

Timely Access & Utilization of Laboratory Test results: Using Laboratory Results Dispatch System (LabRDS) in Uganda

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Presentation outline

- **Background**
- **Problem statement and objectives**
- **Intervention**
- **Samples & results process flow**
- **Simple flow-LabRDS for VL/EID**
- **Geographical location of sites enrolled on LabRDS**
- **VL results access TAT**
- **VL results utilization**
- **Challenges**
- **Way forward**
- **Implication to the country**

Background

The platform was developed and piloted in 2018 as an electronic mother Infant pair (MIP) tracker

⇒ Piloted at 140 sites as an electronic Mother-Infant Pair Tracker (eMIP Tracker)

⇒ Enabled upload of EID data at site level by use of both phones and web based systems

⇒ MOH and IP staff could view facility level EID summary statistics

It enabled health workers to upload EID data by phone through phone-based short message service (SMS) integrated with an Unstructured Supplementary Service Data service (SMS/USSD)

Background

- **Despite a short rollout, it was quickly adopted by health workers due to its value, ease of use & accessibility thus achieved high implementation success.**
- **In 2020 a person- centered approach of returning Lab results via SMS was requested**
- **The second version of the platform was developed to support return of VL results (LabRDS)**
- **In 2022 ASLM supported the roll out of LabRDS across all the 16 health regions in Uganda**

Problem statement and Objectives

The main problems to be addressed:

- Delayed delivery of EID & Viral load results even after printing them at hubs.
- Delayed utilization of results by health workers and the recipients-of-care especially for critical results (positive, non-suppressed)

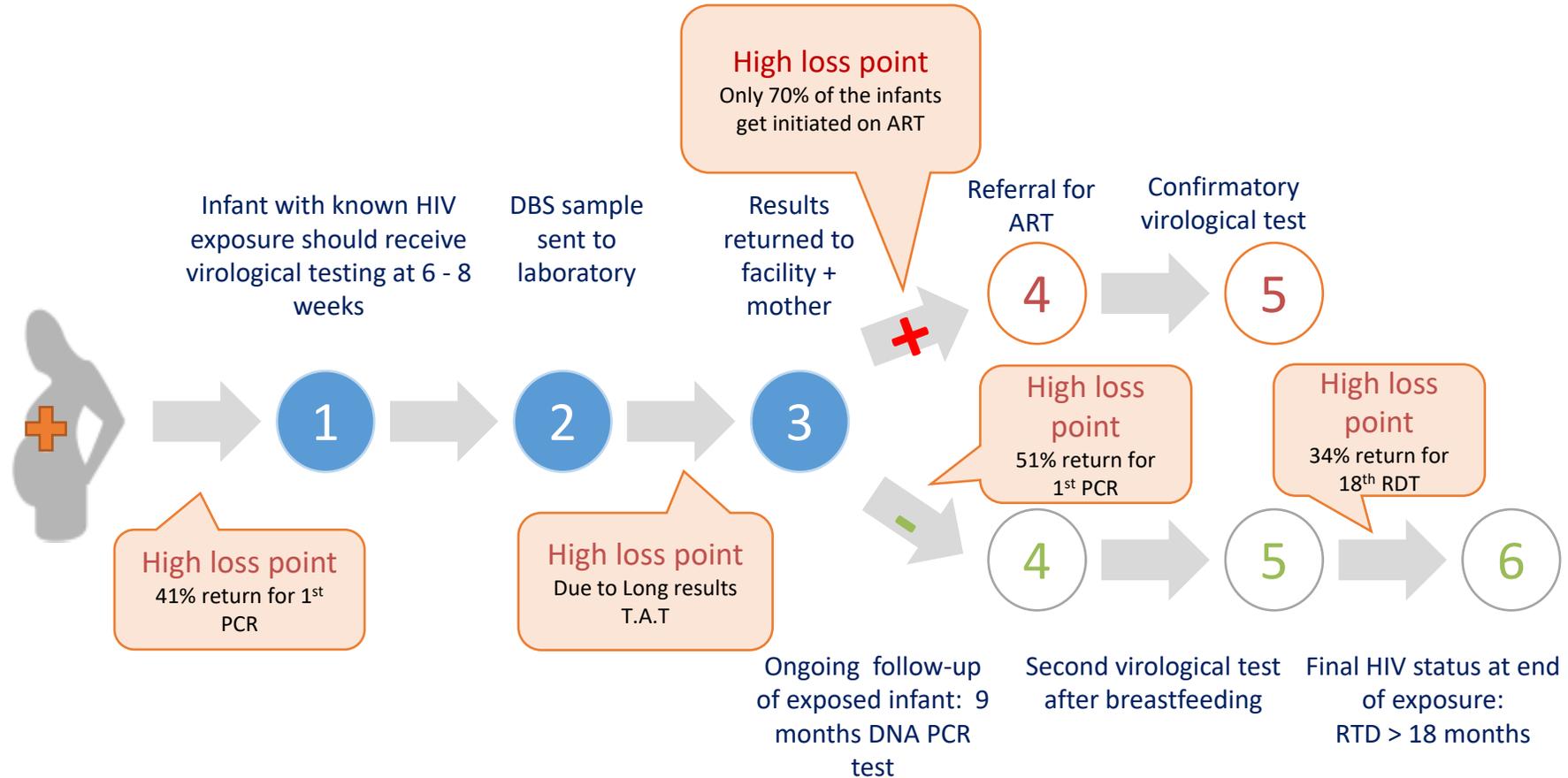
Primary objective:

