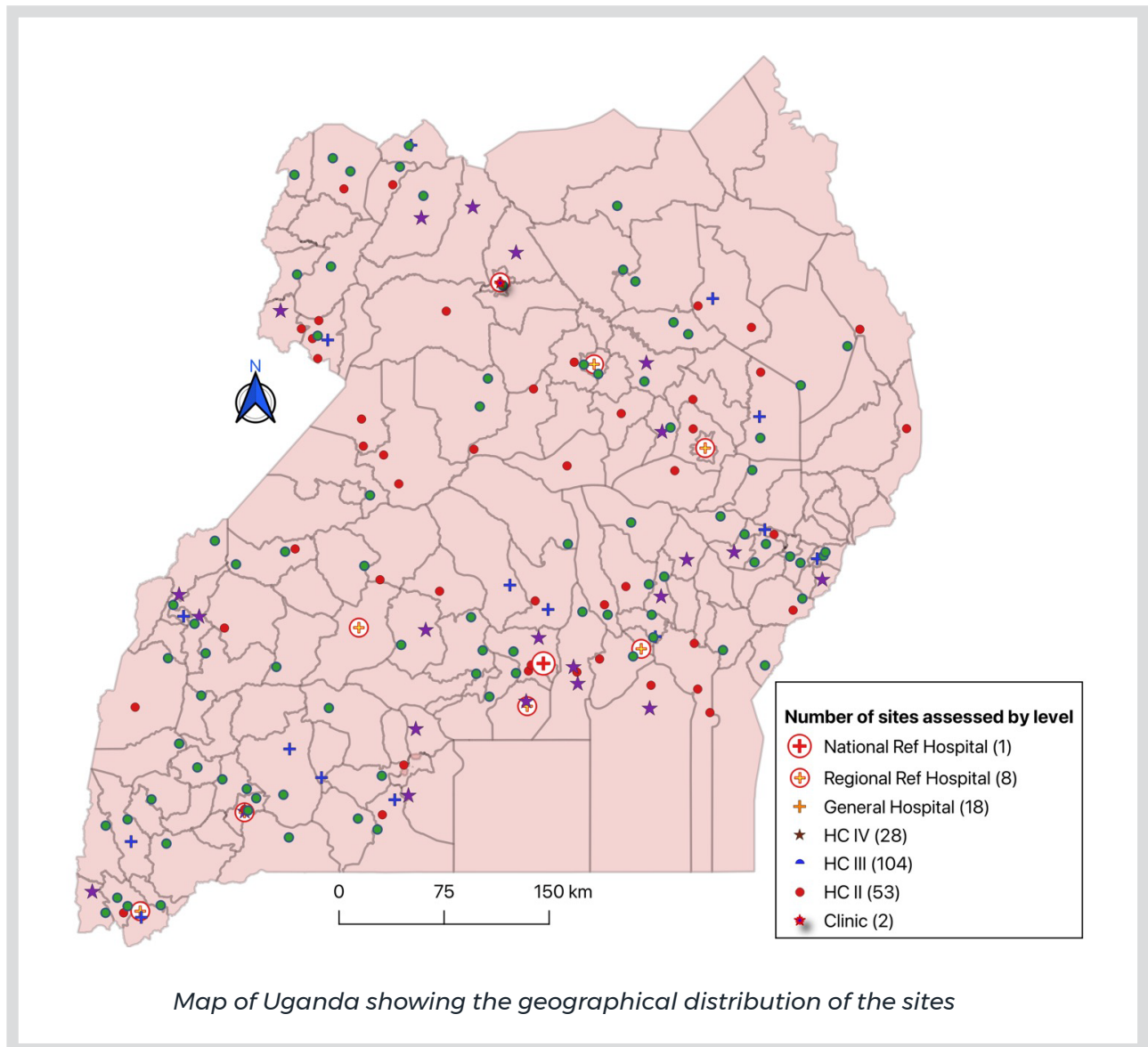


Assessing Data Quality to boost elimination Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (eMTCT)

In the ongoing pursuit of eliminating Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (eMTCT), a robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system plays a pivotal role. Such a system ensures the identification of HIV-positive mothers, timely initiation of antiretroviral treatment, and appropriate management of HIV-exposed infants, thereby reducing vertical transmission of HIV from the HIV positive mothers to their infants. However, challenges persist in ensuring effective eMTCT program monitoring and evaluation. Recently, a comprehensive Data Quality Assessment (DQA) was conducted with the primary aim of evaluating the quality of eMTCT data reported through the National Health Information Systems (HIS). The assessment covered 214 health facilities across all regions of the country (see map below).



