

Viral Load Scale Up: Challenges and Successes in Central, North Western and Copperbelt Provinces of Zambia.

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(Securing an AIDS Free ERA).

Secretary for the African Federation of Clinical Chemistry (AFCC)

Outline

- Introduction
- Laboratory Aspect
- Clinical Aspect
- Community Aspect
- Provincial Coverage
- Successes
- Challenges
- Data

GLOBAL AIDS STRATEGY



Diagnosed



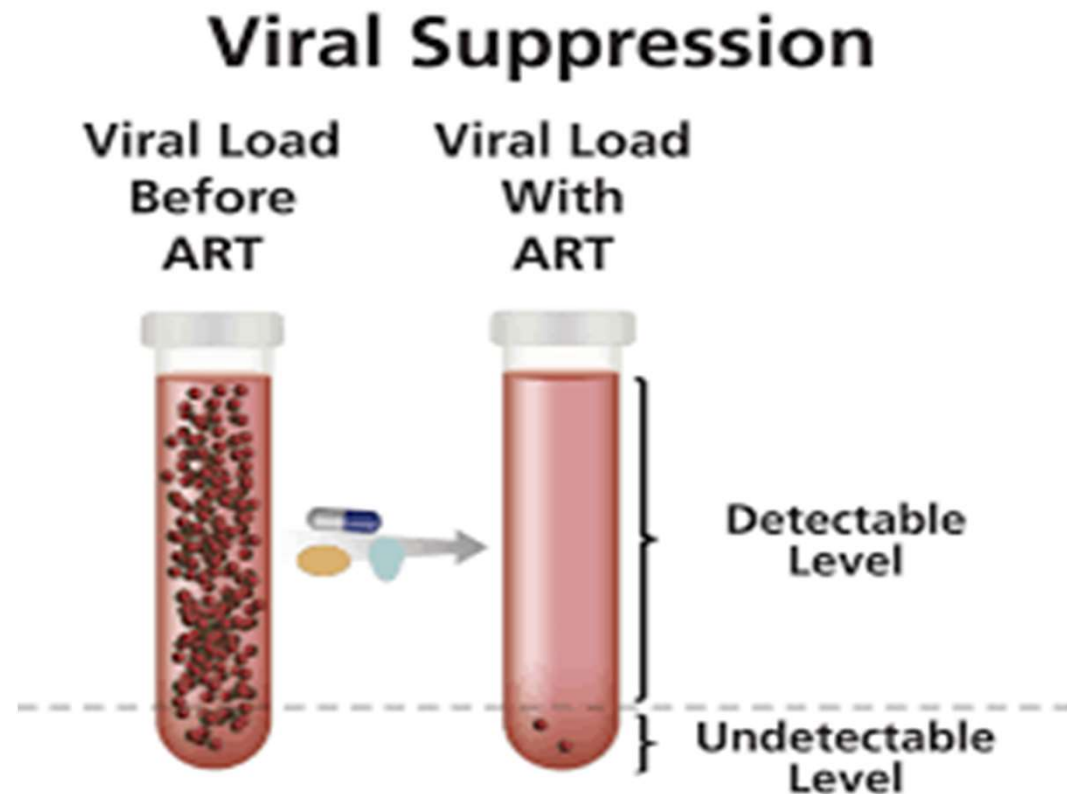
On
Treatment



Virally
Suppressed

UNAIDS THIRD 95

Ensure 95 % of clients on antiretroviral treatment (ART) are virally suppressed.



Laboratory Aspect

1. Availability of appropriate testing technologies.
2. Availability of reagents and consumables to support viral load testing.
3. Sample movement mechanisms from collection points to hubs to PCR Labs (chain of custody).
4. Results management either manual or electronic.
5. Tracking and monitoring of indicators.
6. Staffing

Clinical Aspect

Identification of clients eligible for viral load testing. According to Zambia Consolidated ART Guidelines:

1. Six (6) months after ART initiation.
2. At Twelve (12) months after ART initiation.
3. Annually thereafter.
4. Three (3) months after unsuppressed result.
5. At first ante natal booking.
6. At 6 months during pregnancy.
7. 1-4 weeks before delivery.
8. Every 6 months up to two years for breastfeeding mothers.

Community Aspect

- Generation of lists of clients due for VL.
- Submission of these lists to community teams for active community follow up and capture.
- Escorted referrals back to the health facility.



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Three Supported Provinces











Provincial Coverage of the USAID JSI SAFE Project

North Western Province (most sparsely populated province)

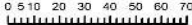
- Tx Curr : 15,194 (April 2019)
- Geographical Land Mass (sq/km):125,826 sq.km
- 3 Districts out of 9
- 32 Facilities supported
- Total Health Facilities: 70
- Population: 727,044