- To improve health workers and recipients' of care's access to and utilization of laboratory results (EID, viral load, COVID etc.)

Specific objectives:

1. To provide an easy method of demand creation for both health-workers and patients for laboratory testing (EID, viral load, COVID etc.)
2. To enable individual health workers and recipients of care throughout Uganda access and utilize results including EID, VL and other laboratory results in real-time

Initial challenges with EID- Loss points across the cascade



Numerous potential loss points along the eMTCT cascade leading to low levels of testing, results pickup and initiation on treatment

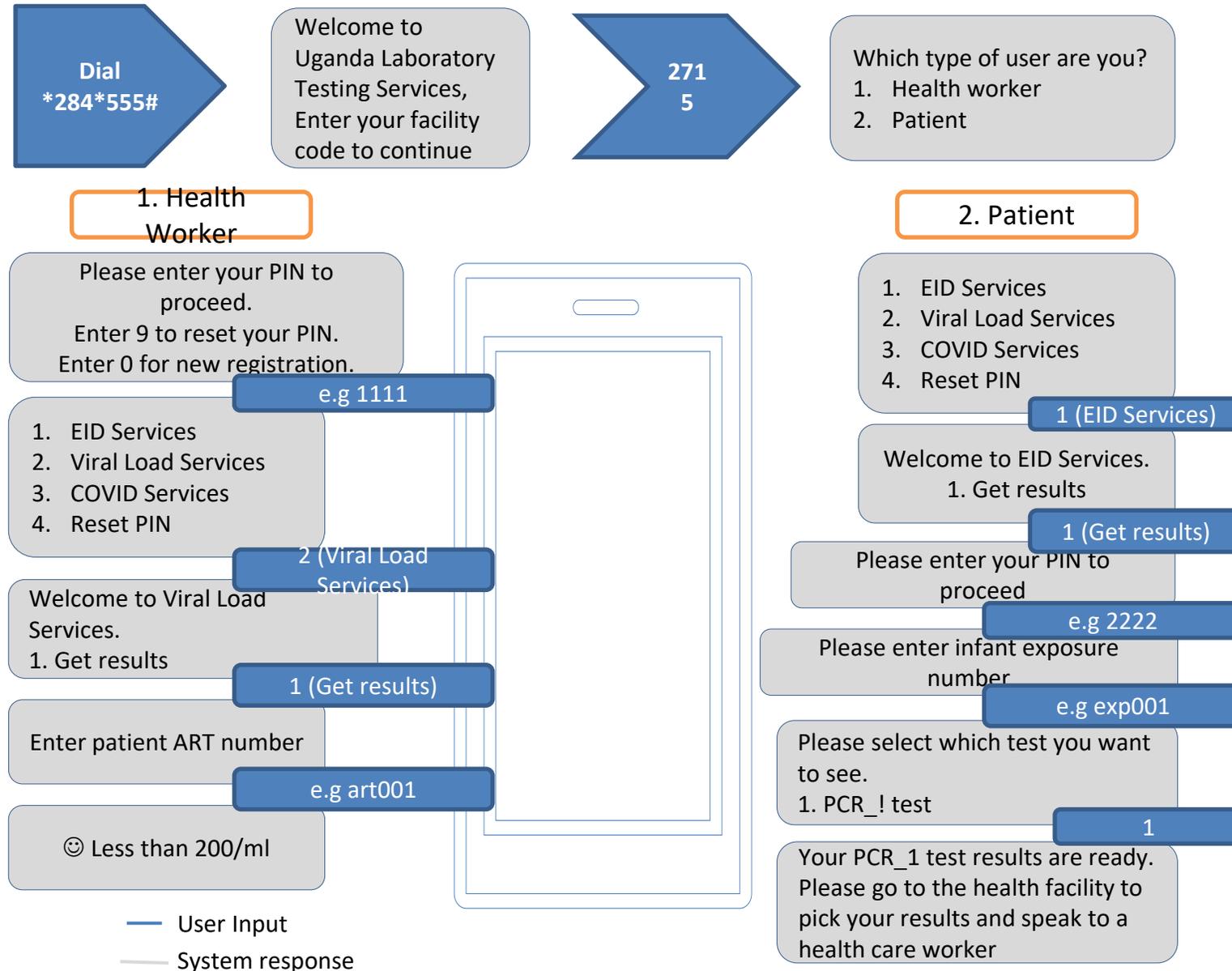
Intervention: The LabRDS USSD

Web-based system

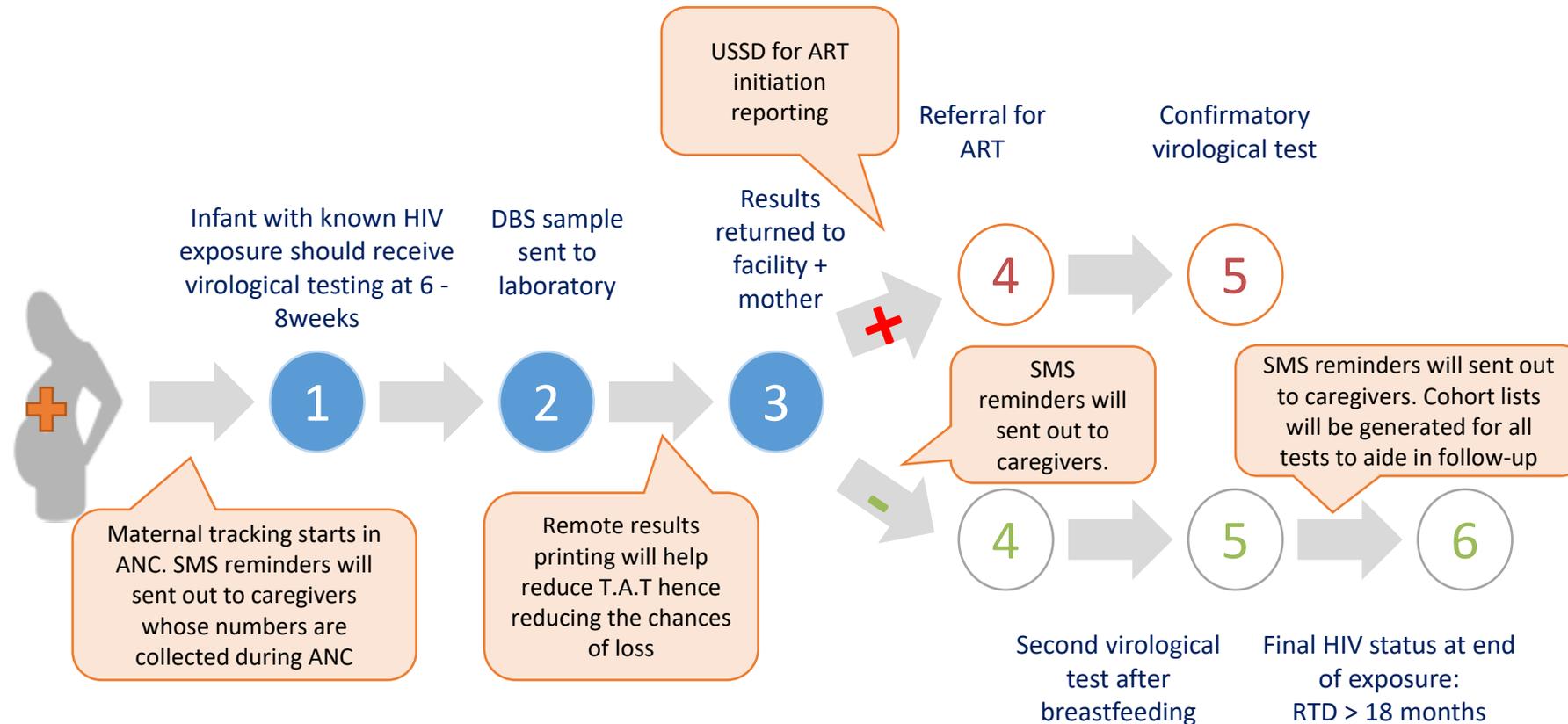
- Accessed on a computer with an active Internet connection
- Website: <https://emip.cph.uganda.org>
- Requires a unique facility username and password

