



HPTN
HIV Prevention
Trials Network

Community Engagement in a large Community Randomised Trial

The case of the HPTN 071 (PopART) Study

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On behalf of the HPTN 071 CWG

Presentation Outline

- HPTN 071 Trial Description
- Community Engagement Team Responsibilities
- Challenges of Home-based Testing
- Successes in Community Engagement
- Lessons Learnt

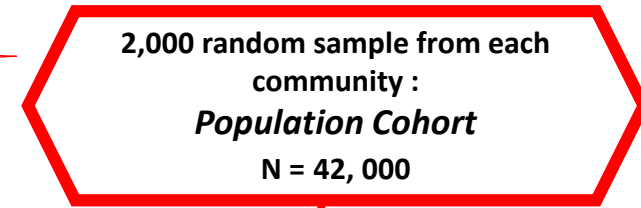
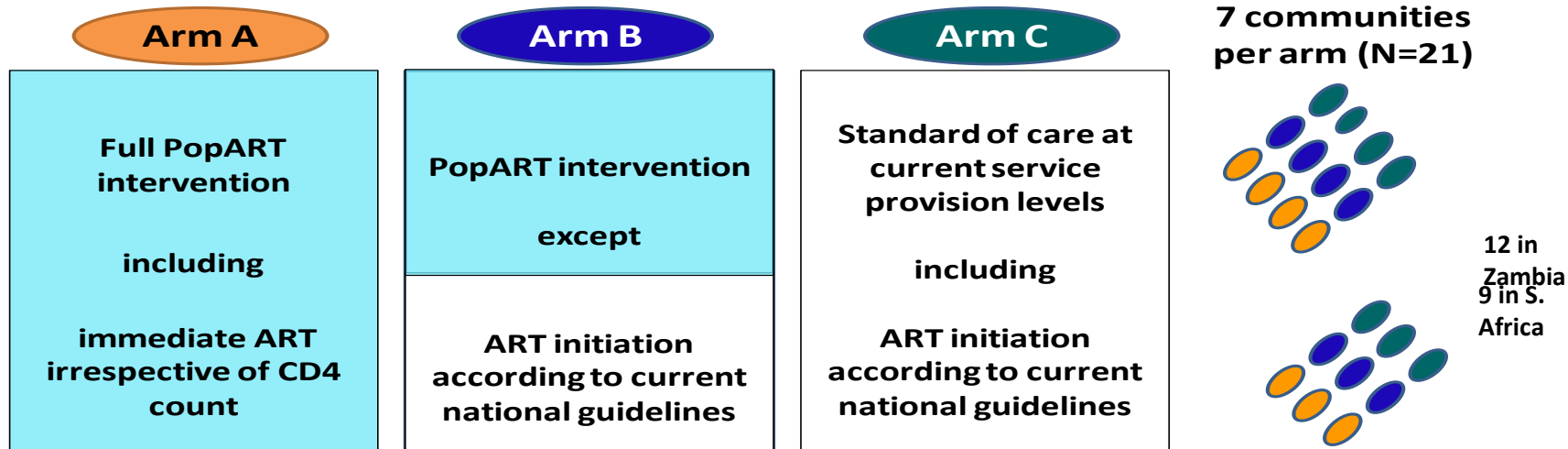
HPTN 071 (PopART)

- **Population effect of universal HIV testing and immediate ART to Reduce HIV Transmission**

