

# Increased access to HIV viral load testing among ART patients in Côte d'Ivoire (2015 to 2017)

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## BACKGROUND

- HIV Viral load (VL) used to monitor patients on antiretroviral therapy (ART) since 1998 in Cote d'Ivoire
- From 2002 to 2014, VL available to less than 10% of patients only in Abidjan the capital. Since 2015 CDC used the lab in the box to scale-up access to VL testing

## OBJECTIVE

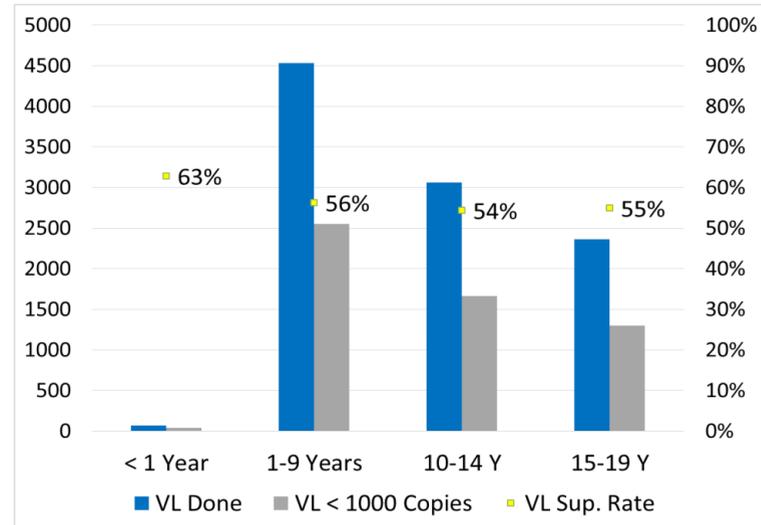
To describe scaling-up of VL access in Cote d'Ivoire from October 2015 to September 2017

## METHODS

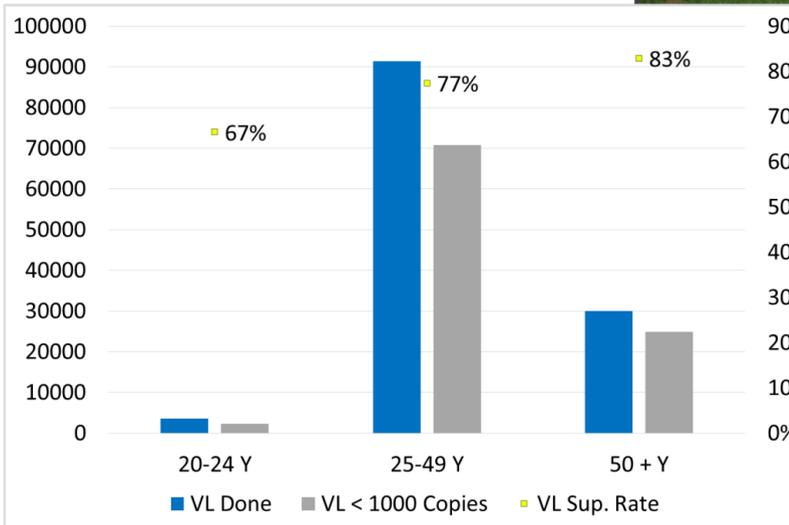
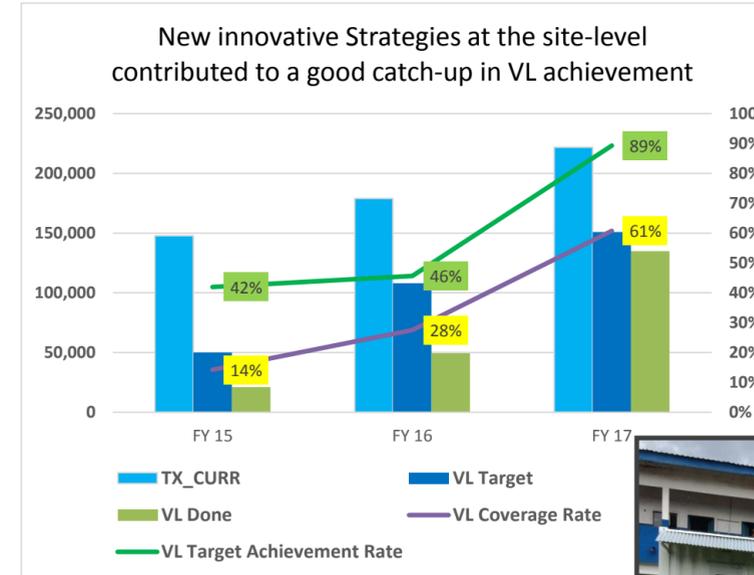
- We extracted patient aggregate data from the laboratory information system of all 15 VL laboratories laboratory in the 8 covered regions and in Abidjan the capital
- Testing coverage and viral load suppression rate by age group, gender and region were analyzed.
- VL was measured on the Roche Ampliprep Cobas Taqman 48 and 96 using plasma
- Patients were eligible for VL testing every 6 months during the first year on ART and yearly thereafter

## RESULTS

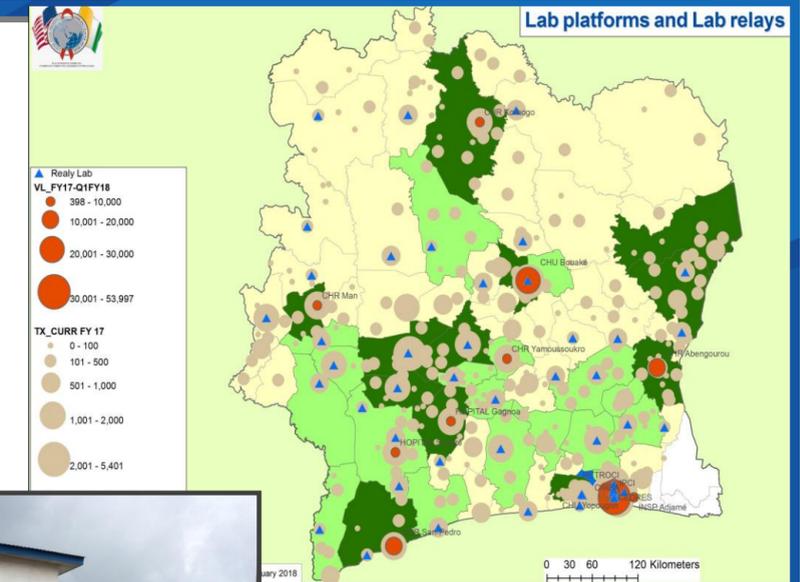
- A total of 221,990 patients received ART nationally between October 2015 and September 2017
- 12-month retention rate of 85%
- Access to at least one VL test per year increased from 14% to 61% for a total of 134,877 patients and from 10 to 41.5% in districts outside of Abidjan
- The number of laboratories increased from 6 to 15 in the same period.
- Among patients with access, 74% were female and 5.6% children (0-14 years)
- Seventy seven percent of tested patients achieved VL < 1000 copies/mL [95% CI: 55-82]; the VL suppression rate was similar for female and male, 78% and 77% respectively
- Children and adolescents (15-19 years) had the lowest VL suppression rate at 56% and 55% respectively



Viral Suppression rate by age band and by sex



VL lab-in-the box



## DISCUSSION

- Strategies such as **lab-in-the box**, minimized reagent stock out, and a strong sample transportation system prove to be efficient to scale-up access to VL in Côte d'Ivoire
- The low rate of VL suppression in children and adolescents is a challenge that needs to be addressed in order to minimize appearance of HIV drug resistance strains

## CONTACT INFO

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