USSD-based system

- Accessed from any cellular phone with a keypad
- Dial *284*555#
- The USSD system is free to use and will *not* require any airtime or service fee



How the platform address the gaps at various loss points across the cascade



These interventions are designed to increase retention of exposed infants along the EID cascade, timely testing and to encourage caretakers to return for infant test results, and hopefully link positive infants to care sooner.

Monthly cohort lists of HIV-Exposed Infants & VL Line list

Stats Maternal Tracking PCR 1 **PCR 2** PCR 3 RDT Positives

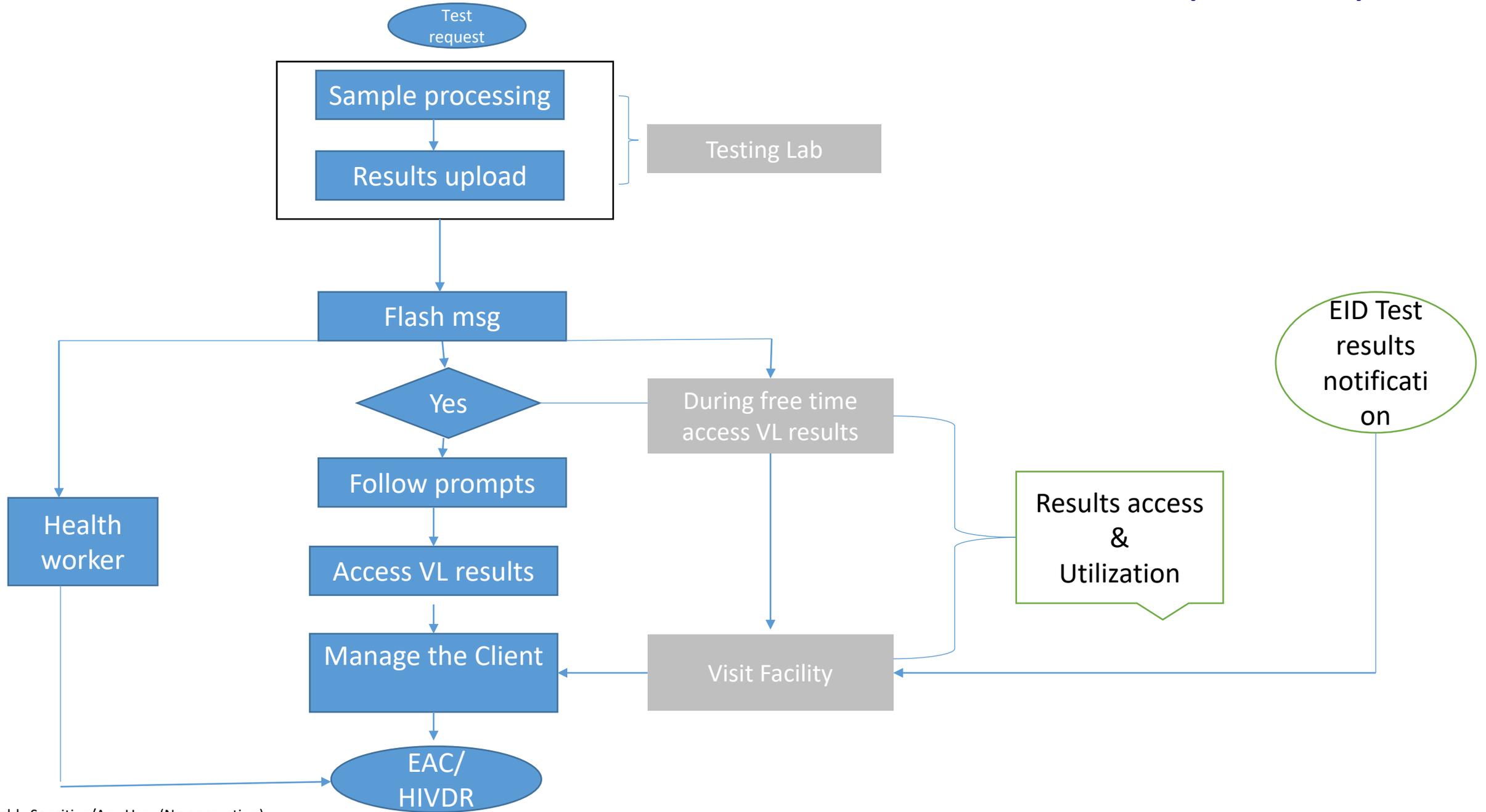
Due in 2019 May

Show 10 rows Search:

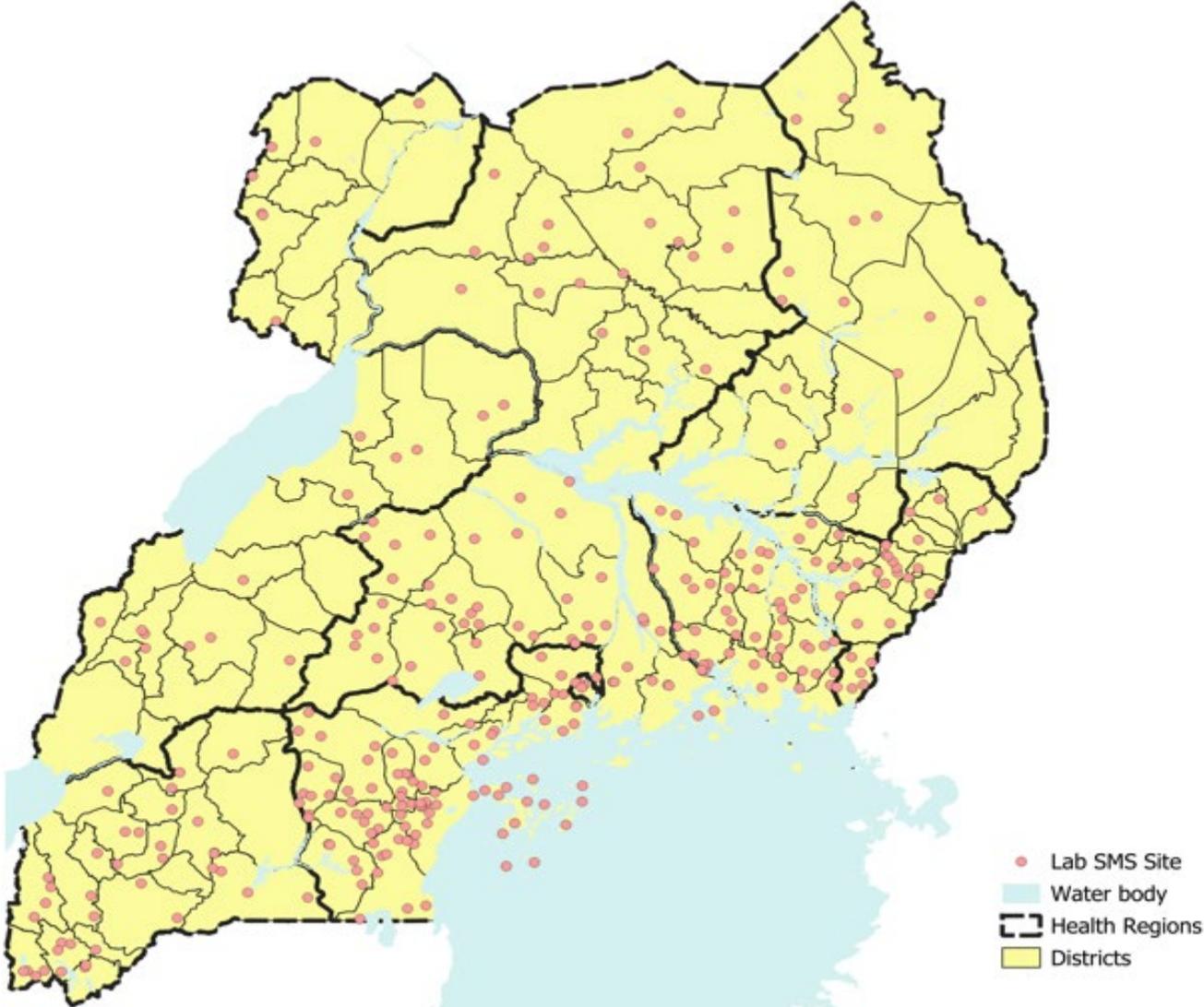
Facility	Infant Name	Exp Number	Contact	Dob	Sex	Sample Collected ?
2nd DIV Military Hospital(Makenke)	[REDACTED]	0003/2/18		2018-09-03	FEMALE	<input type="checkbox"/>
2nd DIV Military Hospital(Makenke)	[REDACTED]	0002		2018-08-31	FEMALE	<input type="checkbox"/>
2nd DIV Military Hospital(Makenke)	[REDACTED]	0004/8/18	+256 702 676 086	2018-08-17	FEMALE	<input type="checkbox"/>
309 Brigade Kavera H/C III	[REDACTED]	8/18/001		2018-08-16	FEMALE	<input type="checkbox"/>
309 Brigade Kavera H/C III	[REDACTED]	8/18/002		2018-08-16	MALE	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abako H/C III	[REDACTED]	08/18/001		2018-08-12	FEMALE	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abarilela H/C III	[REDACTED]	SEPT/2018/002		2018-08-19	MALE	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abarilela H/C III	[REDACTED]	SEPT/2018/001		2018-08-19	FEMALE	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abarilela H/C III	[REDACTED]	JULY /2018/005		2018-08-04	MALE	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aber Hospital	[REDACTED]	9/2018/001		2018-08-18	FEMALE	<input type="checkbox"/>