BURDEN AROUND THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCE PCR LAB


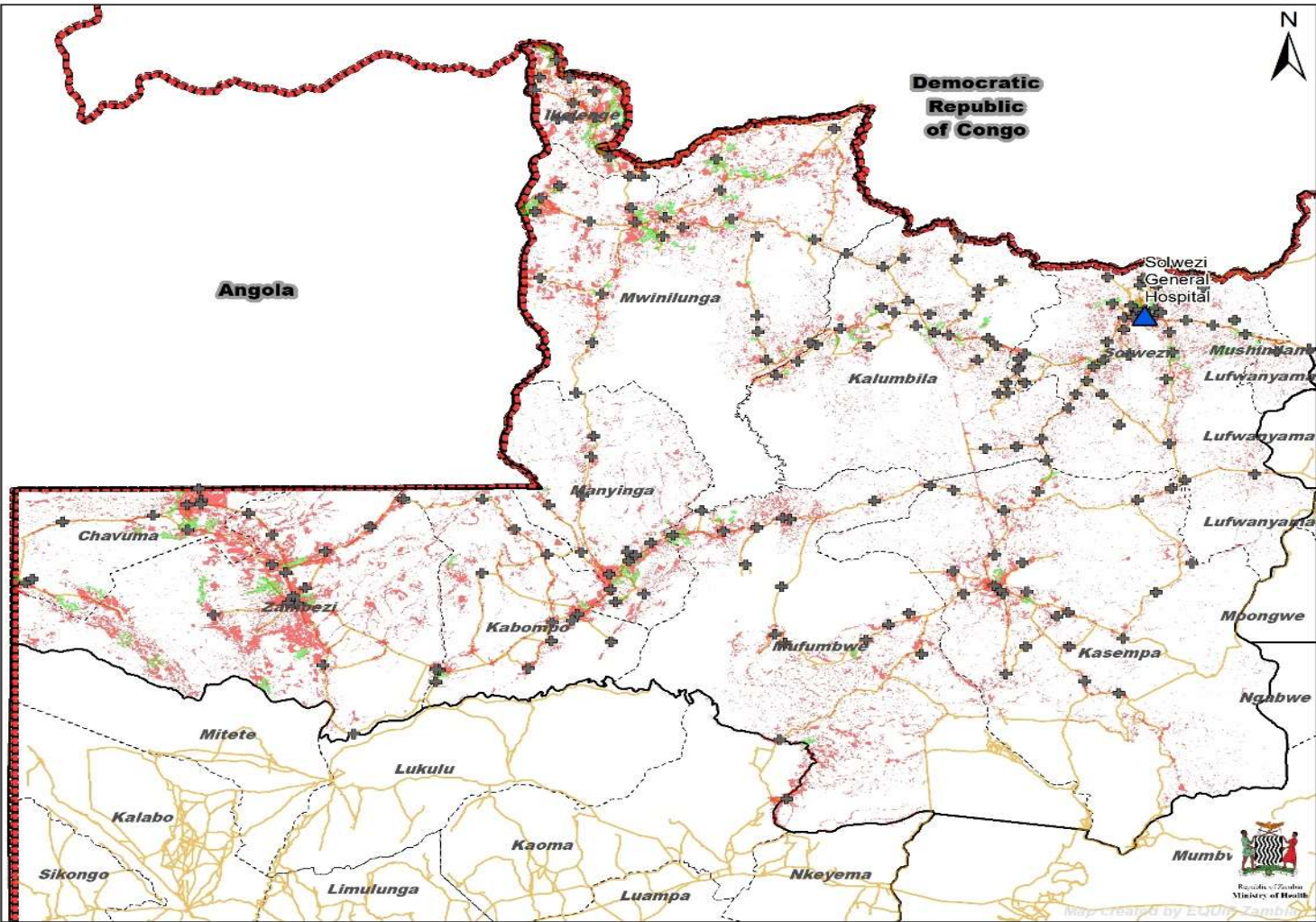
 PCR Lab
 Health Facility
Population Settlement
 0 - 300
 300 - 1100
 Road
 District Boundary
 Provincial Boundary
 International Boundary

Data Source:
EQUIP GIS Assessment
Central Statistics Office

0 5 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 Kilometers



Overview












Provincial Coverage of the USAID JSI SAFE Project

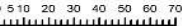
Central Province

- Tx Curr : 82,724
- Geographical Land Mass (sq/km): 94,394 sq.km
- 11 Districts
- 114 Facilities supported
- 266 Health Facilities in total
- Population: 1,307,111


