicators generated by SmartCare.
- Participated in all SmartCare (virtual) partners' meetings with BroadReach, MOH, CDC and USAID, in particular to review and improve the way indicators are being calculated by the system.

CROSS-CUTTING FUNCTIONAL AREAS

Key FY21 results:

- Finalized the transition of Klori-Pure to Pharmanova, to continue with its marketing and distribution as a commercial product in the private sector.
- Transitioned all 38 Project-supported facilities to MOH in the Lusaka, Luapula, Muchinga and Northern provinces.

Knowledge Management

USAID DISCOVER-Health has collected all applicable MOH clinical care guidelines, SOPs, policies, and other documents to guide Program implementation and health service delivery. The Project has left some of these resources in their original form and has adapted others to suit Project-specific needs. These resources are made available to all Project staff, especially service providers.

Research

The Project has been actively involved in, and informed the development, of the national protocol guidelines for the introduction of the Dapivirine Vaginal Ring to Zambia. The Project-supported study will assess the acceptability of introducing the DVR-VR in Zambia, as an additional HIV prevention option for AGYW (16+) and other women at substantial risk of HIV infection, who are unable to or do not want to take oral PrEP. Additionally, feasibility and acceptability of integrating the DVR-VR into standard service delivery will be assessed at the provider level.

Science, Technology, and Innovation Impacts

With its unique design and wide scope of work, covering both health service delivery and social marketing, the following are the aspects that the Project has adopted as better, more efficient, and cost-effective ways of doing business:

- Use of mobile money and electronic payments to conduct business, wherever feasible is now the standard. USAID DISCOVER-Health almost exclusively used mobile money for payments through Zoonaa.
- Roll out of SmartCare, and adaptation for PIPAT, for service delivery and finance operations have been discussed previously.
- The Project customized eLMIS (eLMIS-C) to track and manage consumables for health service delivery that is not available through MSL (e.g. gloves, disinfection and cleaning agents, swabs). The Project directly procures and manages these commodities. eLMIS-C tracks consumption trends and greatly improve efficiencies. However, the version in use is electronic and load-shedding has seriously affected the running of the system.

Gender Equality and Female Empowerment

USAID DISCOVER-Health ensures that all Project plans, budgets, and activities take into consideration the diversity, socialization, and value systems of male and female members of Zambian society in a manner that removes prejudice and stereotyping.

- Ensured equity and respect in service access by intentionally facilitating access to services for segments of the population that, on the basis of gender, have challenges accessing some services, for example:
- Continue to expand the option of provision of male providers for male clients, wherever possible, and designated some areas of the clinic ‘Men’s Clinic’, based on the findings of the male characterization study.

Public Private Partnership (PPP) Impacts

In addition to the Project’s private sector scope of work, under the overarching TMA strategy and two Project objectives, USAID DISCOVER-Health seeks to build upon existing relationships with the private sector to explore the possibility of forming public private partnerships (PPPs) in health.

PPPs leverage private sector resources toward health service provision for workers and other defined beneficiary groups. Where PPP private sector partners have in-house health facilities, health insurance schemes, and/or workplace programs, they:

- Provide, train, and/or mobilize highly skilled workers to manage programs
- Implement policies that enhance health
- Support and provide resources for health service delivery

Through corporate social responsibility investments, private sector partners are able to support the extension of well-managed programs into defined outreach communities, expanding both infrastructure and access.

In FY21, the Project:

- Working with MOH, obtained buy-in to allow pharmacists and pharmacy technologists to administer DMPA-SC and IM, and train women to self-inject DMPA-SC, in the private sector.
- Adapted the public sector training materials for DMPA-SC and IM self-injection (SI) for private providers, working with MOH and other key stakeholders.
- Transitioned Klori-Pure, water purification solution, to Pharmanova to continue with its marketing and distribution as a commercial product in the private sector.
- Leveraged \$12,000 in private sector funding (from ABSA Bank Zambia Plc) for the COVID-19 response in Zambia.



Klori-Pure sales team conducting a promotional store event, Lusaka.

Site and Service Sustainability

In FY18 Q2, in preparation for eventual closeout and handover of the 114 health posts supported by USAID DISCOVER-Health to MOH, senior staff from the Project undertook initial high-level MOH HQ, PHO and DHO engagements that were immediately followed by detailed site level analyses and development of site transitioning plans.

Key considerations:

- MOH's stated desire for USAID DISCOVER-Health to continue supporting these sites, as long as possible during the life of Project, in order to free up MOH resources for other health priorities.
- The need for USAID DISCOVER-Health to ensure that site transitioning does not compromise site performance and the Project meeting set targets. For this reason, the Project designates some sites as transition-ready but continues to maintain a presence to assure performance towards set targets.
- A deliberate ongoing assessment of MOH provider skills to offer the range of supported services and training to upgrade skills on a rolling basis. The Project has made significant progress in this area, always including counterpart MOH staff in training opportunities.
- A deliberate plan for mentorship and supportive supervision for all the sites yet to transition, in order to maintain quality and performance levels.

USAID DISCOVER-Health has two types of supported sites:

1. Sites co-located with MOH health posts.
2. Standalone newly established non-conventional sites, selected in partnership with DHOs and considered a part of the MOH health post.

The Project has developed a sustainability index to track the readiness of supported sites to sustain the range of HIV, FP, and MNCH services supported by the Project. The transition readiness key, as shown in [Table 5](#), explains the different grades assigned to sites based on staffing levels, staff competencies, and presence of MOH-supported staff.