Designed to increase facility awareness of exposed infants due for testing, enabling follow ups and clients due for VL testing as required

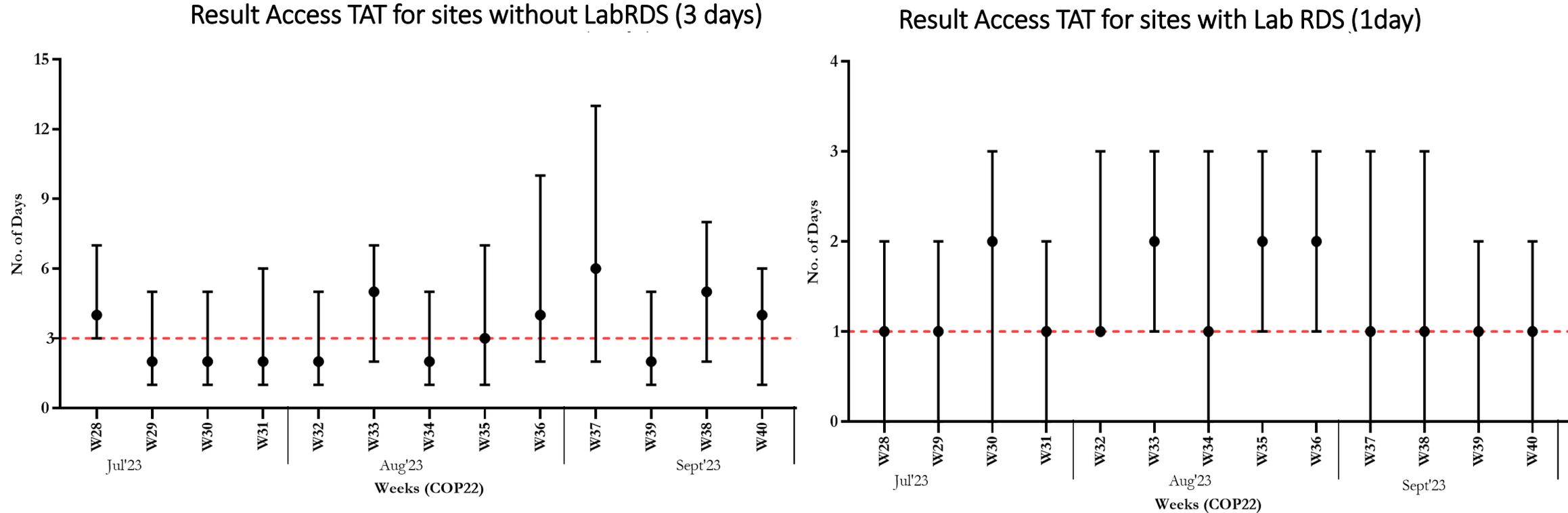
SIMPLE FLOW- LabRDS (VL/EID)



