

Monitoring medicine stock to improve TPT initiation in Mopani District, South Africa



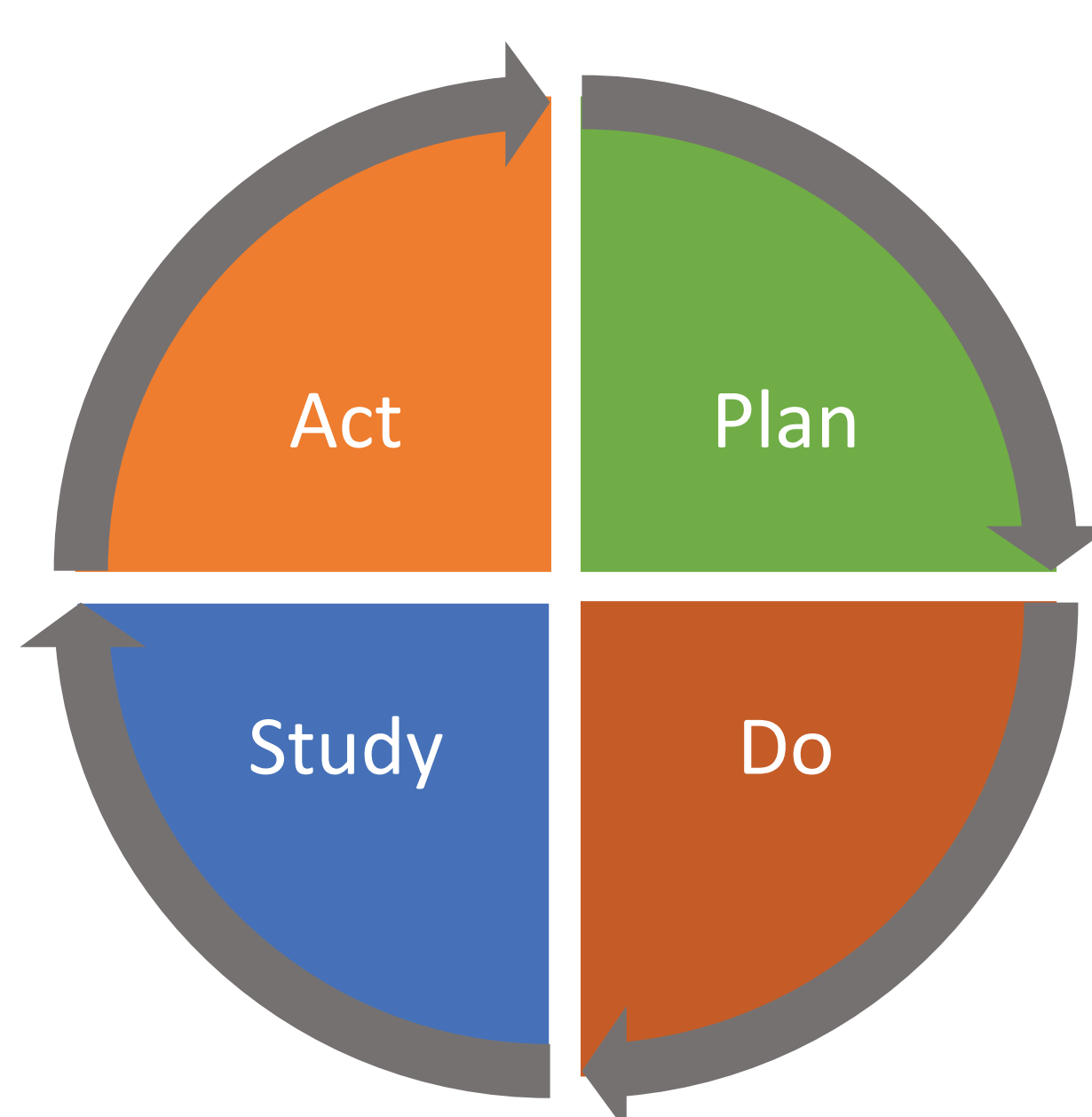
Authors: Kekana M, Maluleke C, Tshiswise G, Ngwenya M, Dhlwayo P
Anova Health Institute, South Africa

Background and objectives

- Tuberculosis preventative therapy (TPT) is critical in reducing TB disease and mortality.
- TPT implementation in people living with HIV in Greater Letaba Sub-district, Limpopo Province remained suboptimal.
- We sought to describe a quality improvement (QI) project, implemented at facilities in Greater Letaba, and determine its effect on TPT implementation.
- The main objective is to increase the uptake of TPT in people living with HIV to reduce TB infections and improve their quality of life.

