

HealthLink: Test Smarter – Link Faster

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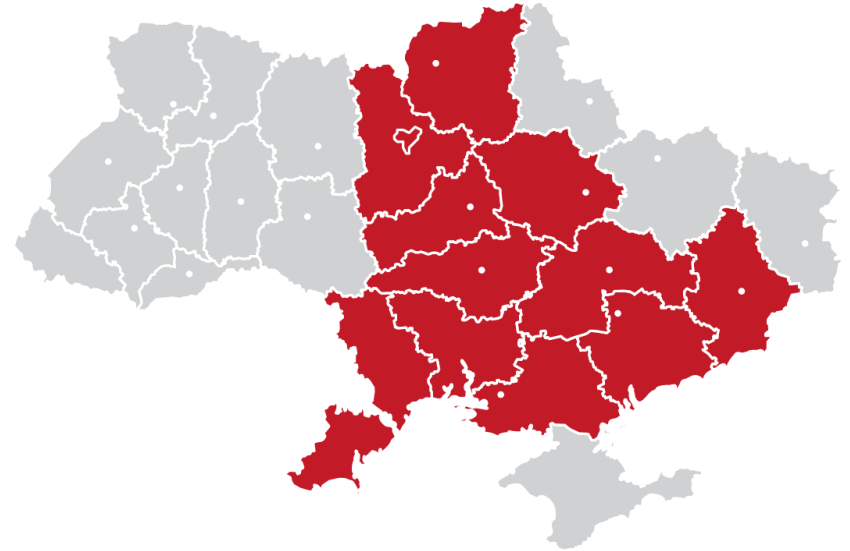




Introduction:

In 2017, the CO “100% LIFE” completed the implementation of the RESPECT Project. One of the key tasks of which was to pilot the Provider-initiated HIV testing and counseling (PITC) model in 4 regions of Ukraine (32 health care facilities (HCFs) **by Mach 2018**).

The successful implementation of the model led to the launch of the **USAID HealthLink Project** to scale up the implementation of PITC model in non-specialized HCFs in **12 regions of Ukraine**.





Description:

The HealthLink Project aims at scaling up best models of PITC and improving linkages between facility and community based care and treatment.

The main components of PITC model are:

- Development, approval and implementation of the algorithms of client involvement into HIV testing and treatment in each HCF.
- Trainings for health care providers on HIV, testing, stigma and discrimination issues and client referral to HIV treatment, care and support programs.
- Development and approval of the PLWH/KPs friendly policies by each HCF.
- Psycho-social support of PLWH with focus on decreasing of internalized stigma.



Lessons Learned:

During the 13 months of implementation (from 01.03.2018 until 01.04.2019), the Project shows following results:

Thanks to the active support of the city authorities, the largest numbers of medical institutions in the project are in two cities, which are part of the Fast Track Initiative, namely, Kyiv (38 HCFs) and Odessa (36 HCFs)



326 HCFs involved



103 656 people tested for HIV



out of them, **2817** are HIV+



out of them, **1668** started ART



3895 medical service providers trained



Key Results up to 30.06.2019:

HCFs in the project

354

People tested for HIV

193 876

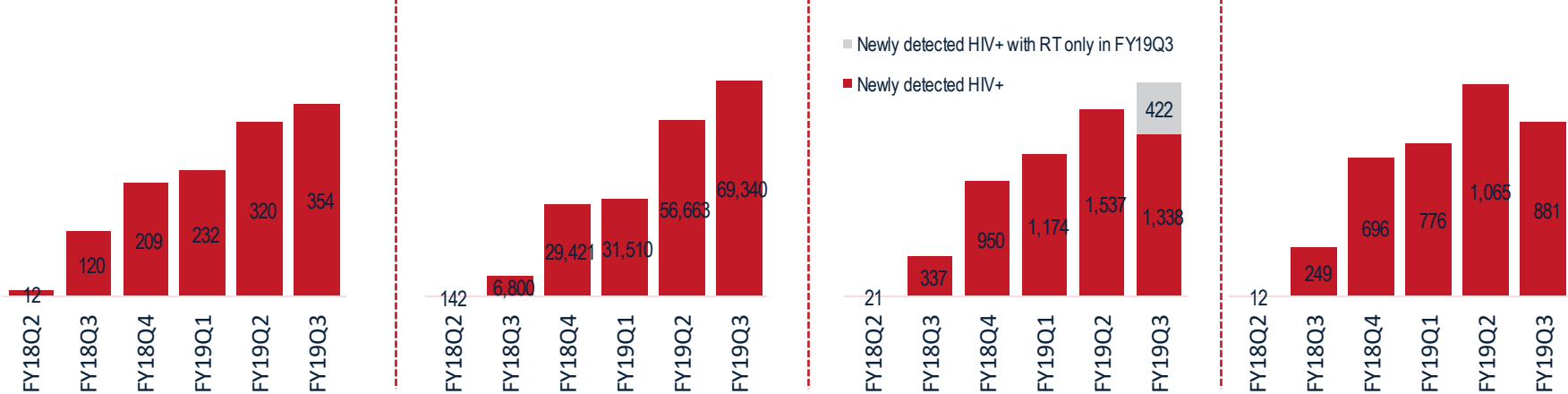
Newly detected HIV+

5 357

Started ART

3 679

(5 799 with RT only in FY19Q3)





Recommendations:

- Improving the cascade by developing individual algorithms for each HCF based on the “Test and Start” principle.
- Optimization of PITC model through the introduction of enhanced management of testing sites and patient behavioral screening.
- Advocating the implementation of the model in all health care facilities in Ukraine.

