



ROM 2021

ANNUAL REPORT





Hope for the future

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Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AAP	Alcohol Anonymous Program
ART	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
COVID	19-Corona Virus Disease
E-MTCT	Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission
HTS	HIV Testing and Counselling Services
HIV	Human Immune Deficiency
KP	Key Populations
MARPs	Most at Risk Populations
NCDs	Non-Communicable Diseases
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PWUID	People who use and Inject Drugs
PLWHA	People Living with HIV and AIDS
PEP	Post-Exposure Prophylaxis
PrEP	Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
PP	Priority Populations
UNAIDS	United Nations Program on HIV/ AIDS

ROM's Objectives

All ROM programming is focused on the achievement of Strategic Objectives in the four thematic areas.

- i) To scale up and improve the quality of services to PLWHA in order to prolong their quality of life by addressing and mitigating the health effects of HIV and AIDS (Treatment and Care.)
- ii) To reduce the spread of HIV, and the occurrence of new infections of HIV BY 30% in the catchment area by 2022.
- iii) To provide social and economic support to PLWHA and other needy persons affected by HIV and AIDS.
- iv) Strengthening Management and Support Systems
- v) To improve the sustainability of ROM.

Message from the Chairman



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2021, has been a remarkable year in which Reach Out Mbuya Community Health Initiative has continued to experience growth, change, research, technology, and many other factors challenging us on a daily basis to adjust our lifestyle, confront new opportunities, and meet greater demands.

As the chairman Board of Directors, I am grateful to be surrounded by a wonderful board of directors, a strong leadership team and the highly dedicated and motivated staff that have shared the vision for relevance and growth in this ever-changing world. With this support, am certain that ROM will continue to thrive to greater heights, despite these challenging times.

The biblical text that inspires us is: **Mathew 11:29-30** *“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light”.*

In all our struggles and troubles, we ought to know that we are not alone. Carrying this yoke requires self-denial, but it is easy and a burden of lifestyle. He calls it “light” because we share it with Him. Life becomes hard and heavy because many times we want to carry the crosses of life without Jesus. Jesus Himself, on His way to Calvary, accepted the help of Simon of Cyrene. After accepting Jesus to carry the heavier part of our yokes, we can also help others to carry theirs. Let us yoke ourselves to Jesus. The Covid-19 pandemic has proved itself to be a burden for the whole of humanity. Let us all heed to the invitation of Christ and search for a solution from Him.

May the solidarity and communion lived in this time of crisis continue to characterize our readiness to carry one another’s burden! Let us not allow anybody’s life become a burden! With Jesus, our yoke becomes light.

Rev. Fr. Anthony Kimbowa Kibira Mccj
Chairman, Board of Directors





Executive Director's Remarks

I warmly welcome you all to this
2021 Annual Report.

*Yes, a special year it was, as we celebrated
20 years of service to the extremely needy
communities.*

I commend the wider ROM family that has built this organization over the 20-year period. The Board of Directors, Management, the Donors and Partners across the implementation levels for directing, managing and supporting the holistic programming nature of ROM. With the founding steadfast spirit of caring for the underprivileged, you have built a strong organization and offered hope to the initially hopeless souls. We are happy to celebrate with many of ROM's first clients who 20 years ago never imagined surviving beyond one year. Happy 20th anniversary!

Still on track with our holistic approach, we realize positive changes in the lives of people living with HIV and AIDS and their families as we observe new challenges that need urgent attention.

2021 gave us a greater appreciation of the hard decisions we took in 2020 to integrate non-communicable diseases in HIV management, as we strive to improve the quality of life for people living with HIV. More hypertensive and diabetic cases among ROM clients were identified as ART clinic regular reviews were being done. We managed to screen and treat all existing clients for hypertension and diabetes and continue to screen for cervical cancer and link to proper management.

We are equally grateful to be part of the USAID Integrated Child and Youth Development Activity managing OVC programming in Kampala District. Given our mandate and experience in managing extremely vulnerable urban communities, we look forward to realizing this new intervention objectives as the implementing partner.

With such great strides amidst the Corona Virus Pandemic, we are keeping the faith that ROM is on the right track to realize more successes plus offering more hope for the future.

Josephine Kaleebi,

Executive Director





Vision

A community free of the spread of HIV where those persons already infected and affected by HIV and AIDS are living positively with an improved quality of life.



Mission

We aim to curb the further spread of HIV infection among less-privileged members of society and enable those already living with HIV and AIDS to live a responsible and dignified life.



Core Values

- Teamwork
- Client Focus
- Professionalism and Integrity
- Innovation
- Respect for human life



Hope for the future

Introduction

Reach Out Mbuya is a Faith-based Non-Government Organization started in 2001 to curb the further spread of HIV/AIDS in slum areas of Nakawa Division, and later expanded to other areas. Having served more than 15,000 less privileged persons living and affected by HIV/AIDS, ROM, still walking in her prestigious Holistic Approach has scaled up the level of intervention to integrate Non-Communicable Diseases in HIV Management.

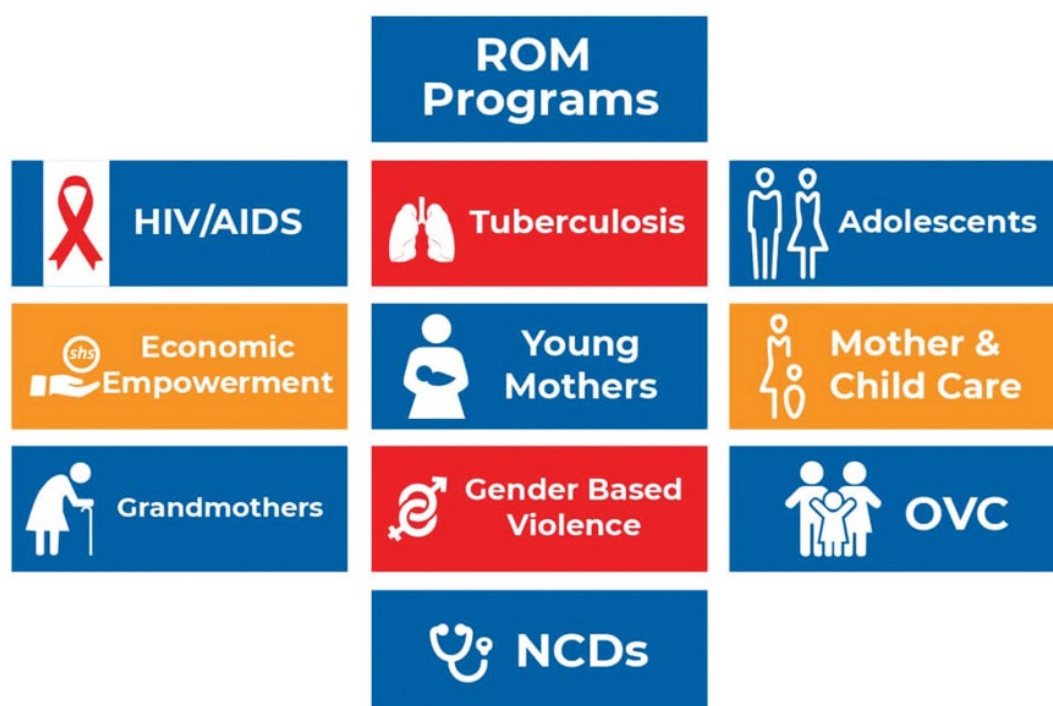
Given the changing face of HIV, ART patients presenting with Non-Communicable Diseases in the course of treatment led the organization to provide clients with hypertension and diabetes treatment as part of their management.

In this 2021 Annual Report, as we continue celebrating our 20th Anniversary, we are sharing our best practices in restoring hope, plus the quality of life for people living with and affected by HIV.

