

Differentiated service delivery of treatment and laboratory services for people living with HIV in closed settings to avert treatment interruption and HIV transmission, Mizoram, India

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Background

Mizoram state – Key facts

- Highest estimated adult HIV prevalence (2.4%) in India.
- Annual HIV incidence of 0.94 per 1000 population at risk
- 21% HIV prevalence among prison inmates

Key Challenges

- Delayed ART initiation
- Irregular clinical follow-up
- Non-adherence
- Limited Viral Load (VL) testing
- Limited transportation
- Limited bridge care upon prisoners' release

People who inject drugs (PWID) are disproportionately impacted by HIV and if incarcerated or in other closed settings, PWID may have limited access to HIV prevention and treatment services.

Intervention

In November 2018, I-TECH India implemented Differentiated Service Delivery Models that included:

- Decentralized drug dispensation,
- Viral Load specimen collection, and
- Biweekly clinician visits at the closed setting facility

Intervention sites

Mizoram's central prison and drug demand reduction centers (managed by non-profit organizations and community groups for rehabilitation of PWID)

Result

Time period: November 2018 to December 2021

- 1013 PLHIV in closed settings served
- 83.1% (n=840) males
- 48.2% (486) aged between 26-36 years

Outcome by end of 2021

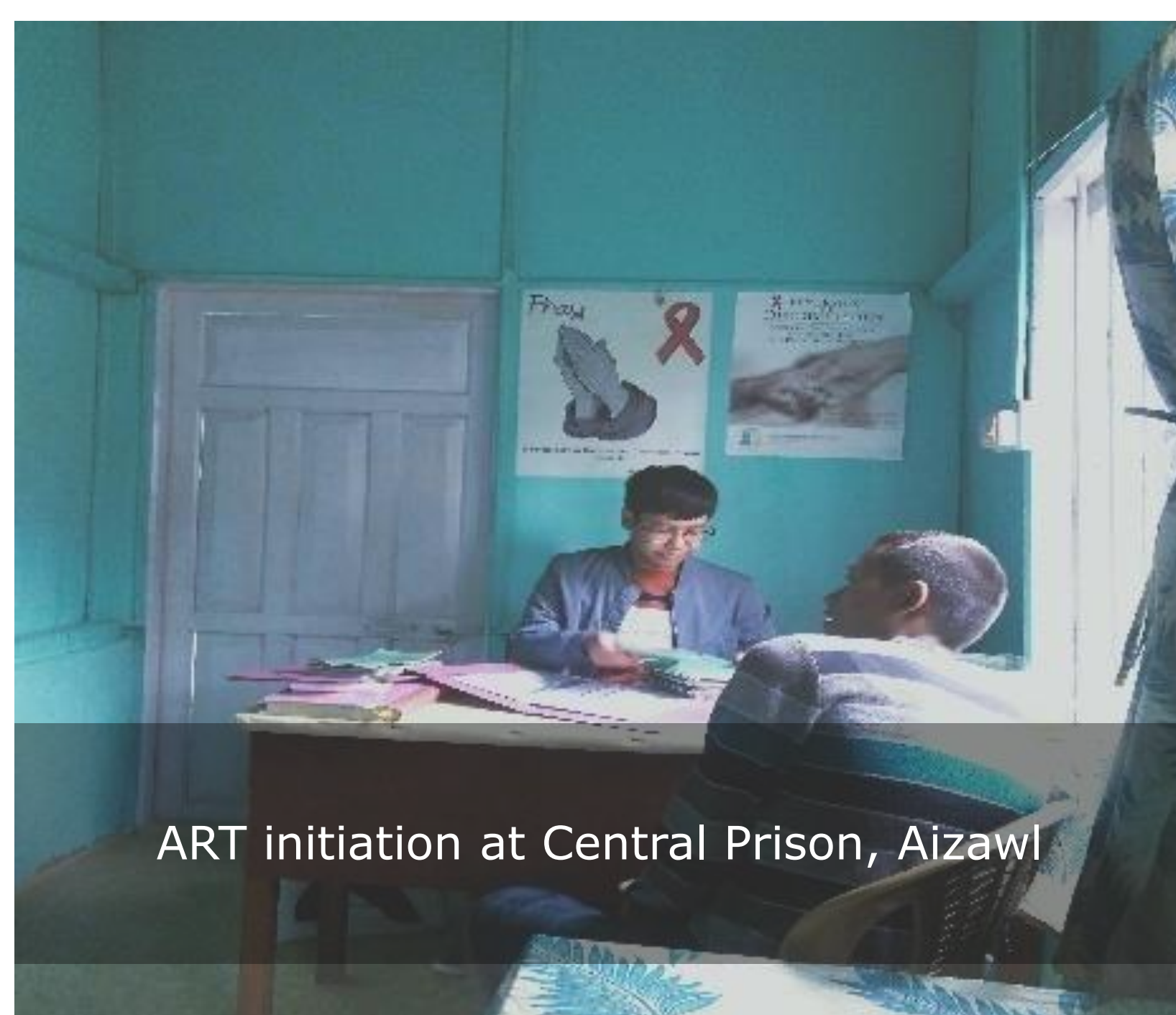
- 416 (41.1%) PLHIV were still retained in the closed settings
- 4 (0.4%) died
- 593 (58.5%) were referred to ART centres
- Among the 416 who stayed in the closed settings:
 - 89.7% (n= 373) were due for VL testing;
 - 64.2% (n= 239) received a VL test in the last 12 months, and
 - 93.2% of those tested 222 were virally suppressed
- Among the 593 released from closed settings, 81.1% (n= 480) were retained in ART care in the community

Conclusion

Decentralization of clinical and laboratory services with a coordinated post release plan with the existing non-profit organizations were key for:

- Higher rates of treatment engagement/retention in care
- Improved viral load testing access
- Higher rate of viral load suppression

Differentiated service delivery of treatment and laboratory services for people living with HIV in closed settings lead to improved treatment engagement and high viral load suppression



ART initiation at Central Prison, Aizawl



I-TECH India team at Central Prison



I-TECH India team at Kolasib Jail



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