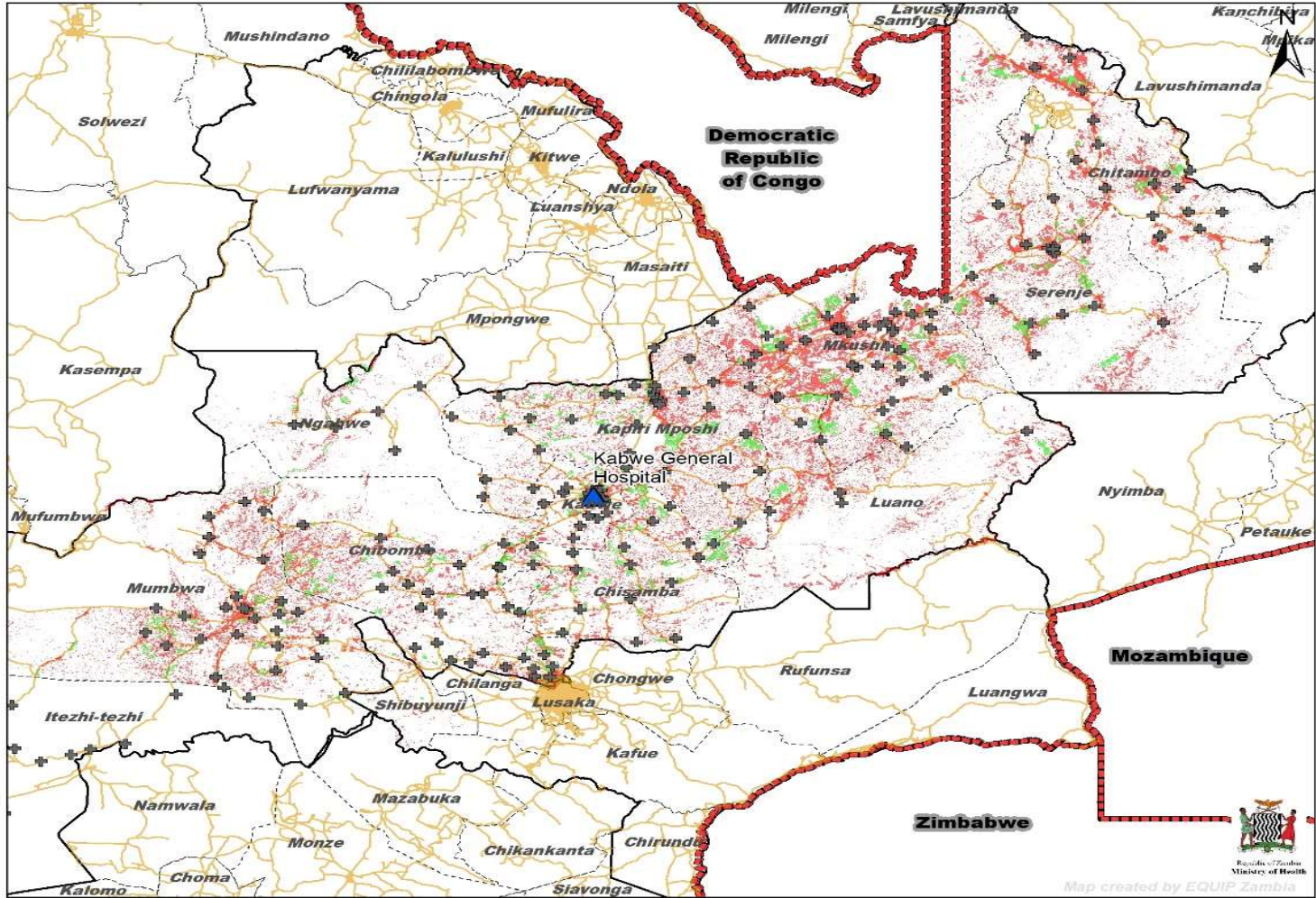
BURDEN AROUND CENTRAL PROVINCE PCR LAB

 PCR Lab
 Health Facility
Population Settlement
 0 - 300
 300 - 1100
 Road
 International Boundary
 Provincial Boundary
 District Boundary

Data Source:
 EQUIP GIS Assessment
 Central Statistics Office

0 5 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 Kilometers


Overview












Provincial Coverage of the USAID JSI SAFE Project

Copperbelt Province

- Tx Curr : 142,009
- Geographical Land Mass: 31,328 sq.km
- 9 Districts
- 137 Health Facilities supported
- 282 Health Facilities in total
- Population: 2,542,132


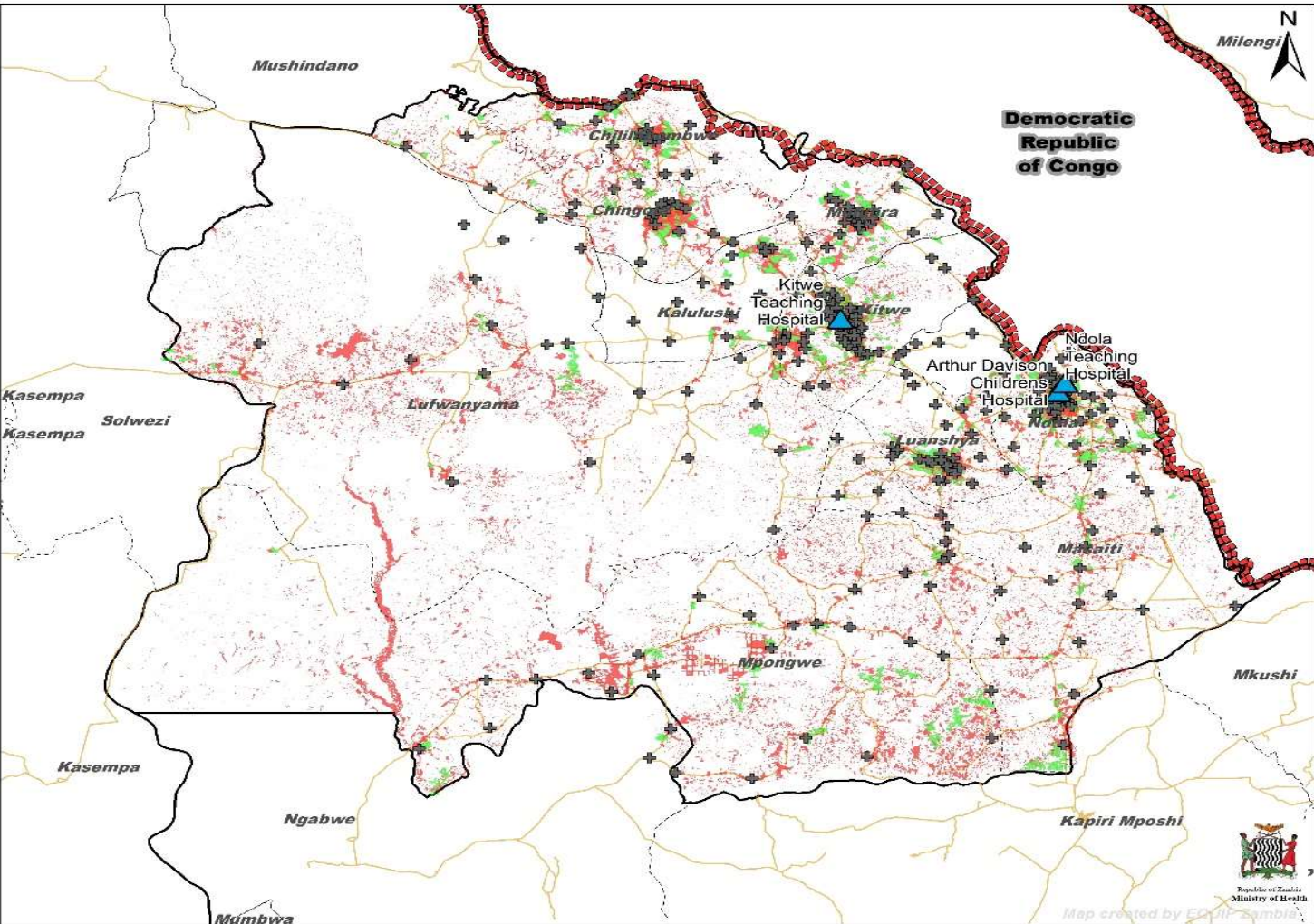
BURDEN AROUND THE COPPERBELT PROVINCE PCR LABS