ROM's Holistic Model of Change

With our Holistic approach to program implementation, ROM promotes learning and transformation of the body, mind, family and community of her clients. While it all starts with provision of medical care to People Living with HIV (PLHIV), ROM fully addresses the needs of these people through empowering them in all aspects of life. Through this, ROM has experienced genuine transformation, increased efficiency and clients' resilience amidst all life and environmental challenges.

We applaud our community-based and peer to peer initiatives, for many lives have changed for the best.





*The Ambassador (6th from left) with the ROM Board Members,
Executive Director and other guests at the event*

We are proud to have hosted the U.S Ambassador to Uganda as the Guest of Honor at this notable event.

“I am pleased to learn that the first PEPFAR client in the world, John Robert Engole, is a ROM client and he is right here with us today! ROM and Mr. Engole’s story are an important part of the very successful legacy of PEPFAR and of partnership in addressing the global pandemic of HIV. Stories of beneficiaries like Mr. Engole demonstrate resilience, impact, and sustainability, the core principles of PEPFAR that the U.S. government support aims to foster.” She said.



The US Ambassador to Uganda HE Natalie E. Brown with John Robert Engole, the first PEPFAR patient.



ROM Objectives

Key Milestones

Scale up and improve the quality of services to PLWHA in order to prolong their quality of life by addressing and mitigating the health effects of HIV/AIDS.



Care and Treatment outcomes of the year;

HIV Testing and Counselling

To achieve best results, approaches such as Health Testing Services for walk-in clients, Community HTS, Index Testing for children and partners of HIV positive were employed.

Known for their low health seeking behavior compared to women as indicated in the August 2019 Public Health Uganda abstract, community testing for men was mainly done at the social gathering places, such as betting sites and bars where they attend televised football matches.

Through the Community Outreach program for men, **2,175** people were tested for HIV.

52% (1,131) of these were men while **47% (913.5)** were females.

Out of the **2175,157(7.2%)** people tested positive (**44% males and 56% females**) all linked to care.

Activities in this program were however interrupted by another lockdown.

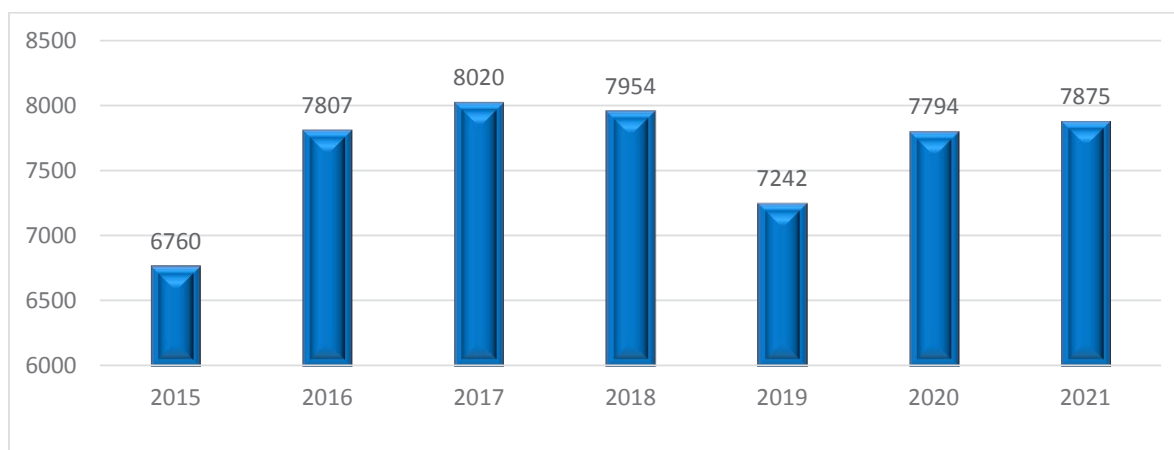
7203 people counseled and tested for HIV.

Of these, **525** tested HIV positive and **506** of them linked to Reach-Out clinic sites for care and treatment.

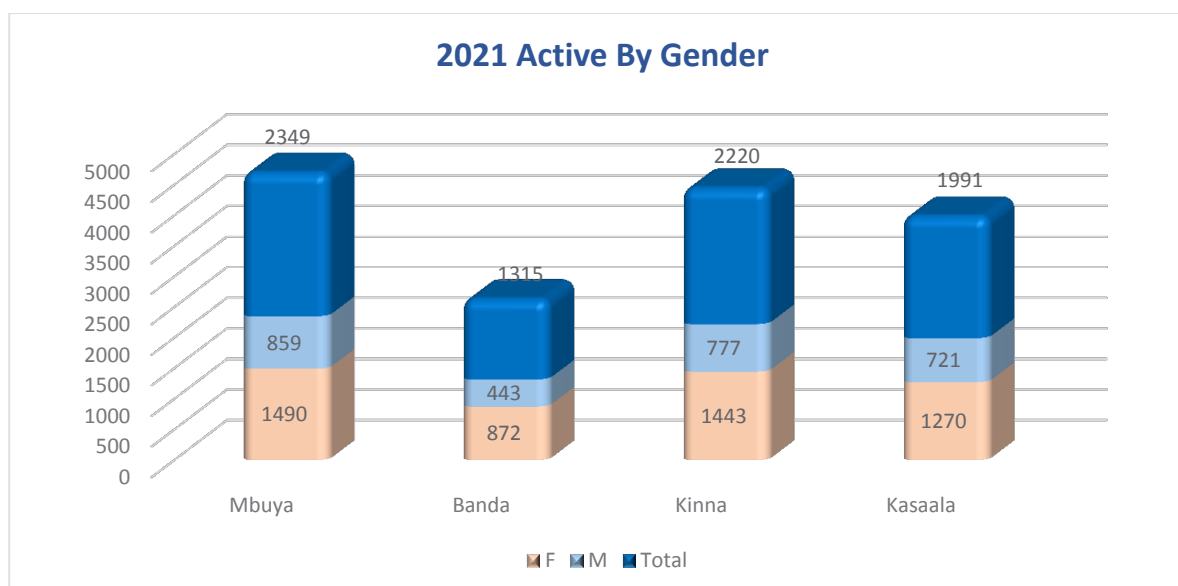
HIV Treatment

Adherence is an important aspect of HIV care and treatment and at ROM, clients are continuously monitored at the facilities and in their communities by the Community ART and TB treatment Supporters (CATTS), who continuously link, support and retain them into care.

Active in ROM Care Trend



2021 Active By Gender



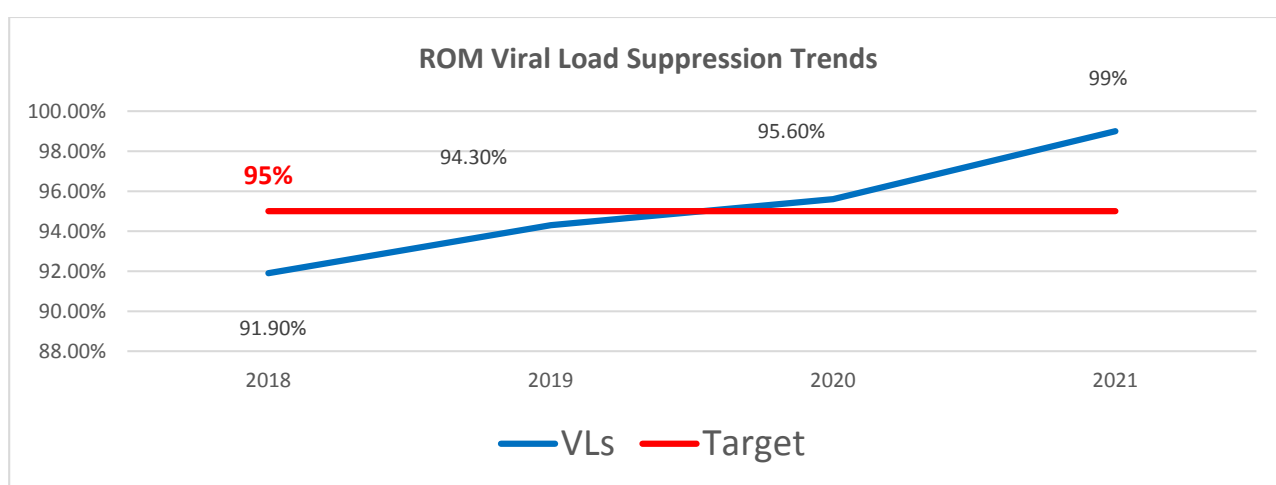
36% Male 6.4% 0-19 years

Reduce the spread of HIV and the occurrence of new infections of HIV by 30% in the catchment area

