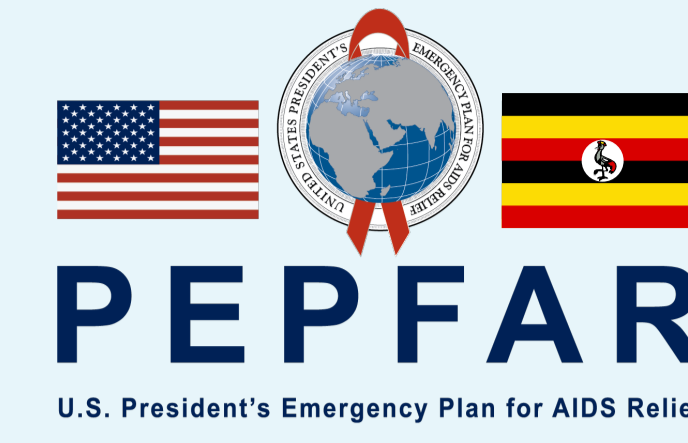# Using quality improvement to accelerate care for children and adolescents living with HIV in the Lango sub-region of northern Uganda

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*Project implemented by John Snow, Inc. (JSI)*

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## Problem/Background/Issue

Providing high-quality care for all children and adolescents living with HIV (CALHIV) remains a global challenge and requires the development of new health care delivery strategies. Through a health system strengthening intervention, the USAID Regional Health Integration to Enhance Services-North, Lango (RHITES-N, Lango) project used targeted quality improvement (QI) methods to optimize care for CALHIV.

## Response

Between March and November 2021, 59 health care facilities in the Lango sub-region of northern Uganda were recruited into a "learning network" based on HIV care and treatment services provided. Clinic teams consisting of nurses, counselors, community linkages facilitators, data clerks, and medical and clinical officers set collective and individual performance targets, analyzed their care systems using "real-time" data feedback from the Excel audit tool, observed best practices, and implemented a simple set of tailored changes to improve the proportion of CALHIV receiving all necessary care and treatment services. Facility data were reviewed and summarized weekly.

## Results

A total of 6,257 CALHIV (102% of the targeted 6,142) were audited. The proportion of eligible CALHIV who received all the services increased from 30% in March to 80% (average) in November.



*Above: A team of health workers reviewing the CALHIV audit tool*

## Conclusion/Next Steps:

- System improvement methods, use of real-time data, and opportunity for cross-learning contributed to improved clinic processes and outcomes in a resource-constrained setting.
- A QI approach using learning networks to teach simple data-driven methods for addressing system failures with increased training, replicable best practices, and resource inputs, can help districts reach universal coverage targets quickly.

## Number of children and adolescents reporting
### for the period between W9 2021 and W48 2021



ES-1-D: Number of children and adolescents with a scheduled appointment in the reporting period between W9 2021 and W48 2021

ES-1: % of children and adolescents reporting at the facility who received all eligible services between W9 2021 and W48 2021