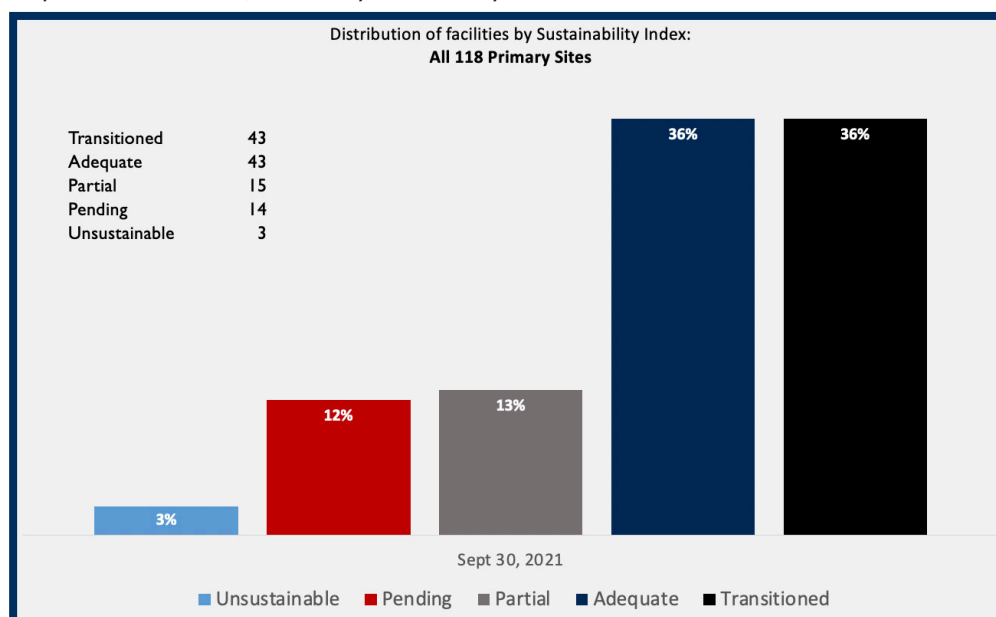
Table 5: Transition Readiness Status: Key

Transition Readiness Status: Key	
Transitioned	Health Post fully transitioned to MOH
Ready	Health post with enough MOH providers (clinical officers and nurses) to deliver the full range of services (<i>minimum of four providers, but site-specific considerations may require more staff</i>)
Partial	Health post in transition preparation with some MOH providers (clinical officers and/or nurses), but not enough and/or not yet trained to deliver the full range of services
Pending	Health post in transition preparation, currently with no MOH providers (clinical officers or nurses) to deliver the full range of services
Unsustainable	Predominantly tent service delivery sites that are currently not sustainable. Clients will be transferred to the nearest facility at site transitioning.

In FY21, the Project:

- Continued to provide intensive senior-level technical support to the Lusaka, Luapula, Muchinga and Northern Provinces to pave the way for a smooth handover of technical support to MOH.
- Completed the transition of service delivery to MOH in the Lusaka, Luapula, Muchinga and Northern Provinces.
- Continued providing service delivery support to Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) prison sites in all the supported provinces.

Graph 23: Distribution of Facilities by Sustainability Index.

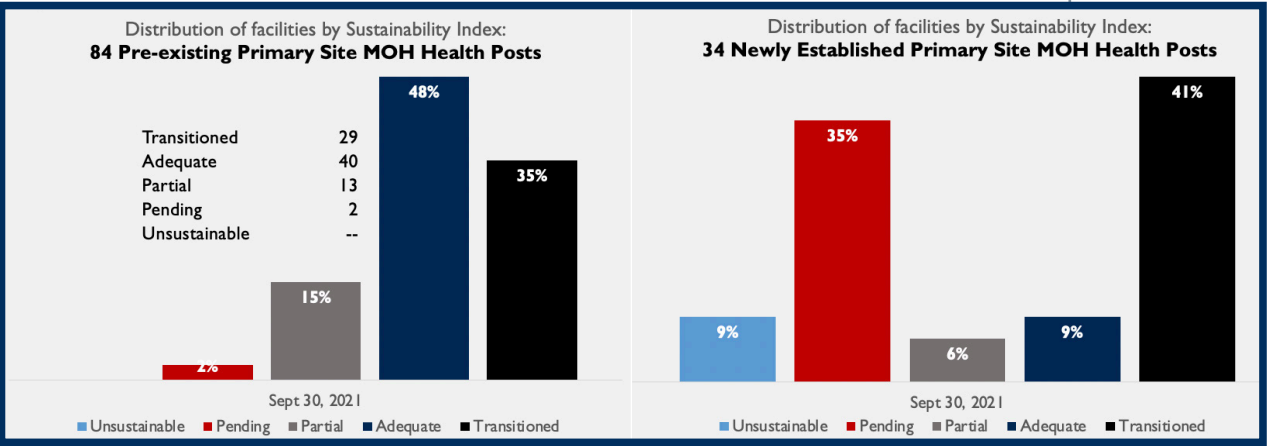


As [Graph 23](#) shows, as of September 30, 2021:

- 72% (86) of the sites had been transitioned or were transition-ready.
- 13% (15) were partially ready.
- 12% (14) are yet to receive MOH staff and are in the pending category.
- 3% (3) are unsustainable.

MOH is committed to ensuring these sites, and the supported range of services, are sustained beyond USAID DISCOVER-Health. To achieve this, there is need to accelerate placement of MOH service providers, as the Project begins to prepare Central, Copperbelt and North-Western province sites for incremental service delivery transitioning.

Graph 24: FY21 Comparison of Pre-Existing and New Health Posts by Sustainability Index.

