

Implementation experiences from improving OVC health outcomes in communities served by military health facilities in Uganda

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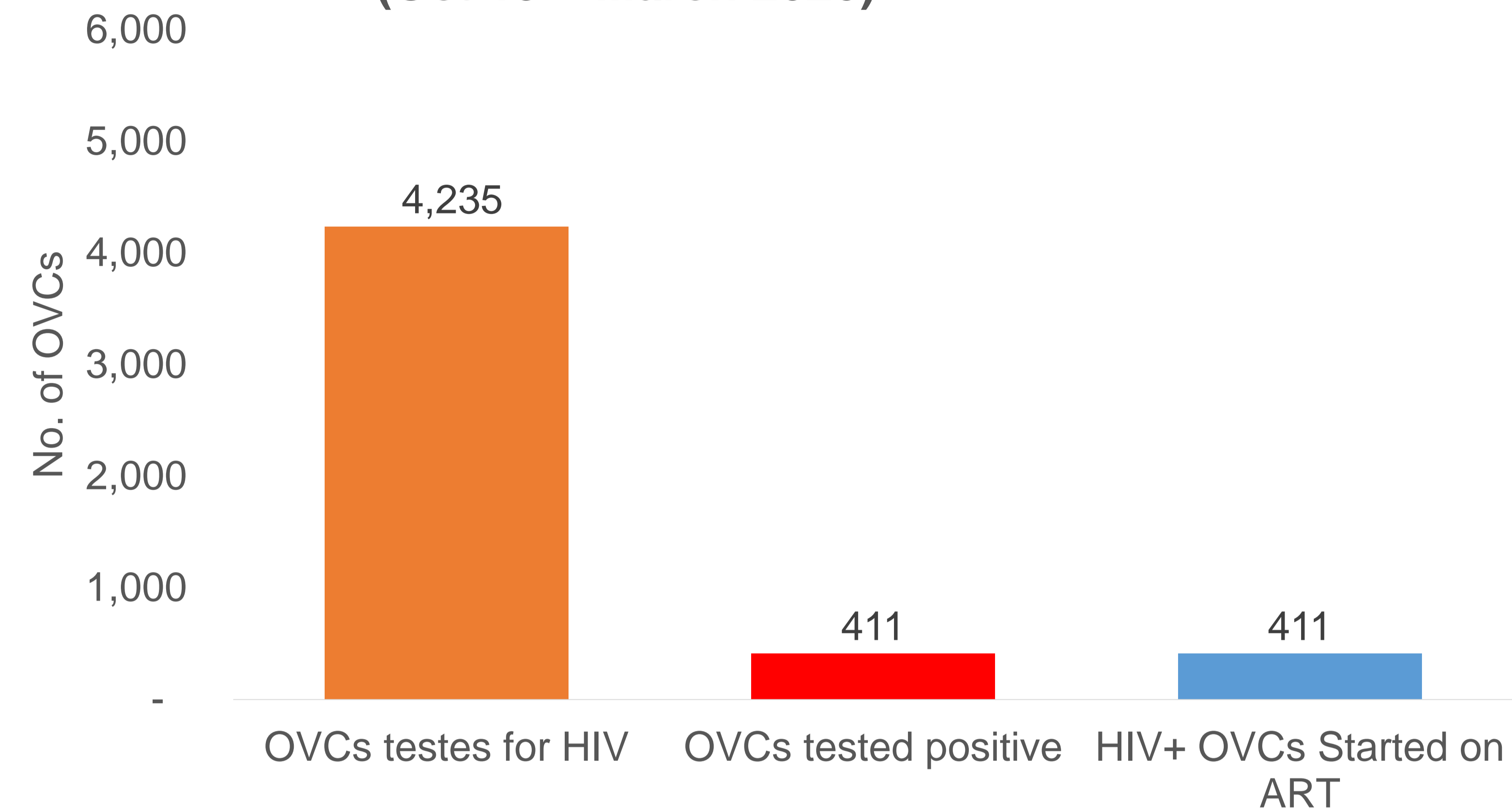
Background

- Uganda population is about 45.7million
- Approx. 1.8 million orphaned children below 18 years. 45.6% are due to HIV/AIDS
- 105,000 HIV positive children in Uganda
- OVC vulnerability in military settings is heightened by community exclusion, high risk exposure and high mobility.
- URC-Department of Défense HIV/AIDS Prevention Program supports a multi-pronged OVC program in 13 military bases, with an annual target of 4,336.

Description

- We conducted household vulnerability assessments for residents in 13 military bases.
- A total of 5,872 vulnerable children and caregivers were supported with a package of OVC interventions, including HIV testing, enrolment into care for identified OVC positives, home-visiting for non-suppressed HIV positive OVC, and child protection interventions.
- 1,423 caregivers were trained in positive parenting and financial management
- 22 Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLA) were established
- 672 adolescents were trained in menstrual hygiene, reproductive health and HIV prevention.
- We used program data to assess the resulting health outcomes.

OVC service package cascade
(Oct 19 – March 2020)



Conclusion

- OVC interventions are effective in improving some health outcomes of vulnerable children in military bases.
- Vulnerability assessment requires a military tailored tool.
- Additional interventions are required to address the low viral suppression among HIV positive OVC.

Lessons learnt

- 4,235 OVC 0 -17 years were served (2,133, Male; 2,102 Female) within 2 years of the intervention (2019 - 2020)
- There was a significant increase in key health indicators including HIV testing to 100%; and all identified HIV positive OVC were linked to ART from Oct 2019 – March 2020.
- Viral suppression rates increased from 68% Q1 – 2019 to 75% in Q2- 2020.
- The standard vulnerability assessment tool is not well suited for the military setting, given the high mobility of the soldiers and their families.



OVC learning how to use reusable sanitary pads



URC