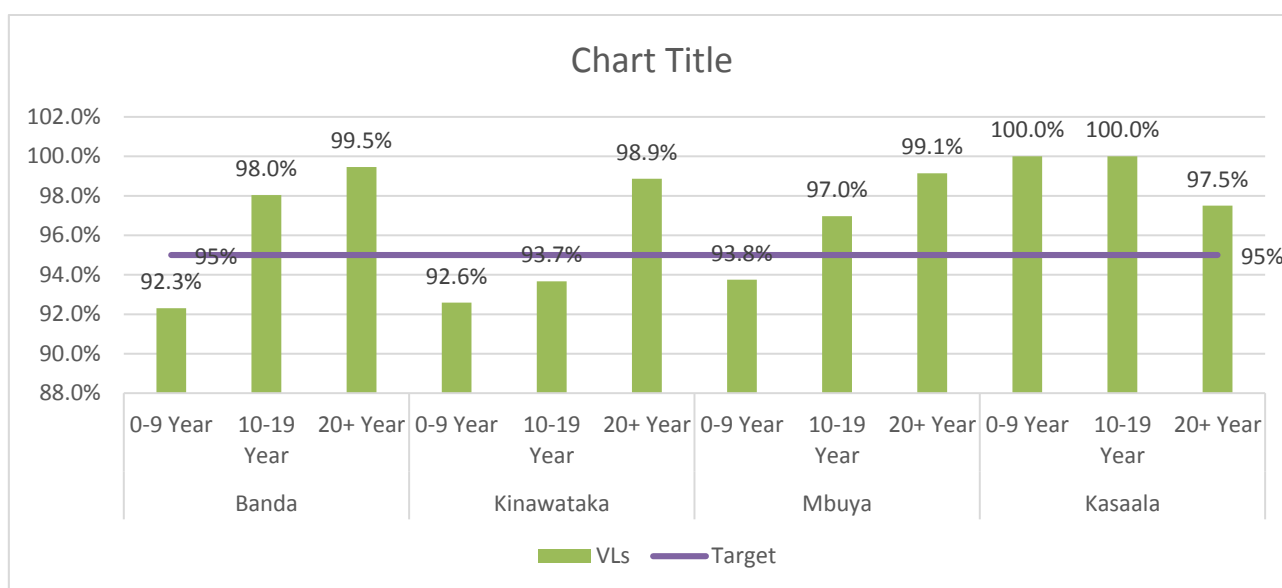
Viral Load Suppression

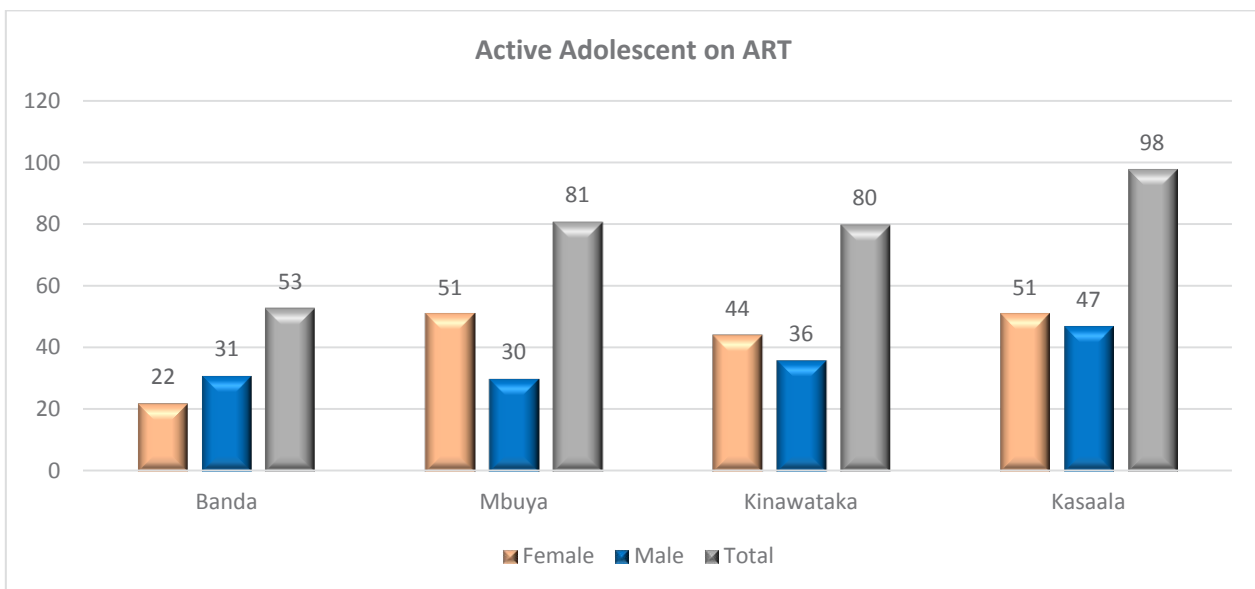
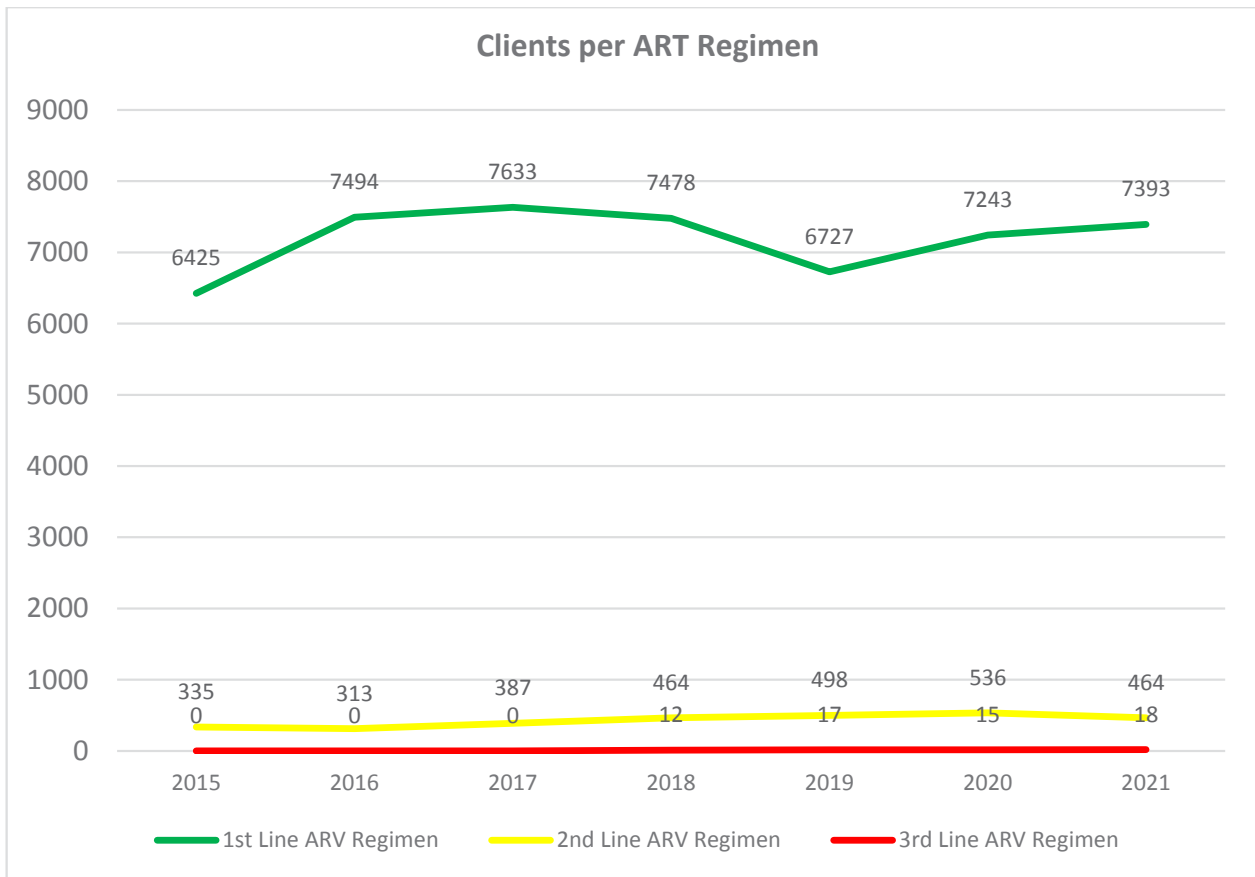
Commonly referred to as **U=U** (Undetectable viral load is Untransmittable), this condition is where the amount of HIV in the blood cannot be seen, thereby keeping the immune system working to prevent illnesses.