 PCR Lab
 Health Facility
Population Settlement
 0 - 300
 300 - 1100
 Road
 District Boundary
 Provincial Boundary
 International Boundary

Data Source:
 EQUIP GIS Assessment
 Central Statistics Office

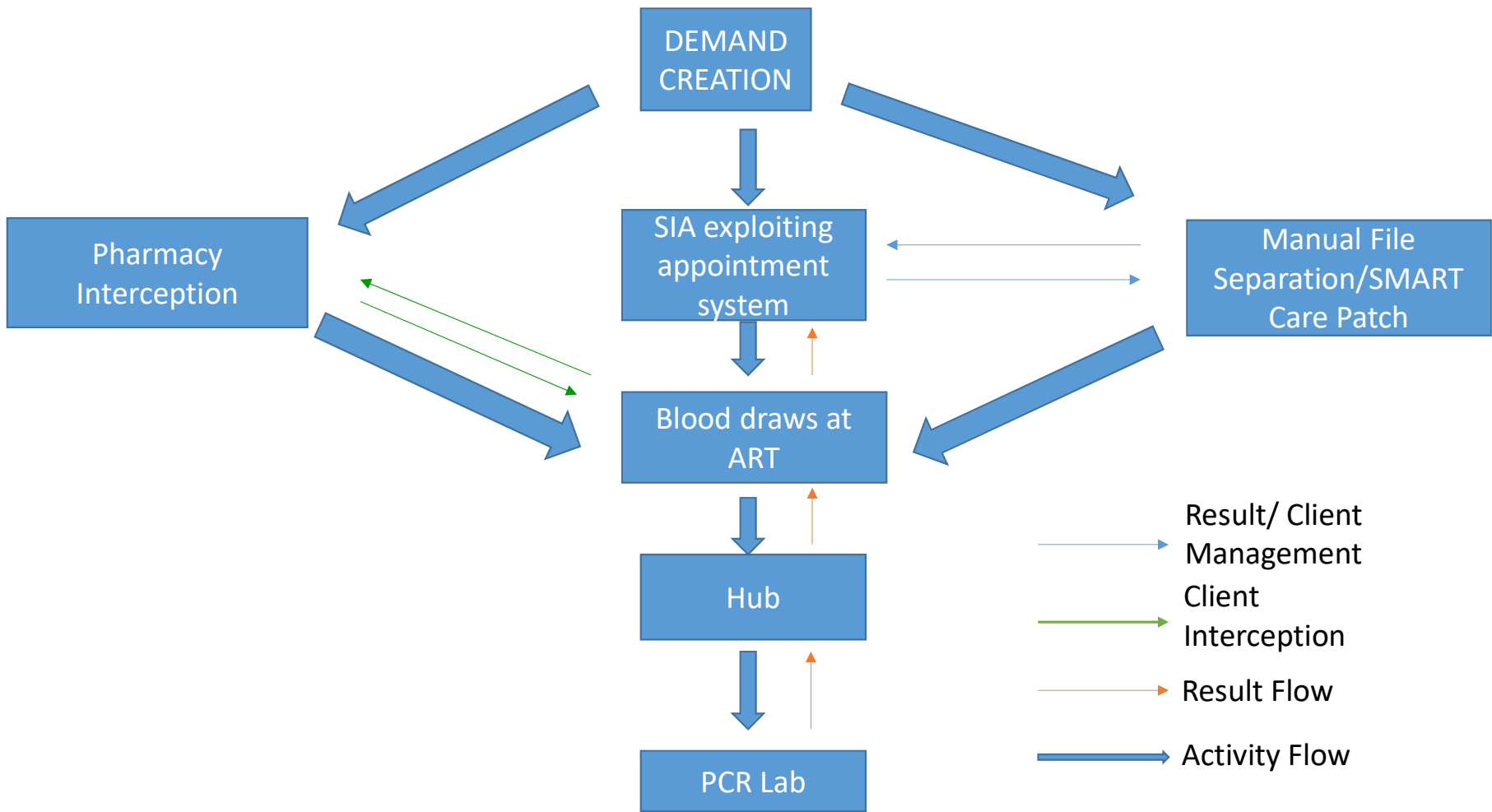
0 5 10 20 30 Kilometers

Overview

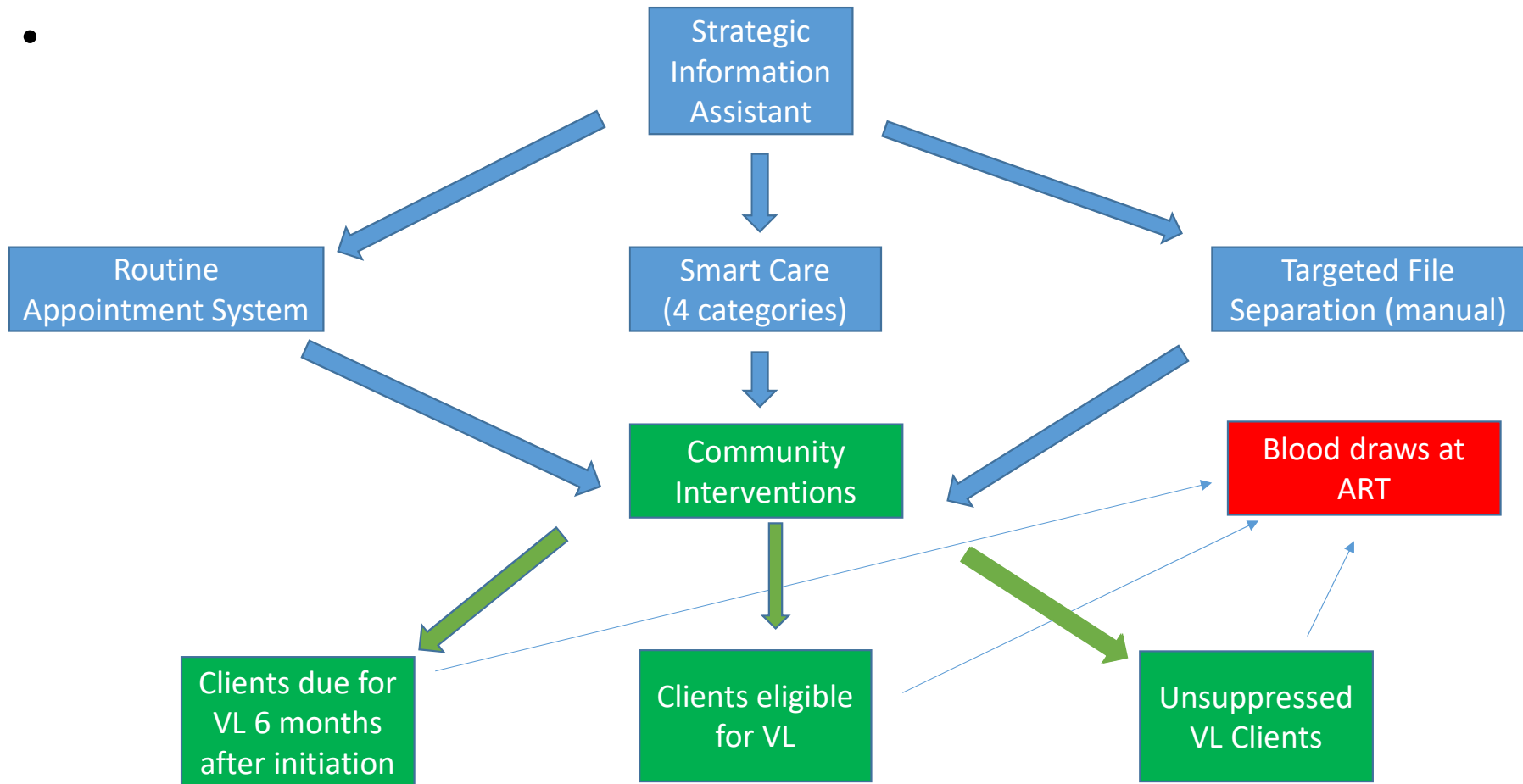



Successes with Viral Load Scale Up

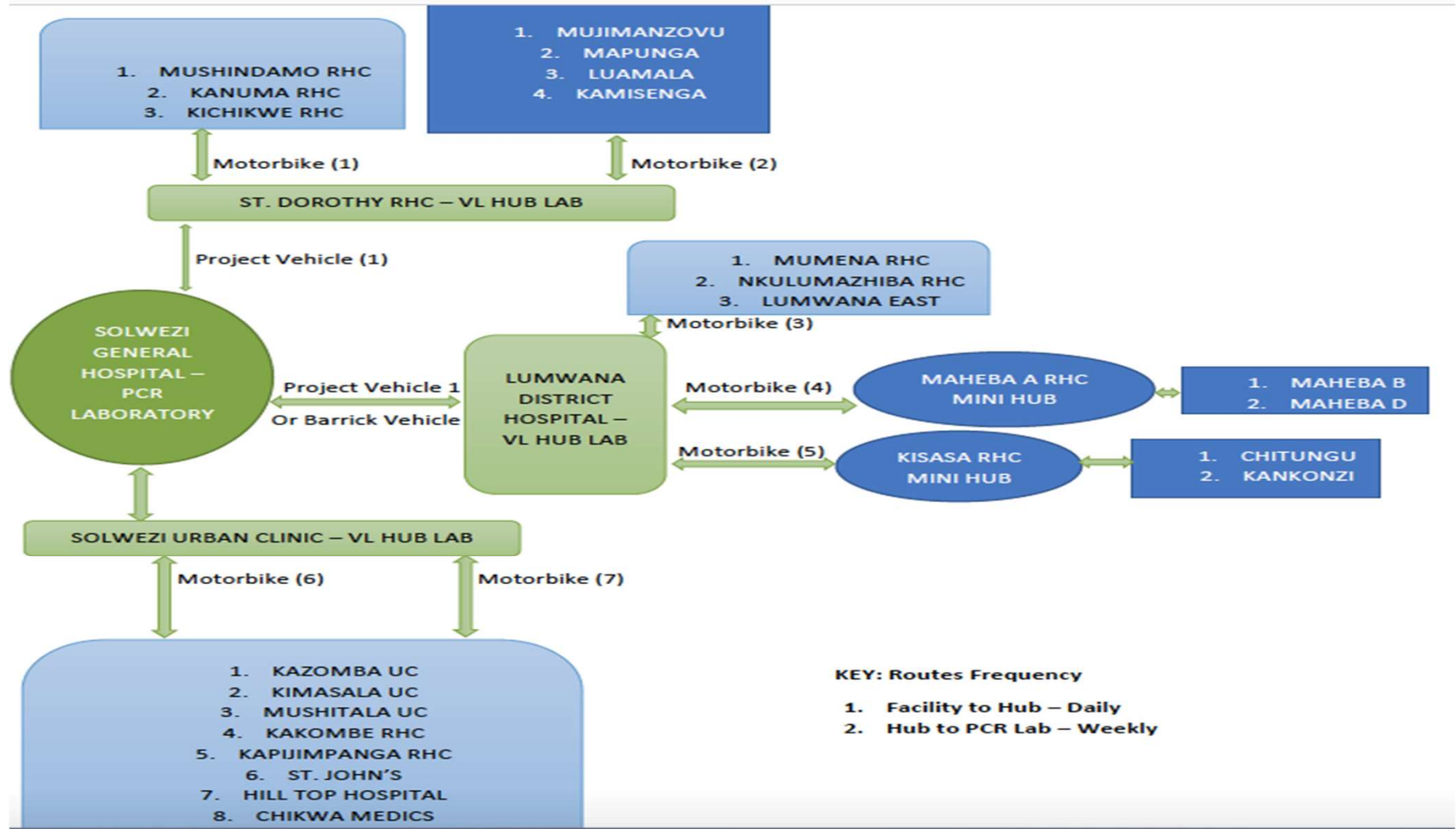
1. Interception of clients during drug pick ups.
2. VL Strategic Information Assistant exploiting the appointment system.
3. Electronic client identification of clients due for VL.
4. Manual identification of clients due for VL.
5. Community mobilization coupled with escorted referrals of clients.
6. Provision of motorbikes and vehicles for sample pick up.
7. Electronic and manual results movement.
8. Establishment of viral load hubs.
9. Recruitment and strategic placement of PCR Support Scientists.
10. Enhancement of PCR Laboratories (equipment, training, LIS).
11. Enhancement of VL hubs (fridges, freezers, documentation).
12. Decentralisation of Testing.



