

**Abstract Preview - Step 3/4**

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Abstract category: E48 Strategies to Increase Uptake of retention in HIV Services

**Title:** **Mobile And Tele-health: Scalable Platforms For Supporting Efforts Towards Meeting The 90-90-90 Targets In Uganda.****Authors:** J.M. Bwanika<sup>1</sup>, D. Musinguzi<sup>1</sup>, W. Lubega<sup>1</sup>, L.H. Kamulegeya<sup>1</sup>, J. Ssebwana<sup>1</sup>, W. Abigaba<sup>1</sup>, K. Horvath<sup>2</sup>**Institution(s):** <sup>1</sup>The Medical Concierge Group Limited, Kampala, Uganda, <sup>2</sup>University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, United States**Background:** Uganda has made tremendous strides towards achieving the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets. In order to beat the 2020 recommended target date; health ministries and HIV public health programs need to employ innovative ways of sustainably accelerating and scaling their activities.

We set out to explore the feasibility and role of mobile health (mHealth) and telehealth centre in improving HIV testing as well as treatment adherence and retention for eventual viral load suppression.

**Description:** Between January 2016 and July 2017, men and women from the Uganda Police, Private security guards, Uganda wildlife authority and Hotel owners' association consented to receive mobile health services through messaging and a 24/7 telehealth platform. This was under the USAID/Uganda HIV/AIDS and Health Initiatives in Workplaces Activity (HIWA) Project.

Through an open source SMS platform, voice calls and WhatsApp, beneficiaries were engaged with HIV prevention and testing information and how to access HIV services close to their locality. They also received individualized periodic reminders for treatment compliance and adherence as well as

**Text:** reminders for viral load testing. On-ground follow up based on the mHealth data was done by community linkage facilitators and health centre staff.**Lessons learned:**

Males contributed 73.4% of the users compared to 26.6% females overall; with a median age of 27 years (Interquartile range (IQR) 23, 33). 19,152 people received HIV prevention and behavioral change messages. 4.3% of those urged through the platforms to test for HIV were HIV positive. 143 newly diagnosed HIV patients were successfully linked into care. 121 mothers joined the EMTCT mHealth campaign to be supported to adhere to treatment and complete diagnostic testing for their exposed babies. 1241 HIV+ adults (M=532,42.8%; F=709,57.2%) signed up for the mHealth engagement on reminders for treatment adherence and clinic visits. All engaged HIV positive beneficiaries met their schedules for viral load repeat testing in the last 12 months.

**Conclusions/Next steps:** Mobile health services through a 24/7 telehealth centre are a feasible way to increase uptake of HIV testing services, improve retention in care as well as adherence and compliance to treatment guidelines. They should be considered as a way to scale up 90-90-90 efforts

Country of research: Uganda

Key Population: People living with HIV, Men, Women

Related to children: No

Ethical research declaration: Yes

TB 2018: No

STI 2018: No

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