

Strengthening Tuberculosis (TB) case finding through community outreaches in the Busoga sub region in Uganda During the COVID-19 Era

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Background

11,597 Persons Living with HIV receive care from TASO Jinja, AIDS Information Centre and Family Hope Centre Jinja.

Between October 2020 to March 2021, only 9% of expected 589 TB patients had been diagnosed and treated.

The undiagnosed TB patients remained at risk of dying of TB

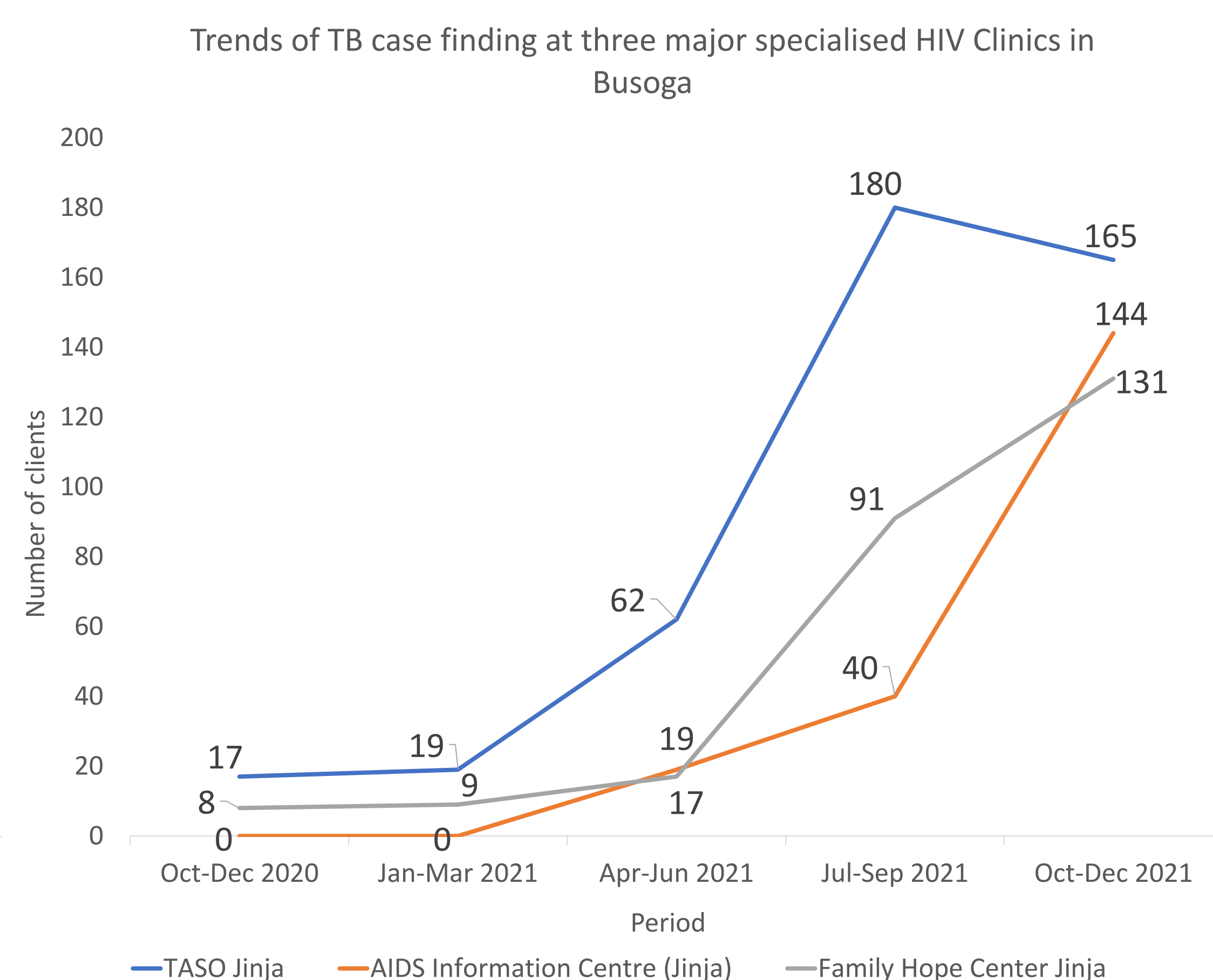
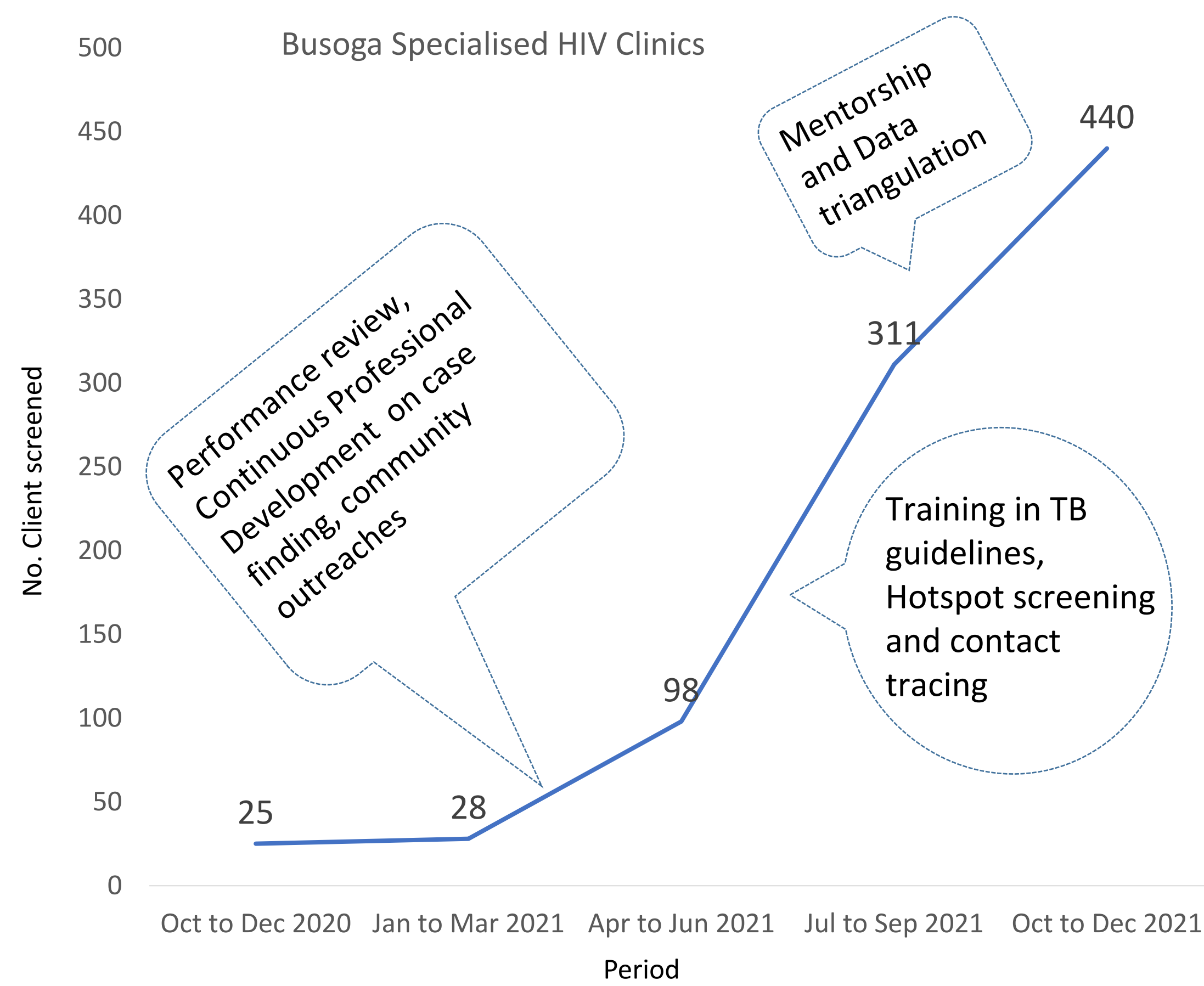
COVID 19 related travel restrictions and health workers knowledge gaps contributed to sub-optimal TB screening performance

Methods

Trainings and Mentorships for Health Workers	Performance Reviews	Addressed Documentation Gaps through triangulation
Mapped Community TB Hotspots	Set-up Community TB Structures	TB Screening Outreaches
	Contact Tracing	

Results

A total of 849 TB patients were identified and started on TB treatment between April to December 2021



Lessons Learned

Improved access to TB screening and care services increases TB case finding

Improved capacity of health workers to diagnose and manage TB improves treatment outcomes

Involvement of community actors improved mobilization and increased referrals of presumed TB cases

Conclusion

A combination of the following interventions

- Capacity building of health workers in TB care
- Improved documentations and data use
- Taking TB screening and care services to the community

Improves access to TB services and increases TB case finding

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