Demand Creation: Community Involvement



VL Sample Pick Up Routes for North Western

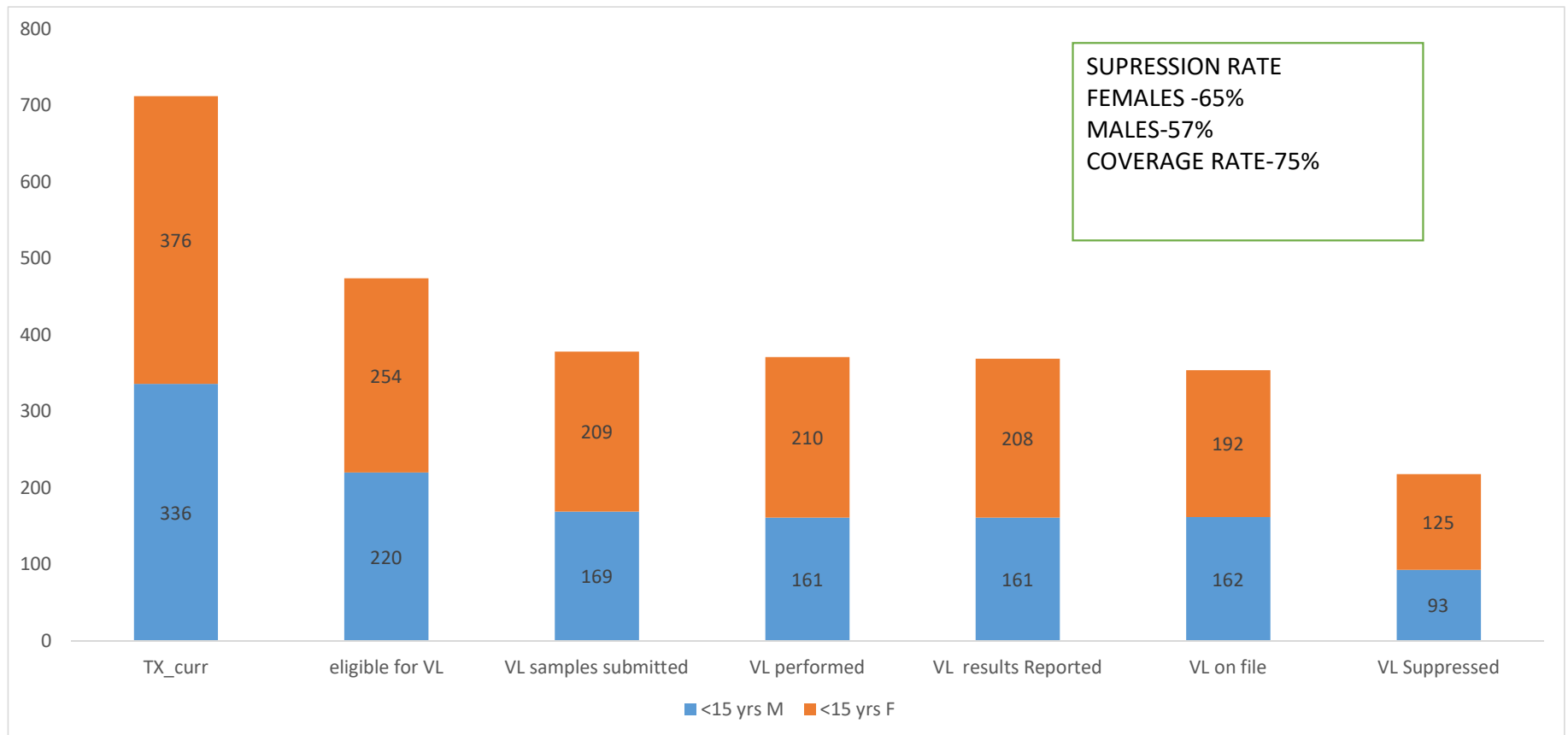


Challenges with Viral Load Scale Up

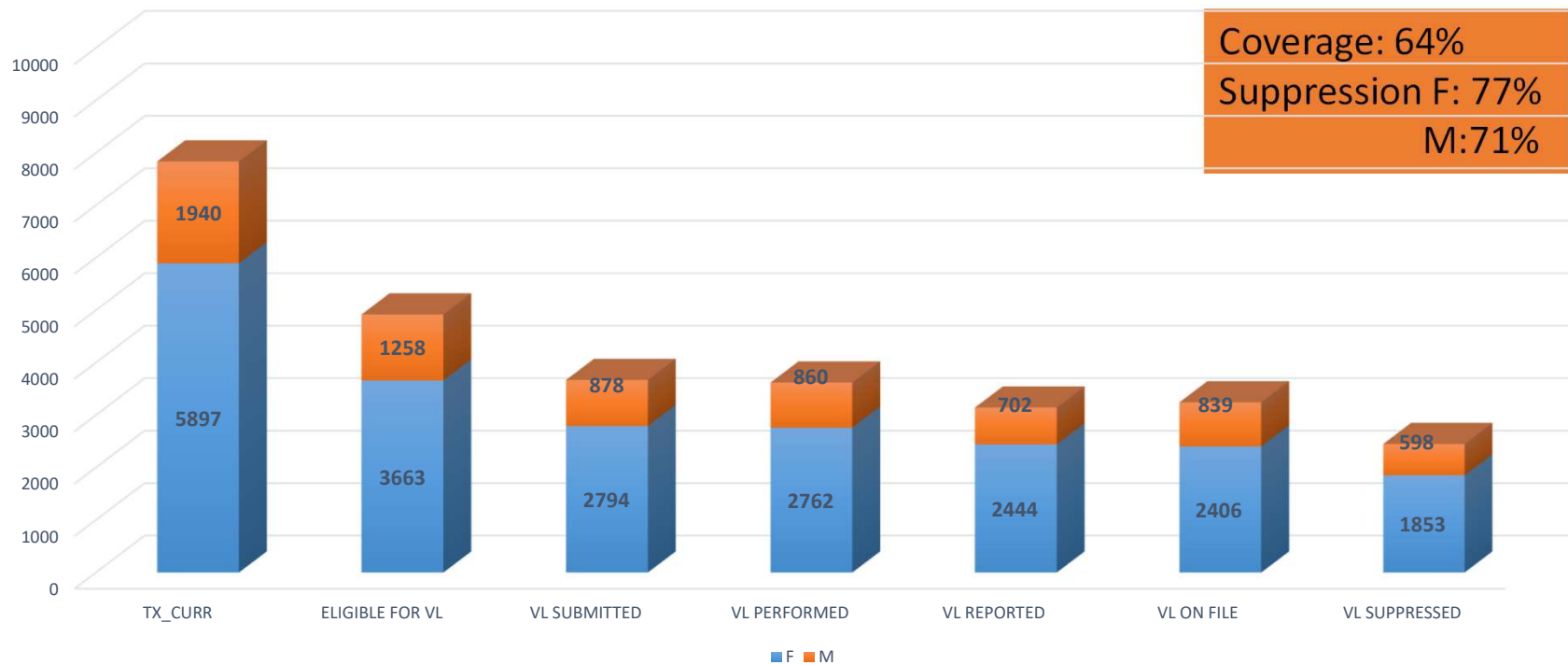
- Non availability of reagents and consumables.
- Prolonged equipment downtime > 5 days.
- Inadequate competencies on the respective analysers.
- No interception of clients due during pharmacy visits.