| No | Indicator | Reported | Verified | Variance |
|----|---|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 | Number of pregnant women attending first Antenatal care (ANC1) | 94,011 | 97,478 | 3.5% |
| 2 | Number of pregnant women newly tested for HIV at first antenatal visit (ANC1) | 1,092 | 1,015 | -7.6% |
| 3 | Number of HIV-positive pregnant women already on antiretroviral therapy (ART) before their ANC1 | 4,020 | 4,467 | 10.0% |
| 4 | Number of pregnant women newly initiated on ART | 933 | 1,087 | 14.2% |
| 5 | Number of HIV exposed infants who tested for HIV (1 st DNA/PCR) | 5,024 | 5,382 | 6.7% |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| ≤ ± 5% | Adequate, meets expectation |
| > 5 - ≤ 10% | Acceptable, but needs improvement |
| > ± 10% | Inadequate, requires immediate intervention |

Five (5) key indicators were assessed to gauge the accuracy of reported data: Data accuracy for each indicator was measured by comparing the data reported through the HIS with that verified from the health facility records as summarised in the table below. Data for the 6 months period from October 2022 to March 2023 was considered.

The findings highlighted several crucial insights:

- i) Reporting for ANC1 attendance among pregnant women is adequate.
- ii) Acceptable but improbable results for the pregnant women newly tested for HIV at ANC1, the HIV-positive pregnant women already on ART before their ANC1 and HIV exposed infants who tested for HIV.
- iii) Inadequate reporting for pregnant women newly initiated on ART.

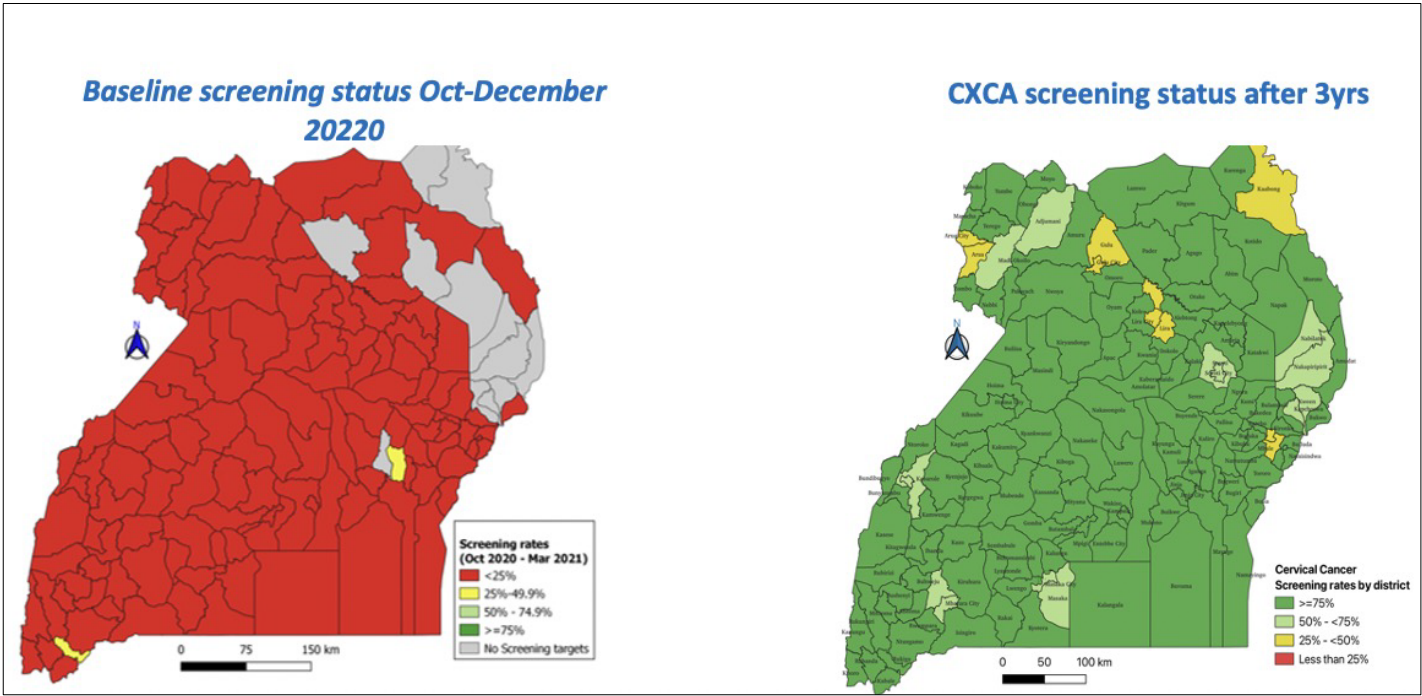
The assessment revealed suboptimal data quality in some key PMTCT elements, signalling the urgent need to address those data quality gaps. Recommendations were made to address the gaps through on-site mentorship and coaching across all implementing mechanisms.