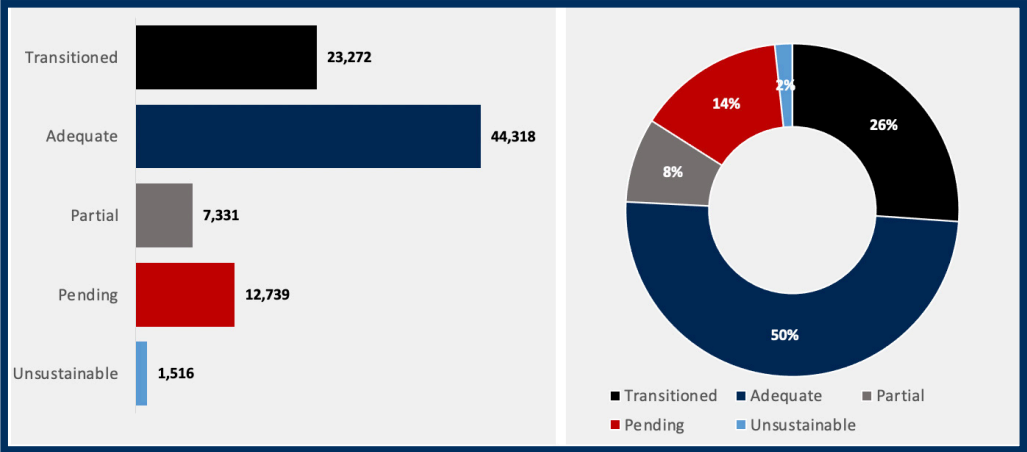


Graph 24 shows the comparison in transition readiness for pre-existing health posts, where the range of services was expanded, and newly-established health posts, set-up with an expanded range of services.

- Of the 84 pre-existing health posts, 69 (83%) are transitioned/ready.
- Of the 34 newly established health posts, 17 (50%) are transitioned/ready. 12(35%) sites are pending, awaiting assignment of MOH staff, with subsequent training by the Project.

The Project has budgeted for staff training and mentorship for all remaining sites, in order to ensure that the range of services provided and the sites are sustained. It is important to have staff in place early, so that site and client transitioning can be smooth, and skills can be updated where necessary.

Graph 25: Transition readiness for all DISCOVER-supported MOH sites.



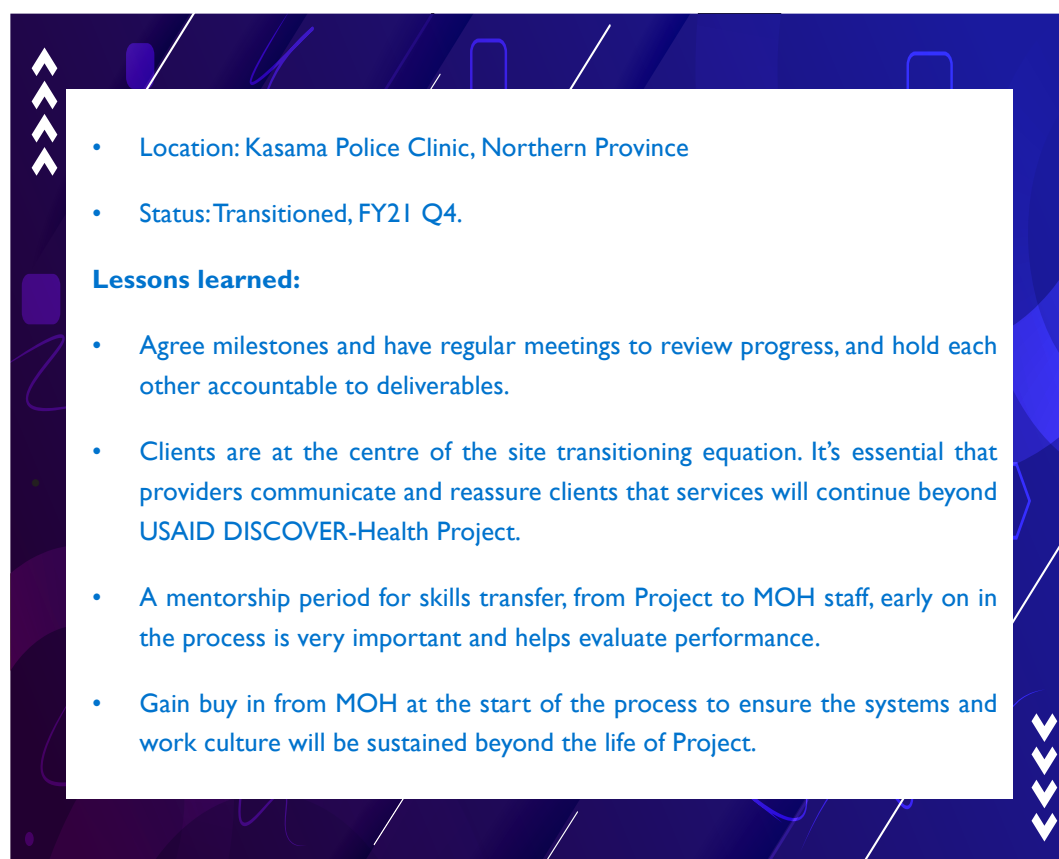
The Project's focus is ensuring and safeguarding continuity in treatment for clients. Using TX_CURR as a proxy, 24% of our TX_CURR is in sites that are not yet ready.

It is of the utmost importance to the health system to ensure that these health posts are sustained across the range of services. In FY21, the Project recorded 1,310,648 client encounters across HIV, FP, MCH, OPD service platforms within facilities, including:

- 832,269 under-five clinic visits
- 36,709 visits in the FP clinic

These services decongest higher-level facilities and importantly, bring services closer to where people live, easing service access challenges for clients.

In FY21, all sites in Lusaka, Luapula, Muchinga and Northern Province were transitioned to MOH. This was achieved through a dedicated response from both Project staff and MOH counterparts, crucially working well together. One of those sites transitioned was the Kasama Police Clinic Post.



- Location: Kasama Police Clinic, Northern Province
- Status: Transitioned, FY21 Q4.

Lessons learned:

- Agree milestones and have regular meetings to review progress, and hold each other accountable to deliverables.
- Clients are at the centre of the site transitioning equation. It's essential that providers communicate and reassure clients that services will continue beyond USAID DISCOVER-Health Project.
- A mentorship period for skills transfer, from Project to MOH staff, early on in the process is very important and helps evaluate performance.
- Gain buy in from MOH at the start of the process to ensure the systems and work culture will be sustained beyond the life of Project.