- Appointment system not exploited.
- No identification of clients due via either manual or electronic means.
- No incentives for community follow up of clients late for VL.
- Sample movement mechanisms from collection point to hubs to PCR Lab.
- Result return to requesting facilities > 20 working days

DATA

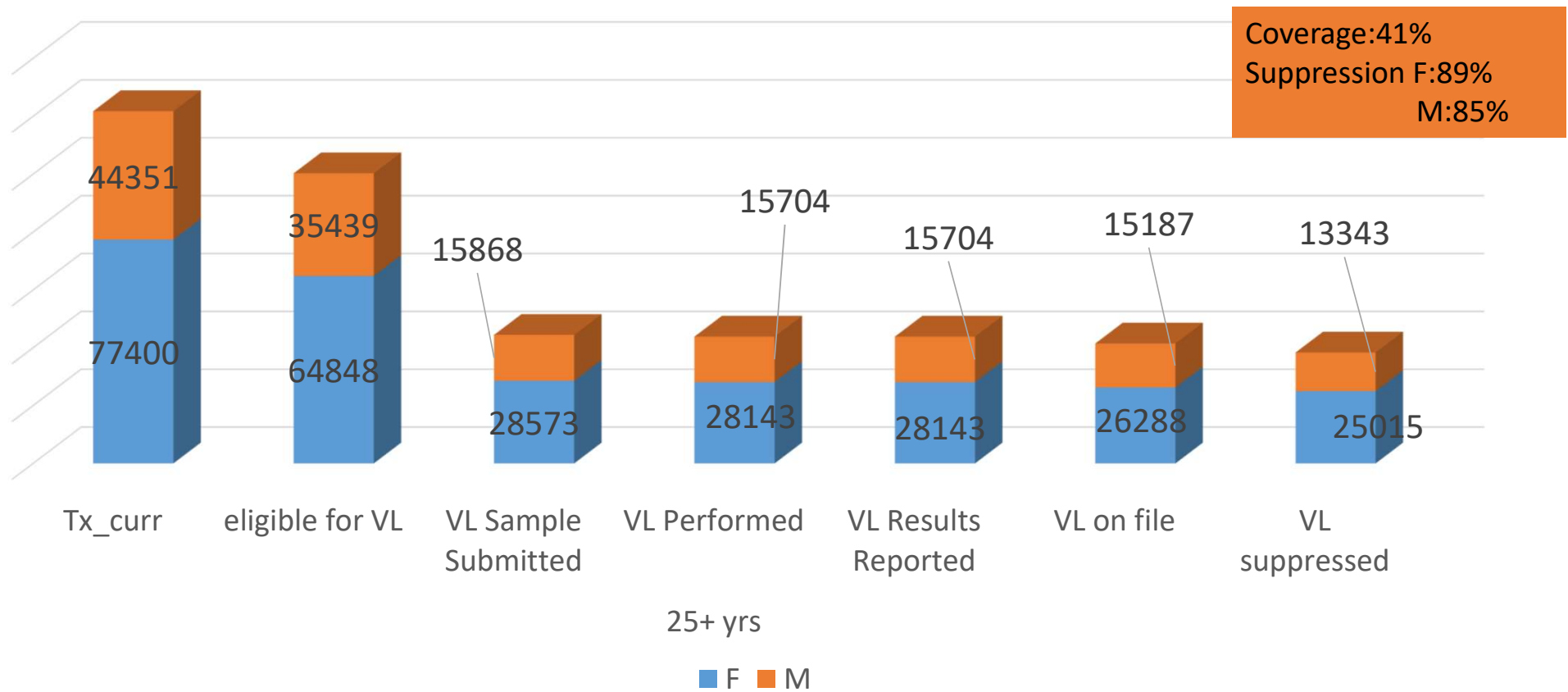
Viral load cascade by age and sex <15: North Western Province (Oct18 to March19)