This assessment serves as a critical guidepost in the ongoing efforts to strengthen data quality for ensuring more effective strategies in preventing HIV transmission from mothers to their children.

ENHANCING CERVICAL CANCER CARE FOR WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV

In October 2020, the Ministry of Health (MoH) joined forces with PEPFAR to introduce a ground-breaking cervical cancer (CxCa) screening program dedicated to women living with HIV (WLHIV) aged 25-49. The ambitious three-year initiative aimed to screen 543 women within this demographic.

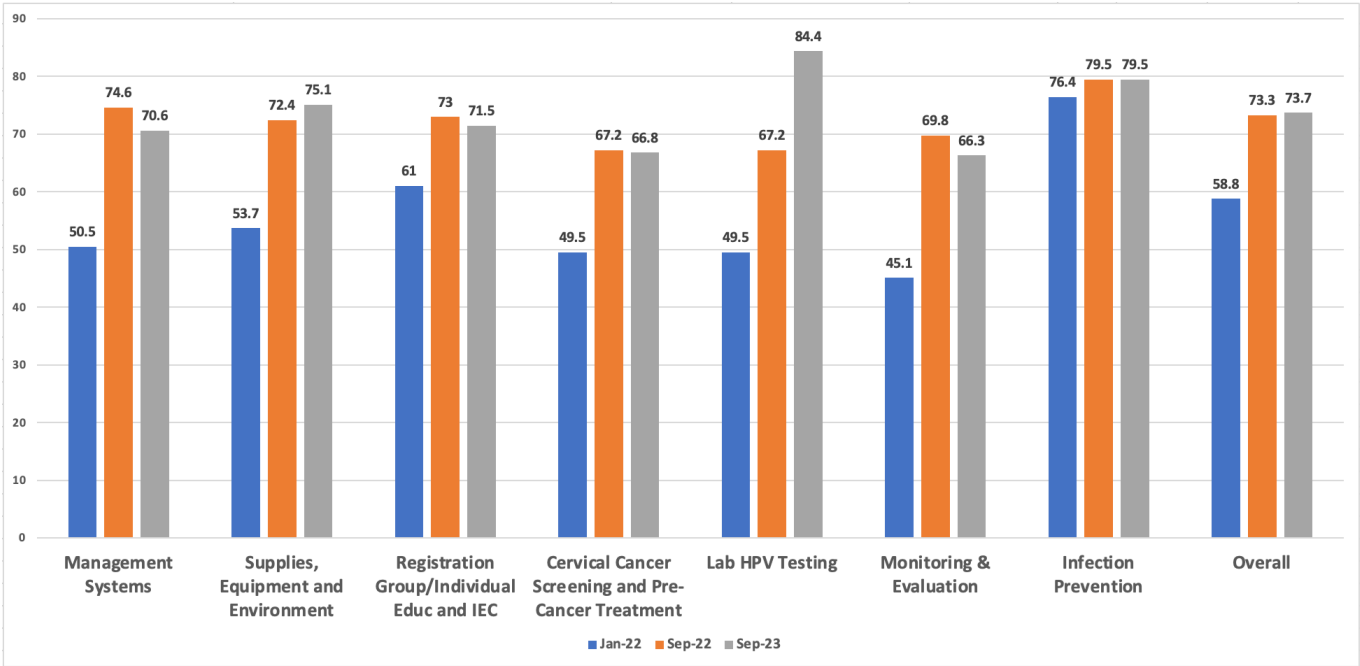
As the program reached its culmination in September 2023, an incredible outcome emerged: an impressive 103% of the target group had been screened nationwide. At the three-year mark, nearly every district had successfully screened at least 75% of their targeted population, signifying a significant milestone in the endeavour to combat cervical cancer among WLHIV.