In HIV treatment and care, an HIV positive person with a suppressed viral load does not transmit the virus to their HIV negative partner. In 2021, ROM achieved **100%** suppressed viral load among children at Mbuya and **99%** among those at Banda and Kinawataka clinics.



Children, Adolescents VS Adults Viral Load Trends for 2021






Discordancy

Wonder facts about Discordant Couples

252 discordant couples are managed across the three ROM sites in Kampala. Annually, modular trainings for the newly identified discordant couples in the program are held. However, in 2021, training was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic Standard Operating Procedures and financial constraints much as a number of couples were supported on private arrangement. Despite the challenges, **81** couples were tested and counselled by the end of the year, **13 (16%)** of which were HIV discordant. Information on HIV discordance, PrEP and PEP management plus advice on observing risk reduction measures and good communication between them was given. HIV negative partners were encouraged to support their HIV positive counterparts to adhere to treatment.

Meet Cosmas; for 9 years, he has been in a discordant relationship.

When we met, my partner never believed my HIV positive status.

A portrait of Cosmas Itide, a middle-aged Black man with a shaved head, wearing a blue button-down shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression.

*"My name is **Cosmas Itide**. I have lived with my wife for nine years. When we first met, I immediately disclosed to her that I was HIV positive, but she never believed me. Because we truly loved each other, I asked her to go with me to Reach Out Mbuya and she tested negative. Councilors advised us on what to do, and since then, we have lived happily. We spent two years without a child, but today, we have two HIV negative children who are six and three years old. We attribute this success to ROM medical team who advised and referred my wife to Naguru Hospital where she had safe deliveries and guidance on Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV.*

Services at ROM are superb, they give you everything including medicine, mama kit and referral. With ROM, you can never go wrong with positive living.

I thank my wife for loving me to the extent that every morning before I go for work, she reminds me to take my medicine. Even when I get to work, she must telephone me to confirm I took the medicine. At ROM where I go for treatment, my medical records also indicate I adhere to treatment because my Viral Load has never been detected. Her family also knows about my status because I asked her to disclose to one of her family members and it is fine with us.

My message to other discordant couples is they should remain committed to their partners, take their medicine well and avoid self-stigma. Living with HIV is not a death sentence. Accept your status, have one partner and work for your families. If one found themselves HIV positive, do not take long to disclose because failure to do it in time has caused problems such as suicide to some families."



ROM staff with clients during commemoration of World AIDS Day 2021 at Kasenyi village near Banda.



WORLD AIDS DAY

DECEMBER 1

Every 1st December ROM joins the rest of the world to commemorate the World AIDS Day in remembrance of those who have died and stand with those whom HIV has grossly affected.

2021, we conducted a community engagement activity in Katoogo and Kasenyi Communities in Nakawa Division of Kampala City. The two-fold activity was spear-headed by ROM's Community Department through a give back campaign for ROM @ 20 years.

Through home visits, food stuffs for the most vulnerable ROM clients' households were distributed in addition to delivery of health services that included Health Education, Counseling, HIV-testing and Gender based Violence screening.



A ROM medical staff checking a client's blood pressure as part of the NCD screening process.

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

Integrated management of NCD and HIV care has of late been recommended by many around the world. The prevalence of Diabetes, Hypertension and Cervical Cancer among ROM clients called for an immediate intervention even when no assured funding was firmed up to meet the demand. Frustrations from diagnosing ART patients with the conditions and referring them for treatment for those other conditions seemed ineffective and heavily limiting the ART clinic outcomes. To date, 150 Diabetics and 499 Hypertensives have been diagnosed among ROM Kampala clients, implying heavier interventions than was in the previous years.

When ROM treatment of Diabetics and Hypertensives was fully operationalized in 2021, ART outcomes were greatly enhanced and of course the wellbeing of the patients that have shown receiving of comprehensive treatment from one facility as the most preferred option.

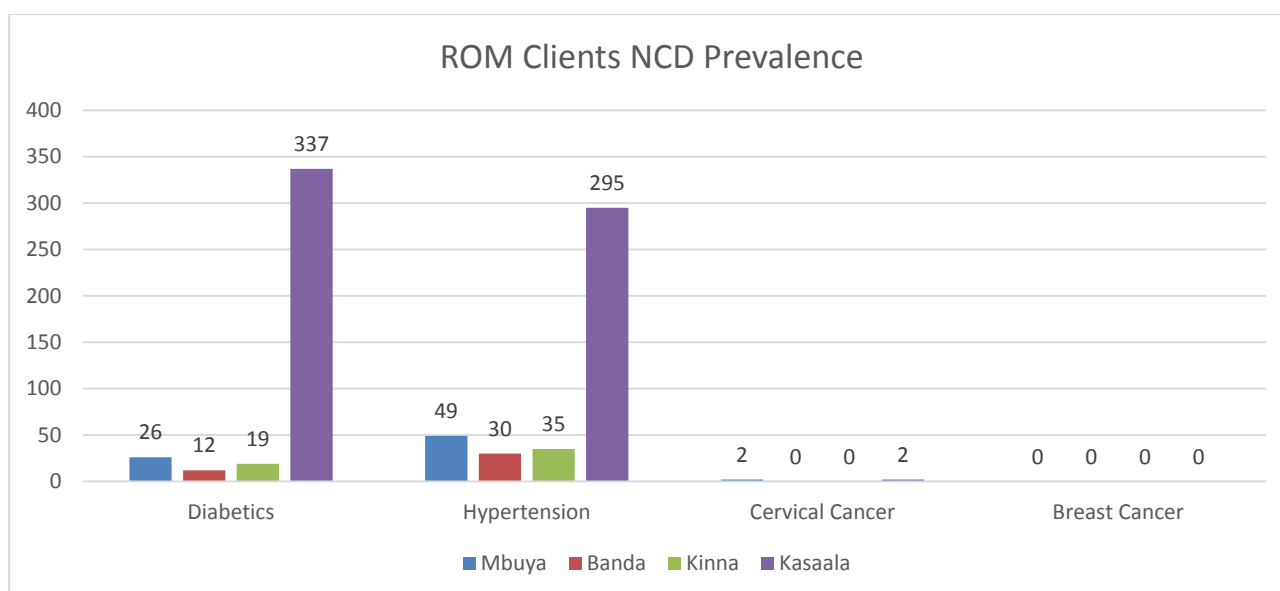
4 cervical cancer patients have been diagnosed and referred for treatment, as efforts to sensitize more and get them to accept the screening procedure very much loathed by many continues. There was no breast cancer case. The burden of multiple chronic diseases continues to deter many from seeking further screening for additional conditions. More so, the cost of treatment and further diagnostic needs not offered at ROM at such a growing level of need by the day remains a great challenge.