Francis Musonda, Team Lead:

“I joined in August 2018 and started work at the Kasama Police Clinic. Unfortunately back then, clients weren’t well attended to, as we were only a small team. Lots of clients were lost to follow up, as we didn’t have the proper documentation processes. We also faced supply issues, in that we didn’t always have the drugs we needed.”

“Through USAID DISCOVER-Health our burden was lightened. We now have enough staff to meet our clients’ needs. The clinic now is a refuge for the local community. We are making a positive contribution to HIV epidemic control in Zambia. This clinic has gone from just 72 clients on ART to now over 800!”

“I pray the service provision and support to the local community, especially in ART, continues. We had challenges early on in the transition process due to staffing levels, but the onsite mentorship has really mitigated this. Our documentation is now excellent and the staff are skilled and knowledgeable.”



Francis Musonda providing mentorship on client management, Kasama Police Clinic.

ANNEX I: FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Award and funding

The ceiling and obligated funding position is summarized below.

Table 6: USAID DISCOVER-Health Funding Levels.

	Obligated Amount	Award Ceiling
Obligated on award	\$9,390,352.00	\$63,619,992.00
Increase per Modification 2, 28 June 2016	\$30,000,000.00	\$0.00
Increase per Modification 4, 29 September 2017	\$19,193,588.67	\$0.00
Increase per Modification 5, 1 March 2018	\$0.00	\$56,233,783.00
Increase per Modification 6, 31 May 2018	\$1,300,000.00	\$0.00
Increase per Modification 7, 21 December 2018	\$21,780,185.00	\$0.00
Increase per Modification 8, 14 November 2019	\$15,329,794.84	\$0.00
Increase per Modification 9, 3 April 2020	\$800,000.00	\$0.00
Increase per Modification 10, 21 April 2020	\$4,775,000.00	\$0.00
Increase per Modification 11, 9 June 2020	\$0.00	\$20,000,000.00
Increase per Modification 12, 28 August 2020	\$1,050,000.00	\$0.00
Increase per Modification 13, 22 October 2020	\$11,144,566.43	\$0.00
Increase per Modification 14, 18 February 2021	\$500,000.00	\$0.00
Increase per Modification 15, 12 April 2021	\$6,691,960.98	\$0.00
Increase per Modification 16, 27 July 2021	\$3,400,000.00	\$0.00
Increase per Modification 17, 1 September 2021	\$1,847,631.00	\$0.00
Increase per Modification 18, 7 September 2021		\$15,000,000.00
Increase per Modification 19, 15 September 2021	\$4,700,000.00	\$0.00
Total Current Amount	\$131,903,078.92	\$154,853,775.00

USAID DISCOVER-Health was extended a further 15 months through to March 2023, with an additional award of \$15 million to support Project activities through this extension period.

During FY21, the Project was obligated an additional amount of \$28,284,158.41; which included \$19,434,158.41 COP20 funds, \$5.65m COVID-19 funds, and \$3.2m PEPFAR ARPA funds directed to COVID-19 support. This represents an under-funding of PEPFAR funds of \$2,411,231.89 from the COP20 budget of \$21,845,390 approved for the year. As of 30 September 2021, the Project had drawn down and expended all COP20 funds received.

As of September 30, 2021, JSI had expended and accrued approximately \$123,408,744 on the USAID DISCOVER-Health project. The monthly burn rate for the year averaged around \$1,900,000 and is expected to be around \$2,040,000 in the forthcoming year, inclusive of COVID-19 expenditure.

The Project has expended and committed around 93% of the current obligated amount and has requested additional obligation of COP21 funds, by the end of October 2021, to enable Project operations to continue as normal.

Local Partners

Mopani Copper Mines PLC

The Mopani Copper Mines PLC sub-awards were active in the year to September 30, 2021, at which point they ended. During FY21, ownership changed from Glencore to the Government of Zambia, through Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines Investment Holdings (ZCCM-IH). The Project continued managing the sub-awards, in line with conditions.

By the end of FY21, the Project disbursed ZMW 6,385,901.73 for Malcom Watson and ZMW 9,156,262.09 for Wusakile Mine Hospital, respectively. Sub-grant close out actions for both institutions are underway. Overall the Mopani Mines sub-awards received a total of 6 modifications each, to align their budgets and end dates to Project targets and objectives.

Faith Based Organizations

Work continued with the **8 faith-based local organizations** (FBOs) in FBO sites under the OGAC Faith Communities Initiative. The services are primarily to find men living with HIV (MLHIV), and link them to ART, and also link HIV negative men to HIV prevention services.

By the end of FY21, ZMW 8,713,008 out of the total milestone budget of ZMW 10,133,259, was disbursed, upon completion and certification of agreed technical and programmatic milestones.

Personnel

- There were no changes in key personnel during the year.
- The total number of JSI employees at the end of FY21 was 605. This is a net increase of 2 from the beginning of the year. Staff turnover included 3 deaths, 1 mutual separation and 35 resignations. Plus, 15 contracts were not renewed, due to downsizing and performance related issues.
- Notable changes include staff transitioning to USAID ZAM-Health: Ms. Nylepitha Chirambo, Director of Operations and Ms. Mika Bwembya, Director of Supply Chain, plus a number of other key members of staff.
- The majority of hub staff at Mansa, Chinsali and Kasama are being redeployed to support increased demand at other locations, following site transitioning to MOH.
- 143 employees contracted COVID-19 during the year and sadly 3 employees died. By the end of FY21, there were no infected employees. Of the total Project workforce (580): 479 (83%) have been fully vaccinated; 55 (9%) are partly vaccinated; and 46 (8%) are not yet vaccinated.