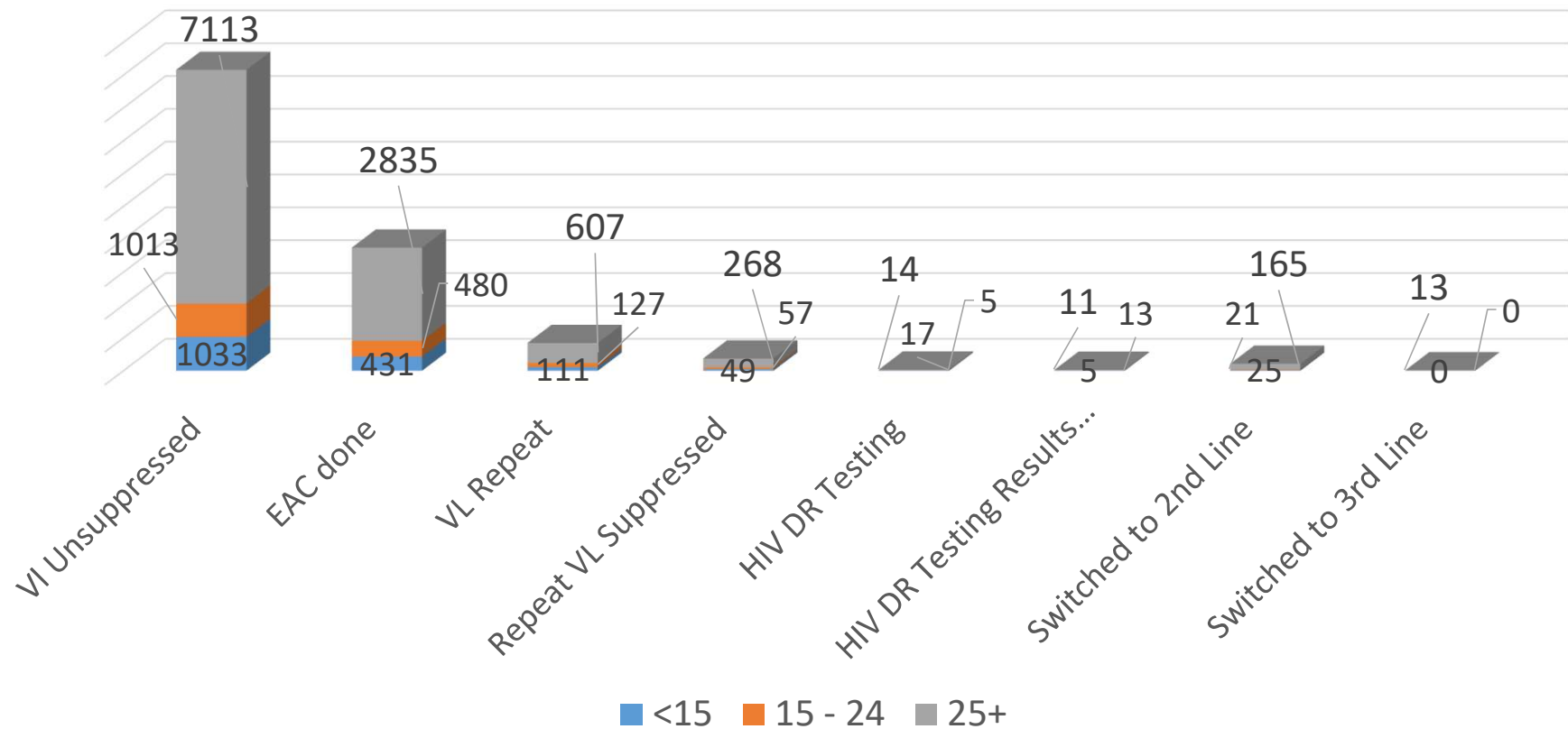
Viral Load Cascade by Age and Sex 15-24 yrs Oct 2018- April 2019 Central Province



Viral Load Cascade by Age and Sex 25+: Copperbelt (Oct18 to March 19)



Management of Unsuppressed VL Patients Oct- March: Copperbelt



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Thanks!