👤 ROM Clients Screened for NCD risk/drug side effects: **4798**

👉 **Abnormal liver/renal function on treatment: 23**

US\$ 13900 was the Average basic treatment p.m. @ Diabetic

US\$ 23400 was the Average basic treatment p.m. @ Hypertensive



“At ROM, we sensitize people that no one is immune to NCDs.

We should not wait to see symptoms first but screen, as the only way we can detect the disease in its early stages when it is still reversible. NCDs is not witch craft and if not attended to, can cause life complications resulting into death.”

Isaiah Aryatuha, Clinician.

*A Community Linkage Facilitator
sensitizing mothers about TB
during a door-door outreach at
Butabika - 2021*



Tuberculosis

Joining others to end the Tuberculosis pandemic in Uganda, ROM has been implementing a 4-year TB Strategy under the *Kampala Regional Defeat TB* Project in Nakawa Division until September 2021, focusing on prevention, diagnosis and treatment of TB.

A total of **20,435** people were sensitized and screened for TB within the 4 years.

Of these, **5388 (26.4%)** were presumptive (likely) cases, and **838 (16%)** were diagnosed with TB.

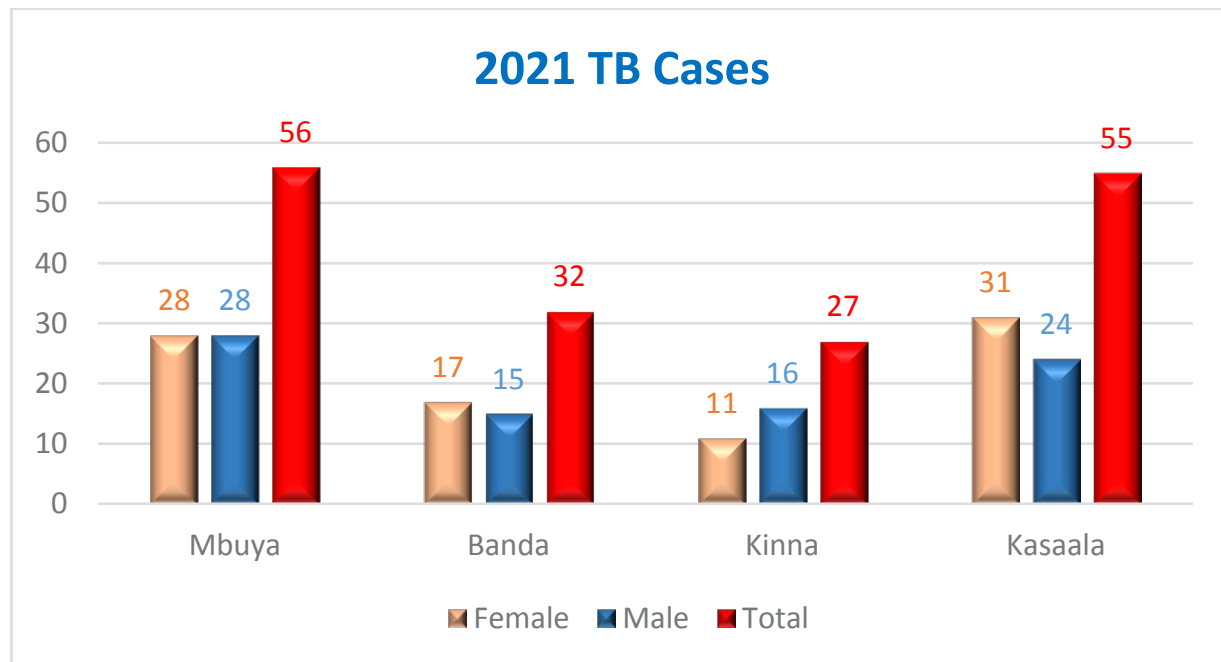
4098 (76.1%) of the presumptive cases were from other community activities and **1290 (24%)** arose from contacts tracing.

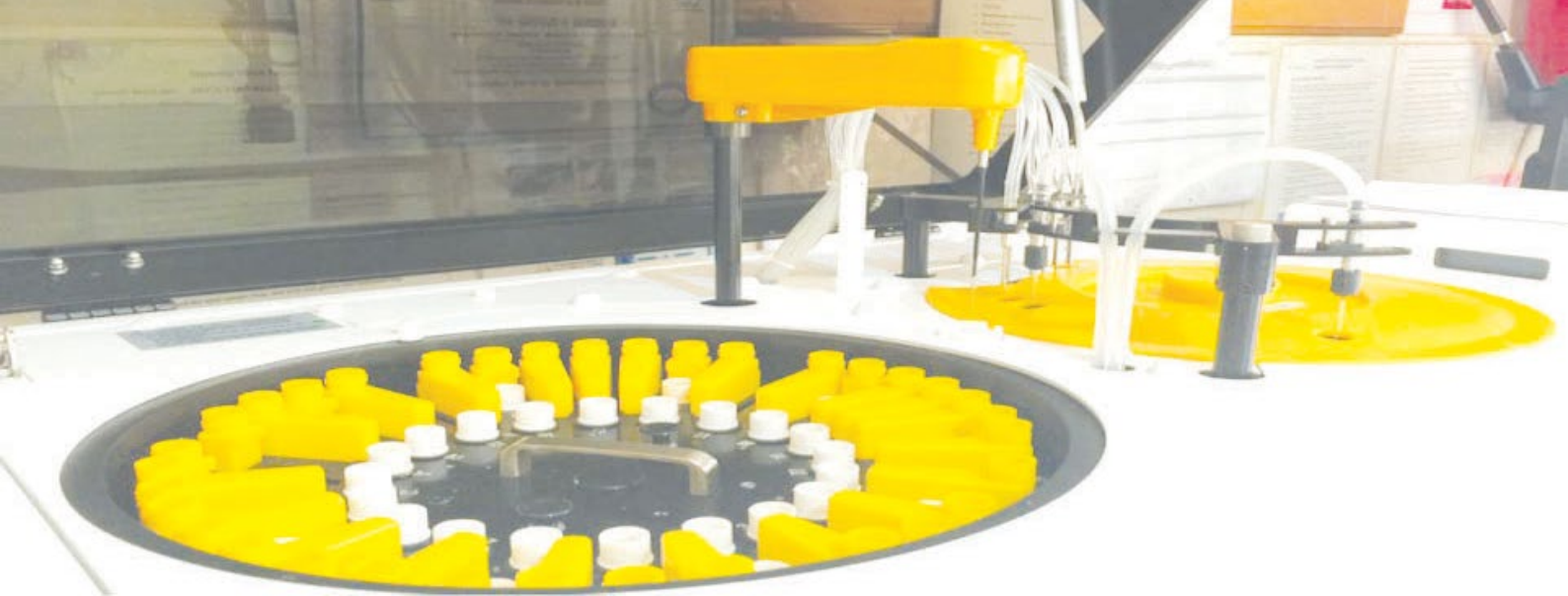
A whole **785 (94%)** from the **838** TB cases were notified from other community activities and **53 (6.3%)** cases were reported from contact tracing. All cases were linked to care to the nearest facility.

236 Missed Appointments were referred to ROM from other facilities for follow up and **99.2% (234/236)** of them were linked back to care.

The pandemic lockdowns however equally interrupted activities thereby causing setbacks in community mass screening, physical follow up on patients and access to medical treatment due to high transport costs than it was pre-lockdowns.

TB results for 2021.