Procurement

Key ongoing procurement activities during FY21 include the following:

Support to National Emergency COVID-19 response:

- Purchased medical grade compressed oxygen for COVID-19 patients at Ndola Teaching Hospital and Kitwe General Hospital, and extended purchase orders for both suppliers.
- Procured 1,000 Samsung Tablets for vaccine data tracking.
- Supported printing in RCCE activities, including vaccine awareness materials.
- Procured 5 tents and delivered to UTH and Levy Mwanawasa Hospital in Lusaka to assist with COVID-19 patient triaging and screening.
- **Prefabricated warehouses and clinic facilities:** Routine and preventative maintenance works of facilities continued, together with air-con servicing and repair flooring works on the 37 existing prefabricated clinics.
- **Prevention and behavioural intervention activities:** Procurement of Zambia Ending AIDS media and promotional materials.
- **Medical equipment:** Replaced medical supplies and equipment, as required.
- **Lab Equipment:** Purchased supplies both locally and internationally for new Mwanjuni clinic and laboratory.
- **IT Equipment:** Additional laptops to support SmartCare reporting.



Walking the talk: Deputy Project Director Dr Nyumbu gets vaccinated and leads the way.

Site Operations

- **Operations and Maintenance plan:** Approved by USAID.
- **Water Quality Assurance Plan:** Approved by USAID.
- **Power Back-up:** Evaluations to support the proposed procurement of power back-up systems for Project warehouses and sites that offer laboratory services were completed. Implementation subject to FY22 funding.
- **Installation of prefabricated clinics:** Works continued during the year on the installation of prefabricated clinics at Mwanjuni Health Post and 7 FBO sites. 2 of the prefabricated clinics were completed, while 6 remain at various level of completion. The entire activity is expected to be fully completed by December 2021.

Vehicles

- 2 vehicles remain on loan to ZNPHI for use in the national emergency COVID-19 response.
- 4 major accidents reported, including one involving a third party fatality. All accidents were reported to the appropriate authorities and all insurance claims have been settled.

Project Closeout

The Project has been extended through to March 2023. In the meantime, the Project is following a detailed site/hub close out and site transition plan and timeline, as agreed with MOH and USAID.

In this respect finance and administrative close out activities relating to site operations and maintenance, inventory dispositions and HR issues remain a priority and are being closely monitored.



Project vehicle taking a USAID DISCOVER-Health service delivery team to a hard-to-reach location breaks down, Chisamba.

ANNEX 2: ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION AND MONITORING

Key FY21 results:

- No adverse events, as a result of waste, reported at facilities.
- Supported facilities with the minimum required infection control supplies for both routine waste management and the prevention of COVID-19.
- Conducted and verified inventory of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical expired products in all Hub storage facilities.

USAID DISCOVER-Health activities are implemented to minimize potential harm to the environment, as laid out in the Project Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP). Project staff members monitor environmental mitigation measures routinely and submit status reports to USAID in each quarterly report. The key USAID DISCOVER-Health activities with possible environmental impacts are listed below:

- HIV testing services (HTS).
- HIV care and treatment, including anti-retroviral therapy (ART) and TB screening.
- Voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC).
- FP/RH services, including provision of contraceptives and condoms, as well as cervical cancer screening.
- MNCH services, including under-five clinics, antenatal care, postnatal care, and in partnership with MOH, childhood immunizations.
- Product distribution and social marketing for latex male condoms, oral contraceptives, injectable contraceptives, Klori-Safe and other water purification agents.
- Supply chain management for free and socially marketed health commodities/products.



Contributing to quality service delivery: keeping our health facilities and the environment clean and safe.

In FY21, the Project:

- Supported the clinical service providers and healthcare waste handlers in order to comply with the GRZ and USAID regulations, concerning the proper management and disposal of health care waste. The waste was disposed of in accordance with safety regulations and no adverse events were recorded.
- Supported all hubs for sustainable transitioning of environmental and waste management aspects of service delivery to MOH.
- Continued to support members of staff, through virtual supervision, with general infection prevention measures and specific COVID-19 ones, including the 5 Golden Rules, and shared the benefits of taking the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Maintained constant monitoring of environmental events and healthcare waste management practices that included the collection, storage and final disposal of clinical waste.
- Procured and distributed infection control supplies for staff and essential environmental commodities, such as sharps boxes, color-coded bin liners and other consumables, used in healthcare waste.
- Developed a Water Quality Assurance Plan (WQAP), to ensure safe drinking water at all of the 51 prefabricated health facilities, in line with GRZ and international drinking water quality requirements.
- Installing 8 prefabricated clinics, meaning structural adjustments to the environment. All the work was carried out in line with the required EMM processes.



Female clients at Chilumba Health Center.

ANNEX 3: SUCCESS STORY I

The Power of a Mother's Love: Educating Pregnant and Lactating Mothers to make informed HIV preventive choices.



Team effort! The female clients and their providers.

With a new baby on the way, there's lots for an expectant mother to be thinking about. Feeding and sleeping to name a few, but what about protecting your unborn child from HIV? This is the reality for some women in Zambia. USAID DISCOVER-Health is supporting these pregnant and breastfeeding mothers by offering them access to the HIV preventive option, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, more commonly known as PrEP.

In 2018, USAID DISCOVER-Health, along with other implementing partners, rolled-out PrEP, a daily antiretroviral pill that can reduce a person's risk of HIV by over 90%. While HIV treatment is taken for life, PrEP is different. It is only taken during a person's season of HIV risk. So far, the Project has provided 63,662 clients with PrEP, and in FY21 alone, 38,728 people were initiated onto PrEP.

While PrEP is available for all eligible individuals at substantial risk of HIV, some priority and key populations require a specific focus. These include adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), female sex workers (FSWs) and men who have sex with men (MSM). Also included in this bracket are pregnant and lactating mothers (PLM). It's a priority for the Project to reach these at-risk women and provide them with information and services on HIV testing, treatment and prevention options. These women are sexually active, and often due to their family commitments, struggle to prioritize their own health and wellbeing.

As part of the Project's integrated service delivery model, these women are provided with HIV sensitization when they visit the clinic for antenatal services, as is the case at Kakulu Health Center, in Kapiri Mposhi district. Mutinta Siadunka is a PrEP Provider and describes the success of this community based model. "It's common for people to come for one service, like antenatal, and then we tell them about other services. Some people know what PrEP is, but most of them don't. So, I explain it so they can understand and accept it as a good HIV preventive option."