Building upon this success, METS collaborated with the MoH and various PEPFAR agencies to execute an interagency CxCa Service Quality Assessment (SQA). This assessment was designed to ensure adherence to CxCa service and data quality standards. The objectives encompassed evaluating service quality standards at implementation sites, validating CxCa data in national reporting systems, assessing data management processes and systems, and identifying challenges faced by implementers. Immediate support was extended to address these identified gaps.

In October 2023, this assessment was conducted across 100 PEPFAR-supported sites throughout the country, resulting in notable improvements in adherence to CxCa service standards, aligning with the guidelines established by the MoH.

PERFORMANCE OF DATA MANAGEMENT PROCESSES AND SYSTEMS



Moving forward, the focus remains on implementing interventions that enhance compliance with service and data quality standards, aiming to address identified gaps and maintain the achieved progress. Additionally, the MoH recommends regular mentorship programs across all facilities engaged in CxCa implementation. These mentorship initiatives are envisioned to provide ongoing guidance and support, ensuring sustained adherence to established standards.

The commitment and collaboration between the MoH, PEPFAR, METS, and other involved entities showcase a collective dedication to elevating the quality of cervical cancer care for WLHIV. The success achieved thus far, coupled with proactive steps and ongoing mentorship, reaffirms the shared commitment to delivering exceptional care, ultimately benefiting the health and well-being of women in their fight against cervical cancer.



Captured moments from the SQA

SUPPORTING NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DATA TRANSFORMATION

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH), METS has taken strides toward addressing the challenges in healthcare data management. The MoH faces a complex landscape, with contrasting systems storing health data across multiple formats and locations. The lack of a centralized data repository presents obstacles to efficient data access and analysis, urging the Ministry to seek solutions.



CDC, JHPIEGO, and METS visited MoH to discuss data warehousing in May

To overcome these challenges, the Ministry is implementing a robust data warehousing solution. This visionary project aims to establish a centralized data source, facilitating streamlined data storage, accessibility, and analysis for enhanced decision-making.

METS has played a pivotal role by providing technical support to the MoH in the design and implementation of this Data Warehouse. The support encompasses designing the architecture, creating pipelines, formulating database models, and crafting Extract, Transform, and Load (ETL) scripts. Furthermore, METS is set to aid in developing data analysis tools, such as intuitive dashboards, crucial for programmatic support and comprehensive data visualization.

MOVING FORWARD, THE FOCUS IS ON THE FOLLOWING KEY INITIATIVES:

- 1** **Implementation of Designed Architecture:** The goal is to operationalize the proposed architecture and transform it into a fully functional data warehouse.
- 2** **Pipeline Design for Data Transmission:** Designing pipelines to ensure a seamless inflow of data from various sources, including community health information systems, into the centralized warehouse.
- 3** **Development of Dashboards:** Creating user-friendly dashboards that offer robust visualization and analysis capabilities, empowering stakeholders to derive actionable insights from the data.

The collaborative efforts between METS and the MoH signify a significant step forward in modernising healthcare data management practices. This initiative promises to revolutionize data accessibility and utilization, fostering more informed decision-making and improving healthcare outcomes.



METS represented at the HIV Awareness Run organised by MoH on Dec 3, 2023



Dr. Prosper Behumbiize (HISP), Kenneth Musenge (CDC), Evelyn Akello (METS), Derek Musooka, Dr. Alice Namale (METS) at the 10 years celebrations for HISP



Naseef Mayanja provides technical assistance to Kisugu and Komamboga health centres staff under the Government to Government KCCA implementing mechanism in the use of UgandaEMR Mobile for both HIV testing and community services



Fatuma Nalubega taking the MoH government to government's KCCA Urban Strategy through the PEPFAR MER 2.7 Indicator Orientation



HIV recency Public Health response plan development held at Hotel Africana on December 5, 2023



Assessment team during the
PrEP Data Quality
Assessment at Kibalinga HCII
in Mubende District

Dr. Kadama Herbert presenting
the national TB/HIV
program overview during the
National dissemination of
the TB change package
workshop held in Jinja.



Dr. Wilford Kirungi, MoH-ACP
officiating at the
opening of the Case Based
Surveillance (CBS)
Stakeholders' meeting

METS WATCH

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