Geographical location of sites enrolled on the SMS platform (421)

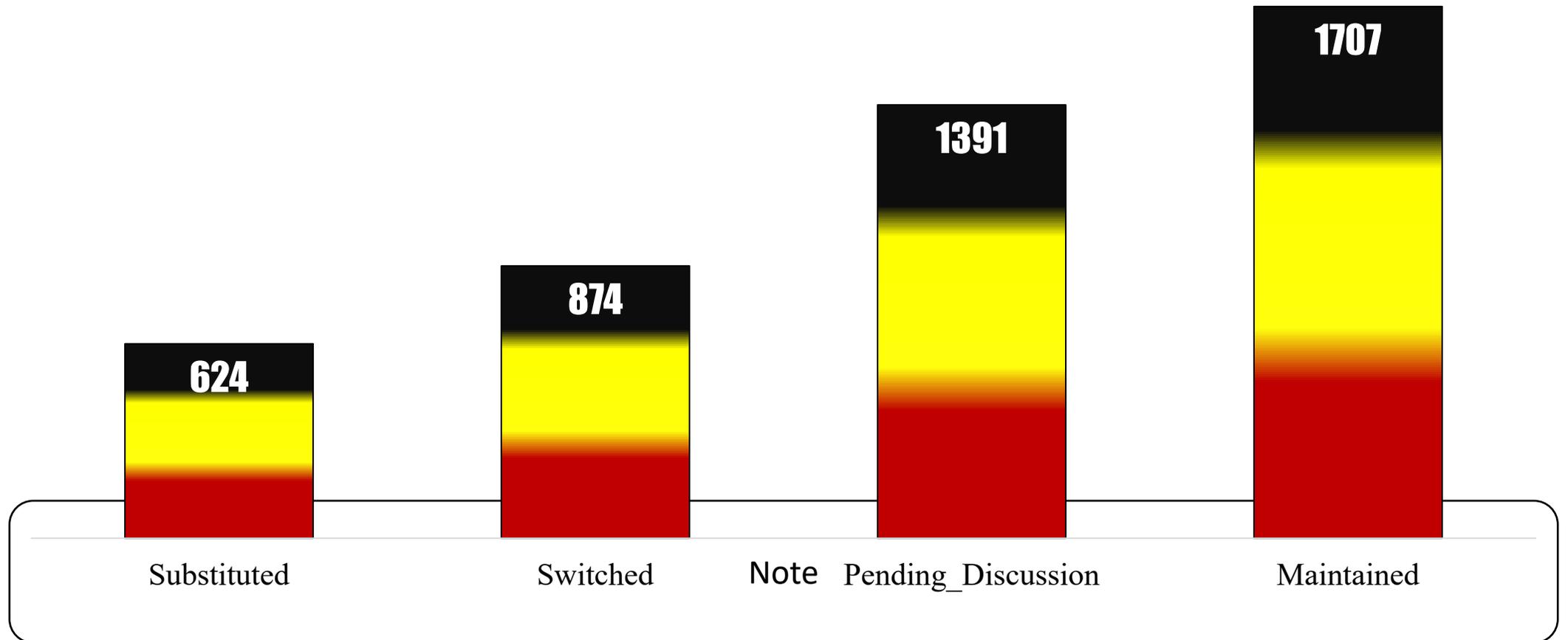


Results access TAT with LabRDS (July-Sep 2023)



A noticeable improvement in the access TAT for sites using LabRDS one day as opposed to the 3 days averagely for sites that are not enrolled yet on to the platform.

Results utilization (July-Sep 2023)



Challenges encountered

- **Lack of a dedicated programmer for LabRDS**
- **Changes in the Implementing partners**
- **Inadequate resources for site level support supervision**

Laboratory Results Dispatch System (LabRDS)

Implication for Uganda

- Reduced TAT for Lab results access
- Improved monitoring of Lab results utilization

Way forward

- **Need to set regional targets**
- **Need for improved facility-based enrollment**
- **Increased site level training/ mentorships**

Acknowledgement

- **African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM)**
- **Centers for Disease Control- (CDC-Uganda)**
- **NHLDS - Ministry of Health (MoH)**



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Thank You