Mutinta Siadunka, PrEP Provider.

Some women may have more specific concerns about taking the drug when pregnant or breastfeeding, as Mutinta explains. "With pregnant and lactating mothers, some of them are nervous. They worry and ask, will this cause any damage to my child? I encountered one woman who wasn't pregnant but wanted to conceive, she wanted to find out if it was OK to take the drug during pregnancy. I explained that the drug has no effect on the child. It's important these women understand that before they start taking it."

The Project educates and counsels women on all the HIV preventive options available to them, not just PrEP. Those that are eligible and accepting are initiated on PrEP. Across all sites in FY21, the Project initiated 3,263 PLM onto PrEP, that's 3,174 more than in FY20. Additionally, the Project contributed 39% of the PLM on PrEP in the PEPFAR program in Zambia up to Q4, although the Project accounts for 6% of the TX_CURR. The PLM provided with PrEP are also encouraged to still use condoms, as further protection, alongside PrEP.

3,263
PLM initiated on
PrEP



Purity Ndalama, Community Health Worker.

With steady progress underway, the Project is focusing its efforts on community based sensitization through the role of the Community Health Workers (CHWs). Based at Kakulu, Purity Ndalama describes her role. "When I go in the community and talk about PrEP most people are ignorant, especially the women. As we start talking about PrEP,

the response is good. People are coming! They're accepting PrEP."

As knowledge levels increase, Purity is working hard to reach the at-risk women. "I work with pregnant and lactating mothers and introduce PrEP to them. They aren't negative about it and most of them aren't scared. They're actually open to it." Purity answers the women's questions and addresses their concerns. She reassures and encourages the women on the benefits of PrEP. "The women have faith and trust in me."

“
PrEP is good for me and makes me feel safe. I’m encouraging other women to get protected.”

Once I notice someone is slipping from taking PrEP or if they aren’t interested, I will follow up, encourage and counsel them.” Purity does this because she knows every single baby and mother pair protected from HIV infection is important.

Through her work in the community, Purity has reached women like Ruth Mutampuka, a 34-year-old mother of four. Ruth visited Kakulu in December 2018 to access the antenatal services on offer. She was counselled on HIV testing and both her and her husband returned to test together.



Ruth Mutampuka, PLM client on PrEP.

“I came out negative but my husband was HIV positive. We had a conversation with the clinician here, where we heard about PrEP. When it was explained to me what it was, I still wasn’t sure.”

So what changed her mind about PrEP? “I felt there was nothing else I could do to change the situation. So, I wanted to do what I could to protect myself. My husband was supportive and also wanted me to protect myself.” Ruth’s son was born in 2019 and she continued on PrEP throughout her pregnancy and still now as she breastfeeds. “PrEP is good for me and makes me feel safe. I’m encouraging other women to visit the clinic, take the advice and get protected. One friend in particular, I told her what I went through and she also came to the clinic and is now on PrEP. My baby boy is doing well and I will stay on PrEP to be healthy for my family.” With discordant couples, the HIV positive partner is also counselled on starting PrEP immediately and encouraged to adhere it. The importance of maintaining viral load suppression for the HIV positive partner is also explained and reinforced, to help keep both partners safe.

Ruth’s husband supported her decision to take PrEP, however this is not always the case as Purity explains. “We had one woman where the husband was not supportive. When this happens, we counsel them together. We call them both in and talk to them together to help improve the situation. In this case, it worked and he saw it was good for his wife.” Couples counselling is a powerful tool for addressing fears and concerns, and for

creating a safe environment for discussion.



Ireene Chooye, PLM client on PrEP.

However, some societal barriers remain, in terms of community perceptions about PrEP, as Ireene Chooye experienced. Ireene is a mother of five and is pregnant with her sixth child. Her husband is HIV positive and she is currently taking PrEP.

“PrEP protects me from HIV and

that’s a nice feeling. When I knew there was a pill I could take to protect myself I felt great.” Ireene’s husband agreed she should start taking PrEP but her family were not so supportive.

“My family weren’t happy when they found out my husband was HIV positive. They wanted me to come out of the marriage as they were worried I would get sick. Even though I take these drugs, they’re still worried I will contract HIV. I’m comfortable taking PrEP and I know I am protected.” Ireene is hopeful their attitudes will change: “I want to stay in this marriage. I try and explain to my family, and with time maybe they will understand slowly.”

Combating these misconceptions is part of what Masoso Chisala, a Community Mobilization Officer based in the district supervising a team of community health workers, does. He believes knowledge is power when it comes to combating stigma in the neighborhood.

“We work with the community health workers to build their capacity in terms of knowledge and strategies to engage others. We promote community conversations, dialogue, and transfer of knowledge.” The majority of the PLM who need PrEP are adolescent girls and young women with limited agency to make independent decisions about their own health and the health of their unborn children. They often require the approval of partners, and other family members, on health choices and decisions. A supportive family and community environment for PrEP is critically important for these women and babies.

Masoso and his team work hard to ensure first they gain the local community’s trust and second impart knowledge around HIV services, with a particular focus on this group of women and PrEP. “We build on empathy. We’ve started a robust campaign to ensure that everyone is brought on board. At a facility, where the women come for antenatal, outpatient or family planning services, we’re talking to them about PrEP and its benefits, to help them make informed decisions.” Masoso and his team go further, and build community understanding and acceptance of PrEP, to make it easier for women to access the service.

Masoso is confident that by continuing with this community-based strategy of informing and engaging with new and expectant mothers, and importantly the community members, they will continue to see the numbers of pregnant and lactating women on PrEP increasing. “What drives and motivates me in my job is I really have the community at heart. I am a strong believer where people lack knowledge they perish. I want to be part of that story, where these women get the knowledge they need and they then have the power to make positive decisions.”