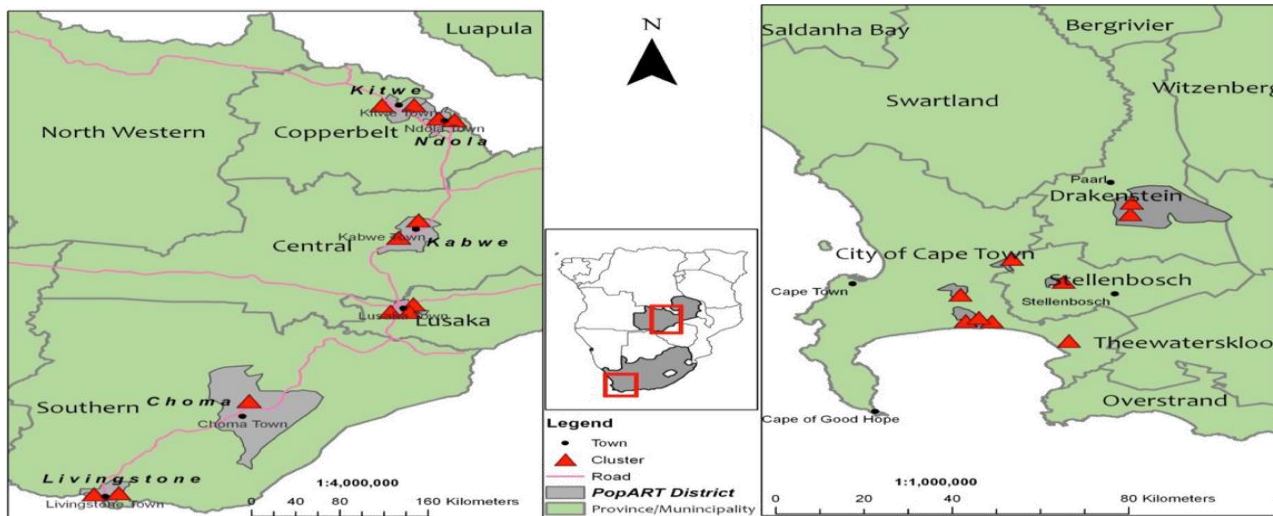
PopART Research Questions

- What is the impact of the PopART combination HIV prevention package (including Universal Test and Treat -- UTT) on HIV incidence at population level?
- Can the PopART package be delivered to scale and with high coverage and retention?
- What are the challenges in delivering the package and how can these be addressed?
- What are the adverse effects of the intervention and what is the balance of harms and benefits?
- What is the cost-effectiveness of the PopART intervention?

3 arm cluster-randomised trial with 21 communities



Primary outcome:
HIV incidence at 36 months



Zambia

South Africa

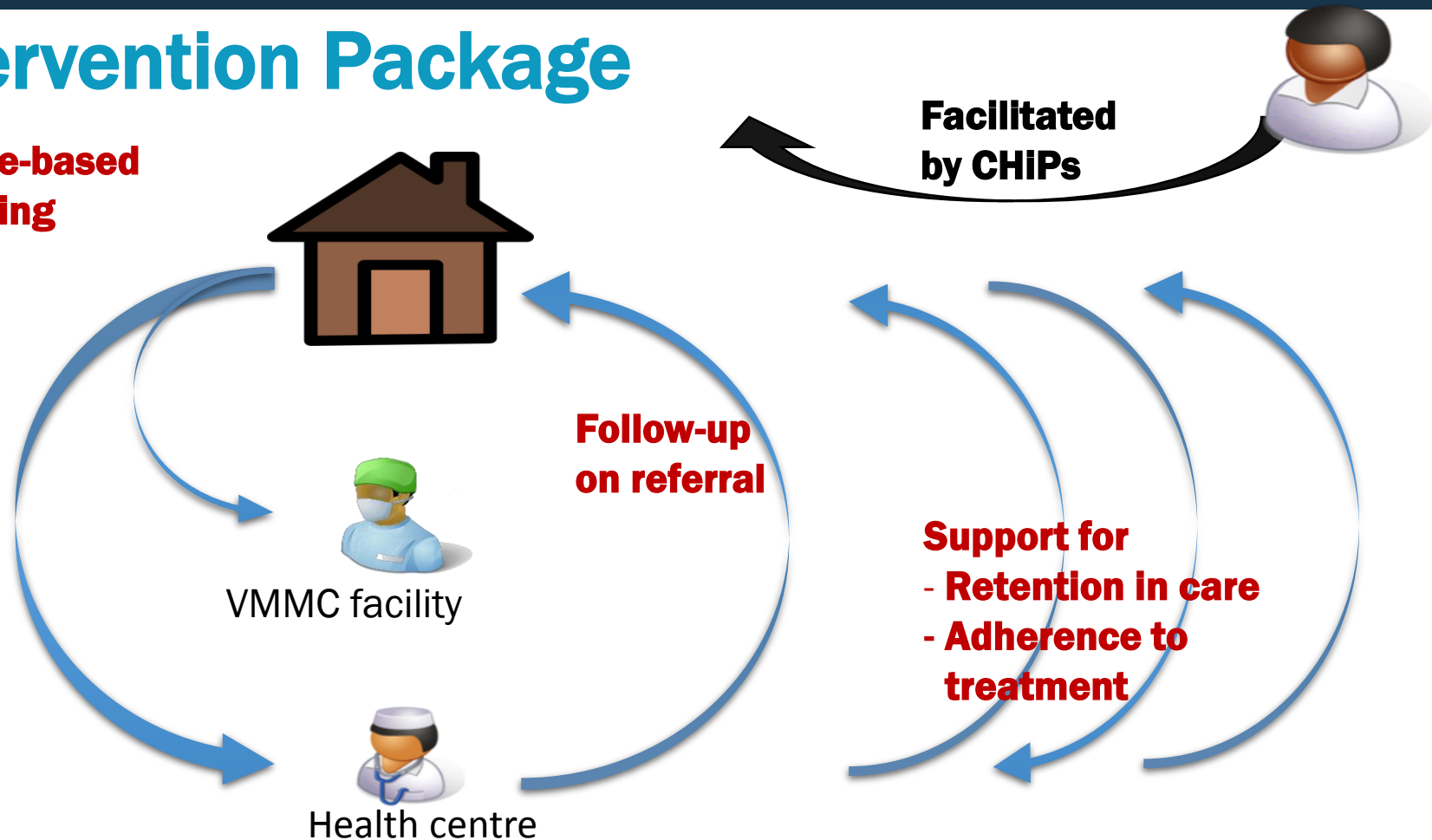
PopART Intervention Package

**Annual Rounds of Home-based
Voluntary HIV Testing**

Service promotion and referral for

- **VMMC**
- **PMTCT**
- **HIV treatment and care**
- **TB**
- **STI**

**Universal treatment for HIV+
irrespective of CD4 count**



CHIPs: Community HIV-care Providers
PMTCT: Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
VMMC: Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision
TB: Tuberculosis
STI: Sexually Transmitted Infections