Methods

- QI implementation facilities - twenty-one facilities supported by Anova Health Institute
- Region - Greater Letaba, Mopani
- QI implementation period - January 2022 to September 2023
- A root cause analysis was conducted to determine the reasons behind the low TPT initiations
- QI interventions were developed by Anova and DOH facility teams.
- ART naïve initiated on ART used as proxy for TPT eligible.

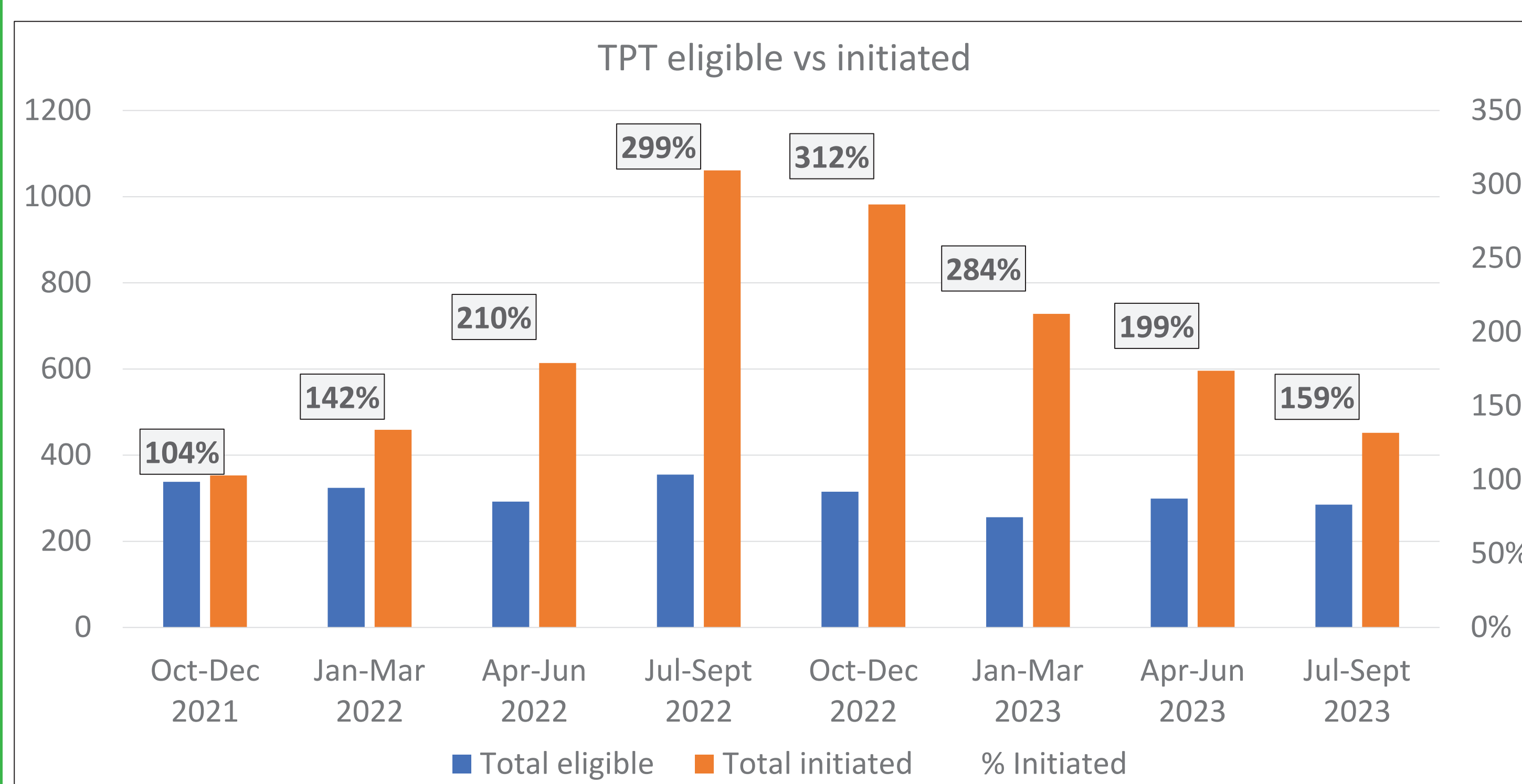
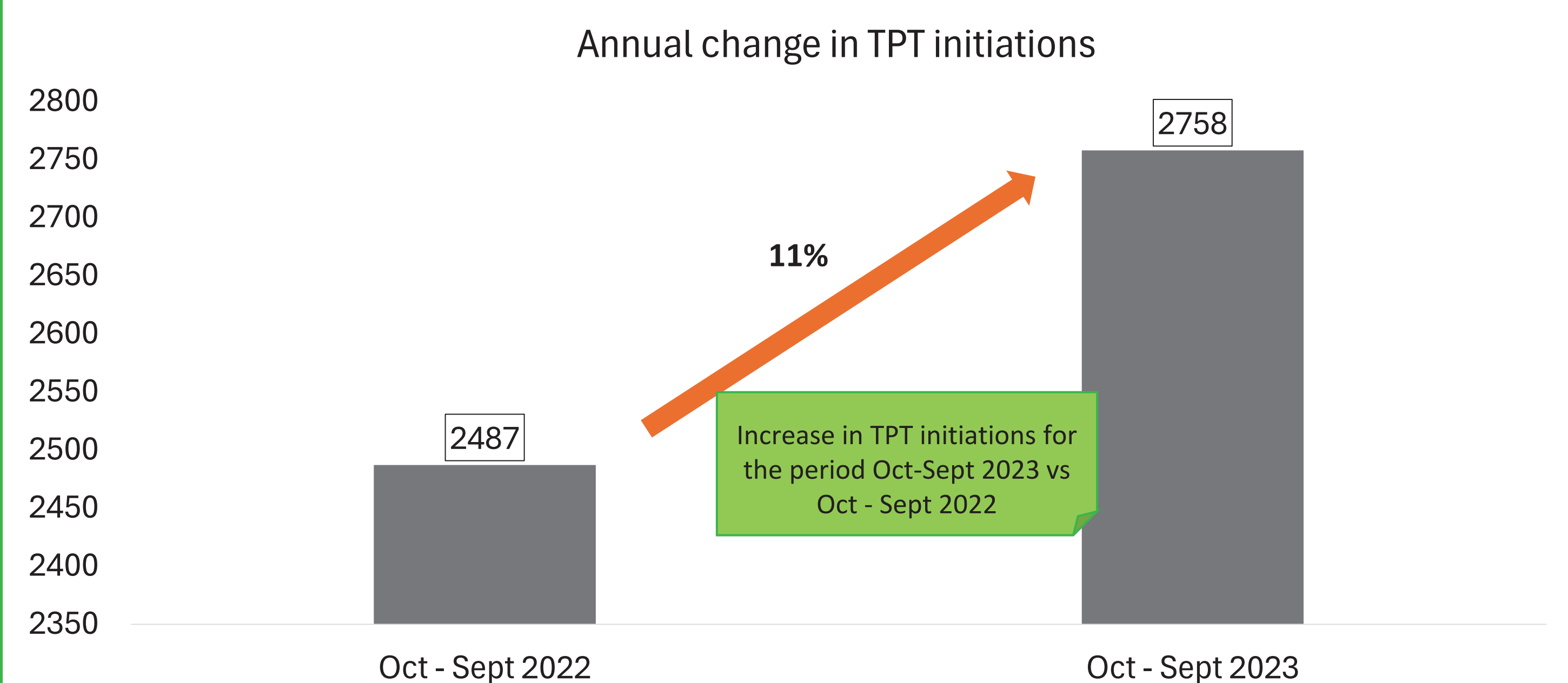
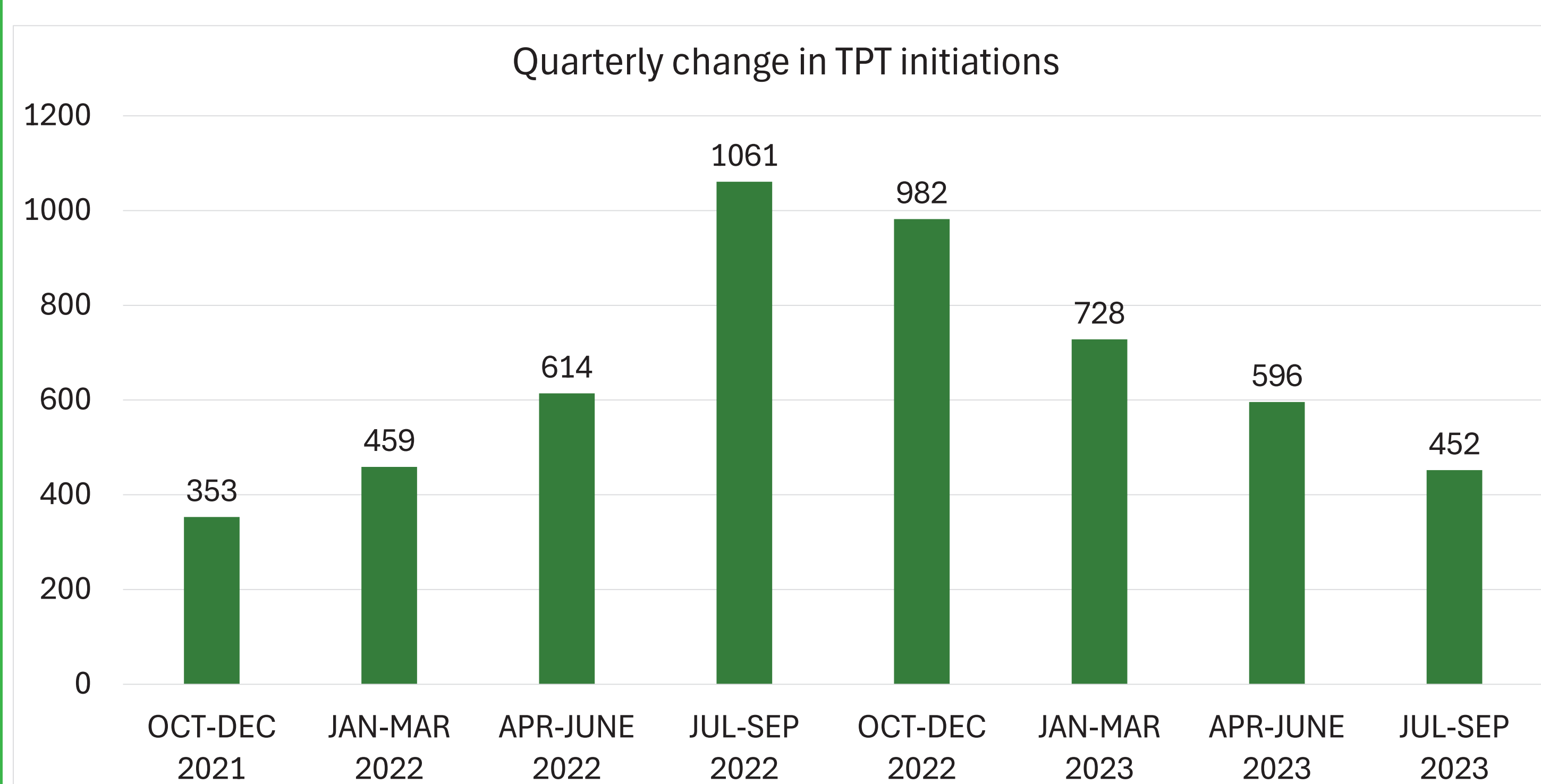