Masoso Chisala, Community Mobilization Officer.

“We build on empathy. We’ve started a robust campaign to ensure that everyone is brought on board.”

“I want to be a part of that story, where these women get the knowledge they need and have the power to make positive decisions.”

SUCCESS STORY 2

“Knowledge is power”: The Youth Friendly Corners brightening the futures of some of Zambia’s most vulnerable young people.



Members of the Youth Friendly Corner, Kantolomba Health Post.

For a young person living in a remote, rural and poor community in Zambia, life can be challenging. With limited access to information on which to base choices around sex, drugs and alcohol, and other challenges, it is easy for a young person to make regrettable decisions that can impact the rest of their life. Understanding the gap, the USAID DISCOVER-Health Project has stepped in to provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education, emotional support and information on HIV prevention choices to young people in catchments areas around its supported health facilities. Through the introduction of youth friendly corners in health facilities, these young people now have somewhere safe to meet up, exchange experiences and crucially get the information they need to make better choices.

The Project first rolled out this initiative in 2017. There are now 50 active youth friendly corners across the Project’s 89 eligible sites in Zambia. Providing a physical space for young people, within their local communities, has proved incredibly successful in helping them access health services, they may previously have shunned. It is vital that young people are reached with effective HIV information and treatment or prevention options. As Zambia edges ever closer to epidemic control, there are key populations that need to be targeted to help achieve this goal. Young men and women are amongst these. The Project’s work with the DREAMS program, which focuses its efforts on adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) is working well. In FY21, 17,638 AGYW were initiated onto PrEP, by the Project through DREAMS centres. For young men, the Project is ramping up its efforts to find, test and link them to HIV treatment or prevention options. In FY21, 39,421 young men between the age of 18-34 were tested for HIV, 2,979 (8%) were found to be positive and 2,782 (7%) were linked to treatment. These youth friendly spaces help achieve these successes.

17,638

AGYW initiated
on PrEP

2,782

18-34 year old
males linked to
ART

Kantolomba Health Post is located in a high-density neighborhood near the city of Ndola. Kantolomba is a community where unemployment is high and families try to get by the best they can. Often food and housing needs are prioritized over the family's health care. Yvonne Banda is a Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Specialist based at the health post, where she also oversees the youth friendly corner. "The youth friendly space opened in 2017 but we weren't very well organized and the young people who did come weren't very forthcoming."



Yvonne Banda, FP and RMNCAH Specialist.

As a result, the team refocused and empowered the young people to drive the group themselves. This shift in direction had a positive impact. "In 2018, it really grew and developed. We've got plenty of young people here in our community and they need some guidance. We found they were maybe not so open to adults receiving them at the clinic. Whereas, if they found their fellow youths, they were more likely to open up and be honest about what it is they were suffering from or dealing with. They're more receptive to other young people, who are going through the same things."

Francis Bwalya is now 29 years old and has been coming to the group since 2018. He



Francis Bwalya, Member of the Youth Friendly Corner.

is one of the group's executive members. Francis reveals today he is a very different person to the young man who first came along to the facility. "I joined this group because I wanted to commit suicide. Back in 2013, I got a girl pregnant. I felt so negative and like I had nothing to contribute. It was a really hard time. I had no friends really and my family isolated me. I was very lonely and I wasn't thinking straight."

Fortunately, Francis reconnected with a friend in early 2018, who was a member of this youth group. "He told me my suicidal thinking wasn't right and he got me to sit down and plan for the future. I started enjoying seeing him and he brought me here to the group."

On joining the group, Francis didn't find it easy to open up about his experiences and feelings. "I didn't want anyone to know about my secret. But slowly, I felt protected and safe coming here. I knew the information and support I was receiving would save my life. Every time I had a challenge, this group would help me focus and support me." With this emotional support and counselling, Francis turned his life around, he got a job and was able to start financially supporting his son. Crucially, he was also able to start saving some money to complete his own education.

"I felt protected and safe coming here. I knew the information and support I was receiving would save my life."

“

We react to what the community wants. We live in the community so we know what's happening on a day to day basis.

”

The group meets once a week on Saturdays. There are about 100 young people in this group, both males and females, ranging from 17 to 29 years old. They meet in smaller groups to discuss issues and topics, decided upon by themselves, that they feel are particularly relevant and timely. This can range from developing self-confidence to making the right health choices such as using condoms. There is no subject that is off limits.

Yvonne Banda and the other providers at Kantolomba provide guidance and provide correct health information, but the young people have been trained and are supported to run the programs themselves.



The team head out into the local community.

The group also does a lot of community outreach work, to engage young people in the community. Francis explains. “So, we go into the community, we talk to other young people, we ask them about their challenges and try and help find solutions. We’ve become more like counsellors for them. We’ve all faced challenges ourselves by what we’ve gone through, so we go and share what knowledge we have, whether that’s about school, HIV, PrEP. I share my own experience and show how I managed to come out of a hard time. They can look at me and it helps. My heart is set on helping the entire community so they have a better future.”

Francis believes the key to the group’s success is that it is run by the young people themselves. “We react to what the community wants. We live in the community so we know what’s happening on a day to day basis. We use music and dance too! Once you give young people the information they’re keen for it. The challenge was they didn’t know about these sexual health services or information before; a lack of knowledge was the issue.”



Bernadette Bwalya, Member of the Youth Friendly Corner.

Bernadette Bwalya is one of the young women reached by the group and is now leading change from the forefront. She is 20 years old and has a 2 year old son, Benson, whom she is raising alone. “I got pregnant in Grade 12. It was an unplanned pregnancy. I never finished my education. I really felt like my life had been cut short and I was so worried about my future. I had put in all this

effort and now it had gone to waste. After having my child, I thought that was the end of my life really. I spoke to my friends about how I was feeling. One of them had heard about the youth friendly space here at the clinic and suggested I join for some support.”