PopART Intervention Package

- Annual rounds of home-based voluntary HIV testing by Community HIV-care Providers (CHiPs)
- Health promotion, active referral and/or retention in care support by CHiPs for the following
 - Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) for HIV negative men
 - Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMCT) for HIV positive women
 - HIV treatment and care for all HIV positive individuals
 - Promotion of sexual health and TB services
 - Condom provision
- ART irrespective of CD4-count or immune-status provided at the local health centre in Arm A

Intervention Teams

Zambia



South Africa



Population Cohort (PC) Team

- Census conducted to determine number of households in each community
- Households selected randomly
- Individuals enrolled into cohort, randomly selected by electronic data capture device
- Individuals in cohort followed for 36 months (collect blood sample at every visit)
- Individuals answer a series of questions at every visit (*12 sections: quality of life, overall health, members of household, etc.*)
- The PC will help measure the impact of the home-based testing (CHiPs)

PC Teams

Zambia



South Africa



Community Engagement (CE) Experiences in PopART Study

- Intrinsic goal of CE: building respect and trust of the communities we work with
- Instrumental goal of CE: helping to improve the quality of research; maintain community interest

Intrinsic Community Engagement

- Community members were invited to contribute to the protocol
 - Zambia: working with established CABs from previous study
 - Zambia: National consultative meeting with various stakeholders
 - South Africa: working with government departments and City of Cape Town
- Dialoguing with Civil Society
 - “Nothing for us without us”
 - There were strong and well established civil society organizations (CSOs) in SA from the onset
 - Zambia created an umbrella association to coordinate CSO effort

Intrinsic Community Engagement

- Social Science/Qualitative research to obtain baseline information
 - Enabled CE to identify possible intervention/engagement areas
 - Messaging areas were also identified (prevention and treatment concepts)
 - Major stakeholders for possible representation on the CABs were identified

Instrumental Community Engagement

- Informed consent: working with entire communities requires that entire geographical communities are reached with same information; also specific communities are targeted with specific information
- Ensuring communities accept different study teams/ components (PC, Intervention, Case Control, Adolescents, Phylogenetics). Communities were often confused leading to misconceptions
- Mobilising and creating awareness for specific causes
 - Entry into a new section of the community
 - Creating general awareness responding to community concerns
 - Helping in locating participants who have moved

Instrumental Community Engagement

- **Messaging**
 - Keeping ahead with changes in the study and informing communities
 - Keeping ahead in government guidelines and informing communities
 - Developing IEC material that support CE efforts and inform communities
- **Improving recruitment of difficulty to reach groups**
 - Mobile communities ('fishers of men programme in Zambia)
 - Engaging men (Man Up Campaign in Zambia and Jamboree in South Africa)
- **Motivating control communities**
 - Keeping CAB members motivated and stakeholders informed

Instrumental Community Engagement

- Effective CE strategies
 - Community meetings
 - Work place activities
 - Following men where they are found
 - Stakeholder meetings

Instrumental Community Engagement

- Expanded role of the CAB
 - CABs involved in resolution of incidents (social harms)
 - CABs providing protection to study staff
 - CABs suggesting strategies to improve uptake of study intervention and research
 - HCT
 - VMMC

Challenges of Home-based Testing

- Study staff safety
- Relocations
 - People moved to newly built houses
- Mobile populations
 - Seasonal farm workers
 - Truck drivers
- Cultural Barriers especially in MMC
 - Xhosa culture against VMMC

Challenges of Home-based Testing

- Middle class attitude in Home Based Testing
- Myths around blood collection
 - Luminathi
 - Witchcraft

Successes in Community Engagement

- Engaging CABs helps to get their support in communities in issues related to the safety of our teams in the community
- Good relationships with other NGOs, advocacy groups (TAC) and the community at large
- Campaigns
 - Man up (Zambia)
 - Jamborees (SA)
 - Mass mobilisation (SA)

Successes in Community Engagement

- Capacity-building opportunities
 - *How to Review a Protocol and Provide Feedback* training by FHI 360
 - Basic HIV Knowledge
 - Minute Writing

Lessons Learnt

- Safety should be a combined effort between community members and the researchers for the safety of the employees
- Making sure that all official operational systems are there before the study begins (Health Committees in SA) as they are a very important link between the researchers and the community
- CE coupled with all kinds of consultations to all stakeholders and the community at large can reduce myths about research
- Cultural sensitivity is very important when doing CE

Thank You