Laboratory Services

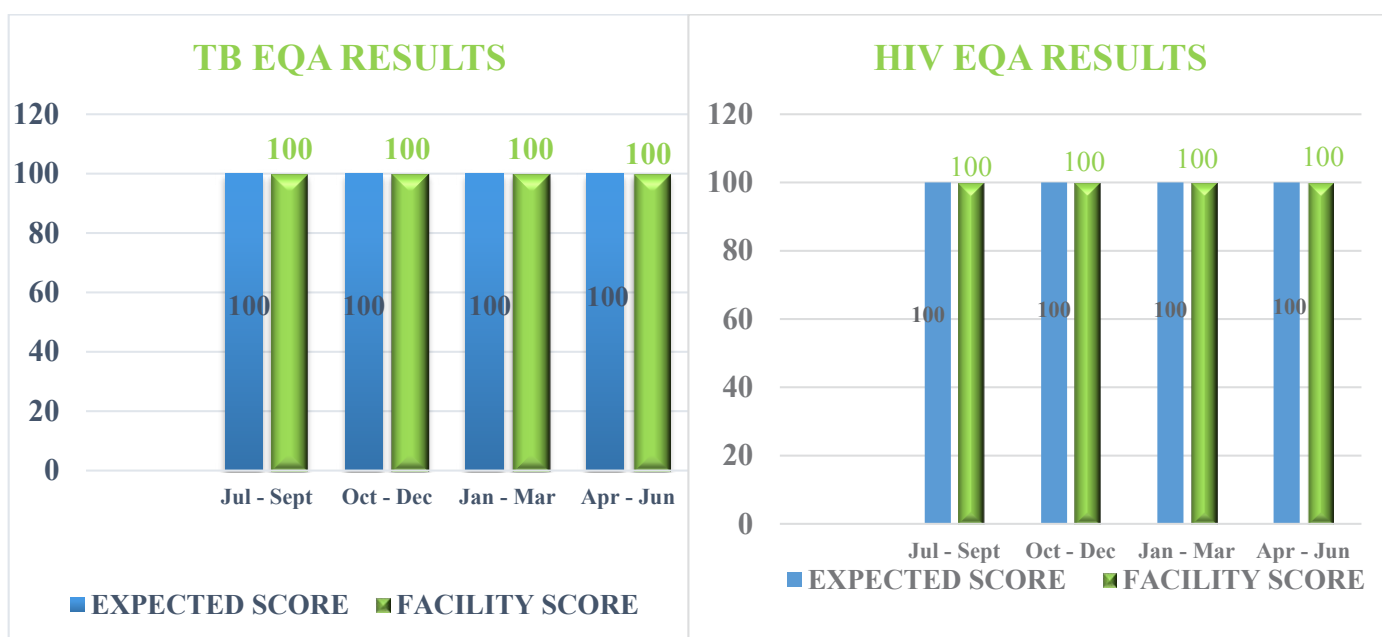
Reach Out Mbuya Laboratory provides laboratory testing services to a wide variety of clients, with commitment to providing quality analytical services such as on-time testing within a friendly environment. No matter the times, ROM is still focused on her objective to provide expert diagnostic testing in Medical Microbiology, Serology, Immunology, Clinical Chemistry and Haematology.

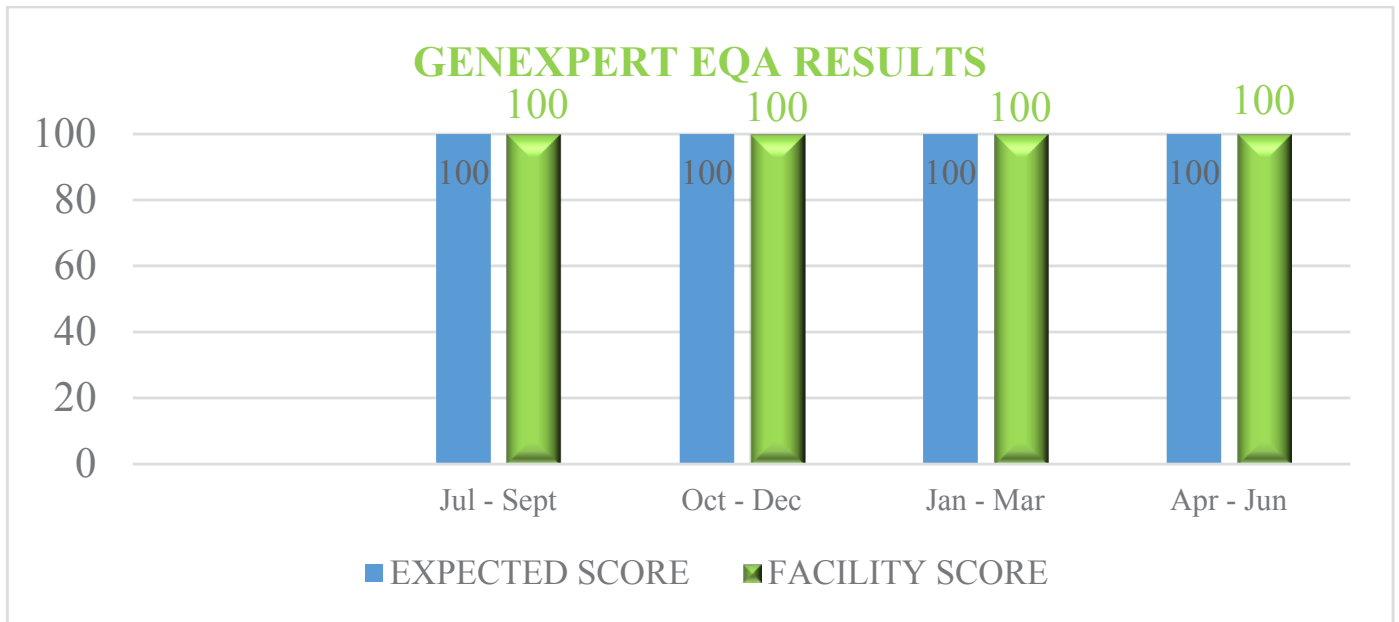
2021 **30,534** laboratory tests were carried out including; -

HIV testing, Gene expert for Sputum analysis, Hep B, DNA, VL, CD4/CD8, HCG, Serum Crag, VDRL, Liver, Renal functional test, Lipid profile & Cardiac enzymes among others.

ROM Laboratories participated in two major quarterly External Quality Assessment (EQA) schemes for TB with Microscopy and Proficiency Assessments for HIV and Gene expert panels.





2021 External Assessment Outcomes





Whereas other laboratory tests are not included on the EQA program, there are efforts to include all the laboratory tests on available EQA panels, particularly malaria which contributes to 85% of the total daily tests.

Key Achievements in 2021:

- 
 Proper infection control practices were incorporated on a daily basis to enable control of infections in and out of laboratory premises.
- 
 Improved diagnostic testing based on proper servicing and maintenance of laboratory equipment.
- 
 Improved patients care and management due to availability of a full automated chemistry analyzer secured in 2020.
- 
 More support on bi-monthly basis was acquired from Medical Access, with a few items from National Medical Stores (NMS) and Joint Medical Stores.



ROM staff loading files and other items onto the Mobile Van at Mbuya site to set off to the field for an outreach.

Mobile Van Services

The ROM Mobile Van Services target the hard to link and Most at Risk Populations (MARPS). A dedicated staff team on a fully equipped van follows up the target groups to where they usually station to provide them with services.

In 2021, the Mobile Van offered services that included HIV testing and counselling, linkage to care, prevention messages, ART management and treatment of STIs.

Clients are usually supported at different points such as the ROM Knowledge Room at Nakawa, Kinawataka, ROM Wellness Centre at Port Bell Luzira, Naguru Go-down, Malcom Medical Centre, Wabiduuku, Kimwanyi and Kireka among others.

1750 clients served on mobile van; **855** (319 KPs, PPs) on ART; **168** of these were eligible for Viral Load but could not be traceable at the sites. **167** viral load tests were done of which **118** were found virally suppressed.

895 (271KPs & 624 PPs), tested for HIV in targeted testing done in hotspots; **72** cases were new positives and **4** known positives. Out of the **72**, **71** were linked to Care and ART.

ROM continues reaching out to the communities to foster prevention of the spread of HIV plus offer hope to the hopeless.