The group offered support and information at a time when Bernadette really needed it. “I’ve learnt a lot. They’ve taught me how to look after myself and my child, and how to be a good mother. One of the best things I’ve learnt though is about family planning, contraception and not having another unplanned pregnancy. It’s done so much for me and I am so appreciative.” Bernadette now meets other young women in similar situations to hers, as well as those who she can help with basic contraception advice. “I tell them about my experiences. I share what I’ve been through and the message that things can improve.” The group has had a profound impact on Bernadette’s outlook and hopes looking ahead. “I am no longer in fear. I am hopeful thinking about my future. I would really like to go back and finish school. If I got my education, then I would be able to educate my son and that is my dream.”

“ I am no longer in fear. I am encouraged thinking about my future. I am hopeful. If I got my education, then I would be able to educate my son and that is my dream. ”

Yvonne Banda is proud of the impact the youth friendly space is having. “We are seeing more young clients coming to the clinic and accessing services. Particularly, the young women, they’re really coming through. The youth friendly corner really complements what we do.”

Yvonne is confident this group has a bright future. “It makes me very proud to see what they’ve achieved and I’ve been so happy to be a part of it. I’ve seen some amazing changes, watching young people come from really tricky situations and now they’re advocates for change, boosted with information, like Francis and Bernadette. It’s a great achievement and truly shows that knowledge is power.”



Members of the Youth Friendly Corner, Kantolomba Health Post.

Annex 4: PMP INDICATORS

Table 7: PMP Annex FY21 Targets.

Indicator		FY 2021 Target	FY 2021 achievement					
			(Q1-Q4) achievement	% achieved	FY 2021 Q4 achievement	FY 2021 Q3 achievement	FY 2021 Q2 achievement	FY 2021 Q1 achievement
Objective 1. High-quality, integrated health services are used more by target groups.								
HIV Testing and Counseling (HTC) service HTS_TST		83,952	163,776	195%	33,907	38,560	44,311	46,998
Newly identified HIV+ under HIV Testing and Counseling service HTS_TST_POS			17,015		3,974	4,370	4,675	3,996
Adults and children newly enrolled on antiretroviral therapy (ART) TX_NEW		10,975	17,346	158%	3,969	4,428	4,753	4,196
Adults and children currently receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) TX_CURR		57,792	77,331	134%	77,331	73,692	70,089	65,246
Percentage of pregnant women with known HIV status (includes women who were tested for HIV and received their results) PMTCT_STAT		29,718	44,766	151%	10,663	11,027	11,578	11,498
Percentage of HIV-positive pregnant women who received antiretrovirals to reduce risk of MTCT during pregnancy and delivery PMTCT_ART		2,842	4,044	142%	1,024	999	1,022	999
Percentage of infants born to HIV-positive women who had a virologic HIV test done within 12 months of birth PMTCT_EID		2,487	4,835	194%	1,179	1,499	1,159	998
% of ART patients with suppressed Viral Load (TX_PVLS)		95%	96%	101%	96%	95%	94%	93%
Adults newly enrolled Pre-Exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) PrEP_NEW		28,978	38,728	134%	12,572	10,544	9,863	5,749
HIV-positive women on ART screened for cervical cancer		17,444	14,687	84%	5,223	4,334	2,626	2,504
Voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) for HIV prevention program VMMC_CIRC (10+)		62,899	76,571	122%	19,532	23,724	19,472	13,843
Prevention interventions with Priority Populations PP_PREV		50,000	118,943	238%	26,249	30,645	40,859	21,190
Prevention interventions with Key Populations KP_PREV		9,704	13,707	141%	3,378	3,442	3,723	3,164
Children who received DPT3 by 12 months of in USAID DISCOVER-Health assisted programs		23,391	33,265	142%	8,198	9,324	7,887	7,856
Children aged 12-23 months immunized against measles		17,895	40,624	227%	5,271	7,211	5,802	22,340
Number of cases of child diarrhea treated in USG-assisted programs		12,000	20,401	170%	5,653	3,883	4,053	6,812
Antenatal care (ANC) 4th visits during the latest pregnancy by skilled providers		17,228	28,138	163%	7,110	7,354	7,072	6,602
Pregnant women who received 2nd dose of SP/Fansidar during an ANC appointment		23,110	34,121	148%	8,515	8,536	8,634	8,436
Women on contraceptives by type (new acceptors)		37,500	34,681	92%	8,740	8,547	9,378	8,016
Objective 2. Provision of integrated health products and services is sustainable								
Male condom distributed / sold		26,500,000	21,457,888	81%	5,037,552	4,504,032	8,963,584	2,952,720

Table 8: PMP Annex Life of Project (LOP) Targets.

Indicator		LOP Target	Annual Achievement						
			LOP achievement	% LOP achieved	PY6 (FY 2021)	PY5 (FY 2020)	PY4 (FY 2019)	PY3 (FY 2018)	PY1-2 (FY 16-17)
1.	HTS	1,200,000	1,842,664	154%	163,776	242,048	517,279	583,292	336,269
2.	TX_NEW	90,000	99,845	111%	17,346	21,719	26,570	23,004	11,206
3.	TX_CURR	57,792	77,331	134%	77,331	72,585	57,014	29,002	20,734
4.	PMTCT_STAT	42,282	191,572	453%	44,766	51,121	48,651	36,539	10,495
5.	PMTCT_ART	4,653	19,358	416%	4,044	5,537	4,847	4,154	776
6.	PMTCT_EID	4,653	14,723	316%	4,835	4,116	3,675	1,888	209
7.	TX_PVLS	95%	96%	101%	96%	93%	90%	87%	-
8.	PrEP_NEW	40,000	63,689	159%	38,728	15,383	7,697	1,881	-
9.	CxCa_SCREEN (HIV+ women on ART)	33,706	27,043	80%	14,687	8,263	4,001	92	-
10.	VMMC_CIRC	250,000	269,958	108%	76,571	53,444	45,746	55,937	38,260