QI activities included the following:

- On-site mentoring on pharmacy stock management
- The calculation and presentation of minimum and maximum levels
- The updating of stock cards regularly
- TIER.Net data was used to estimate INH to be ordered
- File audits were conducted weekly to identify patients with no history of TPT
- Enrolled Nurses, Nurse Mentors and DOH professional nurses were given weekly targets for TPT referral and initiation
- Weekly data verification of TIER.Net against clinical stationary was conducted
- Daily/weekly checks of INH and Vit B6 in consulting rooms was conducted.
- Weekly monitoring of INH stock in all facilities, and emergency order and stock rotation implemented

Results

- Between October to December 2021, 353 people were started on TPT, increasing to 459 people over the period January to March 2022, a 30% increase.
- TPT increased to 614 (33% increase) from April to June 2022 and peaked at 1061 from July to September 2022, a 72% increase.
- TPT initiation remained consistent during October to December 2022 (n=982), and then decreased to 452 July-September 2023.
- The overall annual TPT initiation from October 2021 to September 2022 was 2487 and increased 10% to 2578 between October 2022 and September 2023
- The proportion of patients initiated on TPT vs the eligible is consistently >100% due to the continued QI activities.



Conclusion

- Improvement in stock management and TPT monitoring and weekly reporting by facility managers resulted in improvement in TPT initiations.
- Improvement in stock management resulted in improvement in TPT initiations. The QI implementation led to more than 100% TPT initiation monthly.

Recommendations

- Subdistrict management teams should be actively involved in stock monitoring, updating stock cards and weekly data verification to always ensure availability of stock.
- The QI processes need to be ongoing to maintain the improvements, especially weekly TPT initiation targets monitored by facility managers.



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