An adolescent leading a Yoga session at the start of a Friend's Forum at Kinawataka site.

Friend's Forum

This is a ROM peer-to peer support group of young people living with HIV and accessing HIV care, treatment and support from Reach Out Mbuya. Here, they share experience and complement one another for emotional, social, mental, and spiritual satisfaction thereby achieving self-esteem and adherence to treatment. This time round, a total of **86 (95.5%)** out of **90** Children living with HIV were reached for self-awareness, self-esteem, effective communication, and decision-making sessions.

Benefits

- Through sharing life experience and support from counsellors, children learnt new communication skills like speaking up against any uncomfortable circumstance they may encounter, enabling them to overcome life challenges such as discrimination based on their HIV status.
- Children also learnt decision making skills anchored in individual success envisioning thus supporting their adherence to treatment for viral load suppression. School retention and academic performance has greatly improved thanks to such confidence building encounters.
- More children have been supported to discover self-potential through career guidance/goal setting sessions where they openly discuss their hopes with colleagues and are guided on how to unleash their potential.



Children attending a psychosocial program at ROM

Psycho-socio support for Children

Focused on a holistic approach of care for HIV, positive children and adolescents on ART at ROM are engaged in discussing the truth about living with HIV in their bodies, the importance of adherence to ART and empowering families to support them.

328 0-18 years
active on ART and
Care at ROM.

Support is extended to children through counseling and home visits, adolescent adherence and caretakers' workshops, peer to peer support among others, all as avenues to help them adhere well to drugs.

These group meetings help them to appreciate that they are not alone plus they are others managing well and so they can.

Alcoholism Anonymous Program (AA)



A Health talk session at the client waiting area Mbuya ART Clinic

The AA intervention is for the alcoholic HIV positive clients at ROM and their families. Through community meetings for sensitization, home visits and experience sharing from expert clients to help clients reduce and stop alcohol, comprehensive psychosocial care is offered to encourage them emotionally, socially, mentally and spiritually live a dignified life irrespective of their HIV status.

129 on ART challenged with alcohol addiction,

08 have stopped alcohol

06 referred to Butabika Hospital for rehabilitation.

Our learning outcomes are pointing to some alcohol addicted cases in ROM service being driven by the stressful situation they go through, unhealthy living condition and joblessness, which worsen their poverty frustrations.

Prevention

ROM is determined to scale up HIV combination prevention interventions aligning the **95, 95, 95** UNAIDs targets. Integrated into the outreach services model through targeted outreaches, moonlights and dialogue meetings, prevention interventions targeted key, priority and general populations focusing on behavioral, biomedical, and structural approaches.

Behavior Change Communication messages were incorporated in all prevention interventions to foster positive behavior and promote safer health practices in all the groups at risk. All ROM outreach and clinic prevention messages leveraged carefully planned and prepared individual session themes relevant to target groups per session.

Discussion Areas Included;

HIV/AIDs & the different prevention measures (ABC, SMC, EMTC, PEP/Prep), positive living;

Stigma & discrimination, Gender & GBV, Family Planning, sexually transmitted infections;

TB, Sexual Reproductive Health and importance of HIV Testing Services and HIV Self Testing services.

Non-Communicable Diseases;

Surge Strategies such as Assisted Partner Notification and Social Network Strategy.

Positive Health Dignity and Prevention (PHDP)

A number of interventions aimed at supporting and encouraging ROM clients practice positive living concepts were carried out. Peer-led interventions such as the **Posttest Club** (where positive clients employ skits to encourage others) and other Interactive prevention sessions were employed to help clients not to spread the virus to their partners. In the process, sexually active clients were referred for Sexually Transmitted Infections and Carcinoma of the Cervix, Safe Male Circumcision, and Risk Reduction Counseling on issues of safer sex practices. Those who needed family planning services were referred to Kiswa, Naguru, and other centers. The Alcoholic and other drug addicts were managed under the ROM's *Alcoholic Anonymous* (AA) club.

HIV Prevention interventions for Youth in school and Adolescents.

'Prevention is better than cure' goes the saying.

To promote positive behavior, change among adolescents, a number of short Behavior Change Communication meetings were carried out to prevent HIV/AIDs, enhance positive attitude and acquire desired life skills for success. Through our peer led approach, Youths and Adolescents in school were reached with sexual reproductive health messages and referrals were made for the services which ROM could not offer.

A total of **540 youths** and **80 adolescents** were reached with messages. Of these, **30** were referred to Naguru Teenage Health and Information Center for further management.





A Gender and domestic violence awareness meeting in Kinawataka HIV prevention among Key & Priority populations

Integration of Gender, Legal support & referrals.

In order to provide psychosocial support to ROM clients, the subject of gender and domestic violence was incorporated into all the community prevention activities among key populations, including the FSWs & their partners, Injecting drug users, Priority Populations such as Truck drivers, Fisher folks, Uniformed men and PWUIDs. To achieve this, we closely worked with local leaders, legal personnel and agencies.

A total of **947 (289 males and 658 females)** GBV cases were identified.

886 cases had suffered physical violence and **61** suffered sexual violence.

The results indicated that females were more affected than males, and the cases were reported to Police, Local Councils and FIDA.

To provide social and economic support to PLWHA and other needy persons affected by HIV/AIDS.

The Grandmothers' Project

With support from the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF), ROM implements the Grandmothers' Project in Butuntumula Sub-County Luweero district and in Nakawa Division Kampala District. Aimed at improving the well-being of extremely vulnerable elderly women, the intervention involves medical care, economic empowerment and psycho-social support.

Support to Adolescents, Girls and Young Women in the needy grandmothers' care are equally supported with informal vocational skilling.

Grandmother special clinics every Friday support their psychosocial and medical needs plus offer feedback mechanisms on economic empowerment activities progress at individual and group level.



A grandmother receiving foodstuffs (left) and right, Grandmothers attending a nutrition training at Kasaala

1051 Grandmother beneficiaries
25 AGYW and **10** babies treated
80 homebased care cases
16 Community outreaches Clinics
63 Screened for cervical cancer
10 Herniorrhaphy handled

30 VSLA Groups
10 Groups in practical entrepreneurship training
58 Grandmothers received piglets and supported with piggery feeds & management services
58 AGYWS graduated under vocational training
2 Houses built

"Over the years, a number of vulnerable grandmothers have been playing a central role as family heads, taking care of their orphaned or abandoned grandchildren."

The SLF grandmother's project has brought a ray of hope to the grannies by improving their health, social wellbeing and economic status. We thank SLF for their consistent support that has changed the lives of the elderly persons." **Said Hilda Achayo, the Community Support Manager at ROM.**

Community Engagements

Home based Care Client appointments

In 2021, a total of **17,365** clients were scheduled for clinic appointments. **16,458** clients were able to make it for their appointments and **907** missed appointments. Majority of the missed appointments were a result of lack of transport and other Covid-19 related challenges. Our community arm reached out to the clients affected within the catchment area through the drug Delivery Approach, where peers carry drugs to the households of their colleagues. Clients out of the ROM catchment area who were challenged by the Covid-19 lockdown difficulties such as transportation, were encouraged to get refills from the nearby health facilities.

Home Visits

At ROM, the best practice is conducting a home visit for each client. Visits are categorized as *targeted* and *routine*. Target visits are those done in relation to critical issues about a clients' treatment such as poor adherence, missed appointments, high viral load and clients under PMTCT among others. A total of **7328** home visits were conducted, of which **4503** were targeted and **2825** were routine.

- **7328 home visits conducted;**
- **4503 targeted and**
- **2825 routine visits**

Integrated Child and Youth Development Activity (ICYD)



A No Means No male instructor explaining to children during a session at Mutungo.

Reach Out Mbuya Community Health Initiative in partnership with World Education Initiative/Bantwana is implementing the USAID Integrated Child and Youth Development Activity (ICYD) in all the five Divisions of Kampala District.

The project aims at ensuring Uganda's children and youths especially girls and the most vulnerable, are well prepared to lead resilient, healthy, and productive lives for improved learning outcomes and safety through positive behaviours.

Targets;

- 🔵 **0-17**-year-old living with HIV, HIV exposed infants,
- 🔵 Children of Female Sex Workers,
- 🔵 Survivors of Violence Against Children,
- 🔵 Teen Mothers & Children of Unsuppressed Caregivers

Strengthening Management and Support Systems

Reach Out Mbuya Community Health Initiative widened her geographical area of operation and with effect from April 2021, was approved by the NGO Board to operate countrywide.

Various independent Organization Capacity Assessments were done in the year, validating ROM's capacity and highlighting areas of improvement. Key of these included donor pre-award assessments, internal and external audits, running projects assessments and more.

Various data and record keeping electronic tools were adopted to strengthen the organization Monitoring and Evaluation for effective programming.

Improve the Sustainability of ROM

ROM holistic interventions go with a challenge in realizing adequate resources to support beneficiaries effectively. Various avenues continue to be instituted to support unfunded interventions like school fees for OVC. Serving the extremely vulnerable communities calls for strategies of cutting the extreme vulnerability cycles through supporting the next generation to live a better life. Enrolling and keeping children of extremely vulnerable households in school is one way ROM uses to yank the younger generations out of extreme poverty traps.

Young mothers and grandmothers with ability to be productive have been continuously inspired and trained to attain vocational and entrepreneurial skills as a graduation strategy and charity dependence mitigation.

More value adding partnerships are being sought to compliment ROM's efforts for the well-being of the society.



Some of the guests at one of the stalls during the Garage Sale.

The Garage Sale

In conjunction with Our Lady of Africa Church Mbuya, ROM organized a Garage sale on the same day of celebrating twenty years of ROM to raise school fees for **75** extremely vulnerable children at secondary school level to attain quality education in 2022. We are very much grateful to the well-wishers who donated items for the garage sale including clothes, shoes, blankets, kitchen equipment, bags, jewelry and much more. **UGX 1,346,000/-** was realized from the sale. More charity drives of this nature to continue.

A total of **1859** OVCs were supported, of which **1056** are in school and **261** are HIV positive.

1859

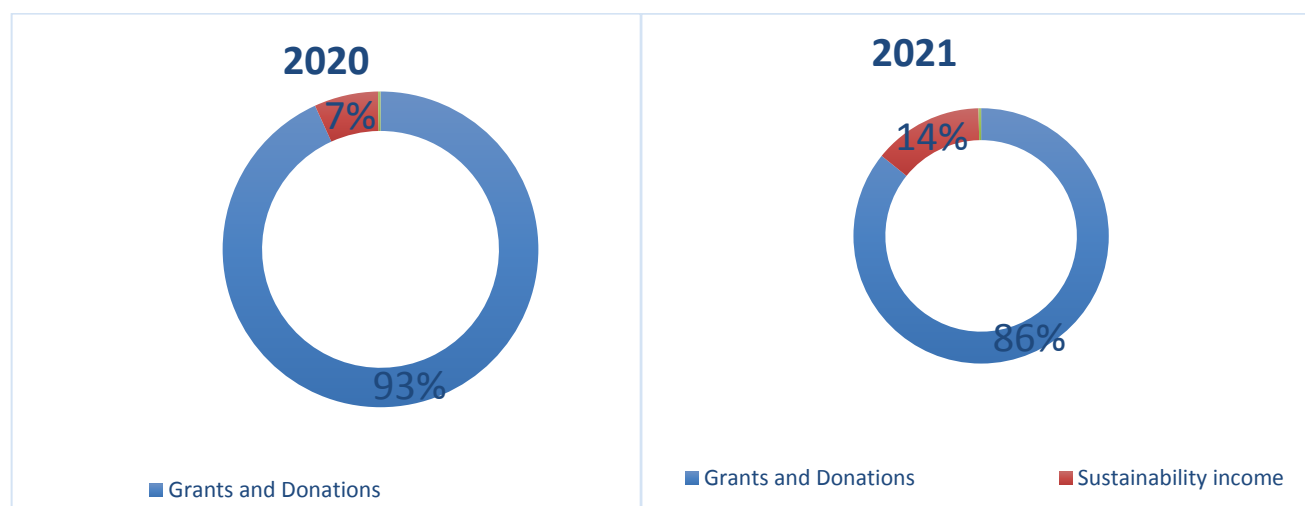
Orphans and
Vulnerable Children

1056

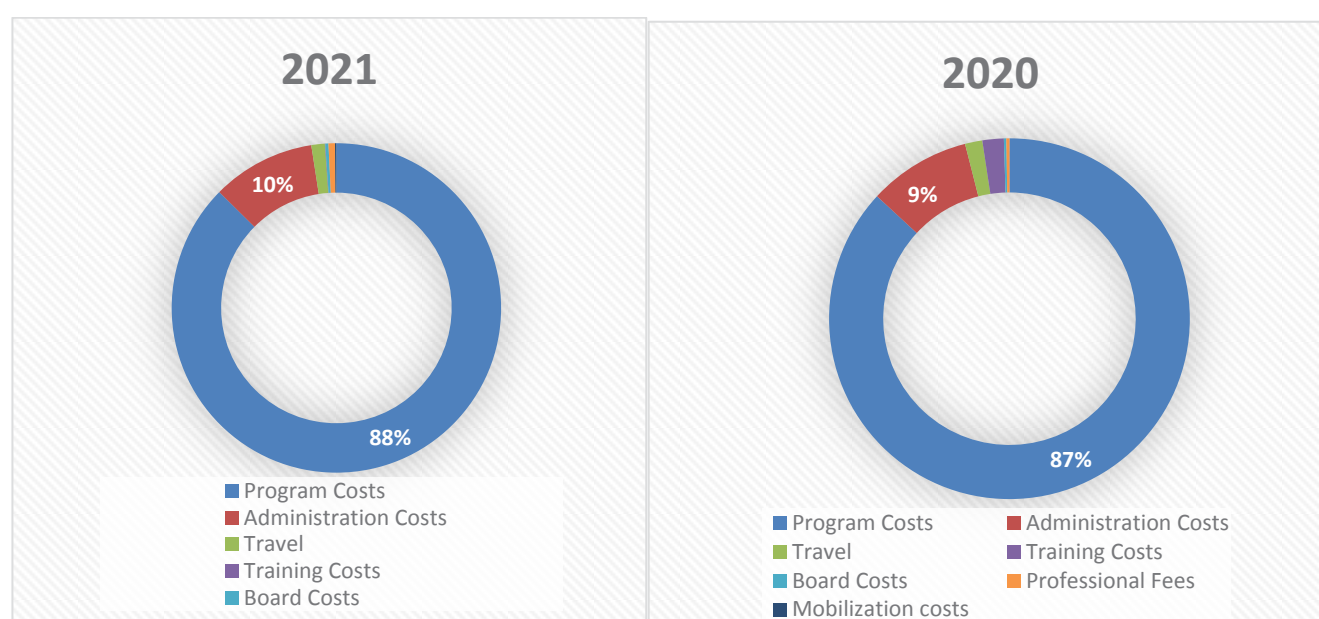
in school

261 are HIV

Distribution of ROM Income



Distribution of ROM Expenditure



For support of ROM Holistic Model Kindly deposit on our Centenary Bank Account No. **3100004656 UGX**, Titled **Reach Out Mbuya Community Health Initiative**. You can also pay at our Head Office at Mbuya, next to Our Lady of Africa Church –Mbuya.

The lab supervisor guiding a volunteer on how to use a microscope



A health worker measures the blood pressure of a community member during the commemoration of World AIDS Day 2021 at Kasenyi Banda





**Defeat TB
activities in 2021**



**CLFs capturing a community
member's data during an
outreach at Kireka**



| Hope for the future



Reach Out Mbuya Community Health Initiative

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