



Factors contributing to a reduction in the number of clients with an unknown HIV status at Community Based Organisations (CBOs): A case study on Mpilonhle Community Based Organisation

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Background

Mpilonhle Community Based Organisation is a sub-recipient of the Networking HIV & AIDS Community of Southern Africa (NACOSA), they are also supported by the Department of Social Development and work on various community based initiatives. NACOSA is network of over 1500 organisations dedicatedly working to turn the tide on HIV/AIDS and TB in Southern Africa.

In April 2017, it became evident to NACOSA that Mpilonhle CBO was experiencing challenges with respect to reducing the number of beneficiaries with an unknown HIV status across all programmes despite an increase in the number of HIV testing days that were hosted by the CBO.

A quality improvement plan (QIP) was then initiated by NACOSA's Improvement Advisor to address the identified problem.

The multi-disciplinary team that worked on this improvement project included the following individuals: Improvement Advisor (NACOSA), Community Linkage Officers (CLO) (NACOSA), Project Manager (Mpilonhle CBO), Facilitators (Mpilonhle CBO), Supervisors (Mpilonhle CBO) and M&E Officer (Mpilonhle CBO). This team diligently met once a week to share findings, updates and experiences while work continued on this project.

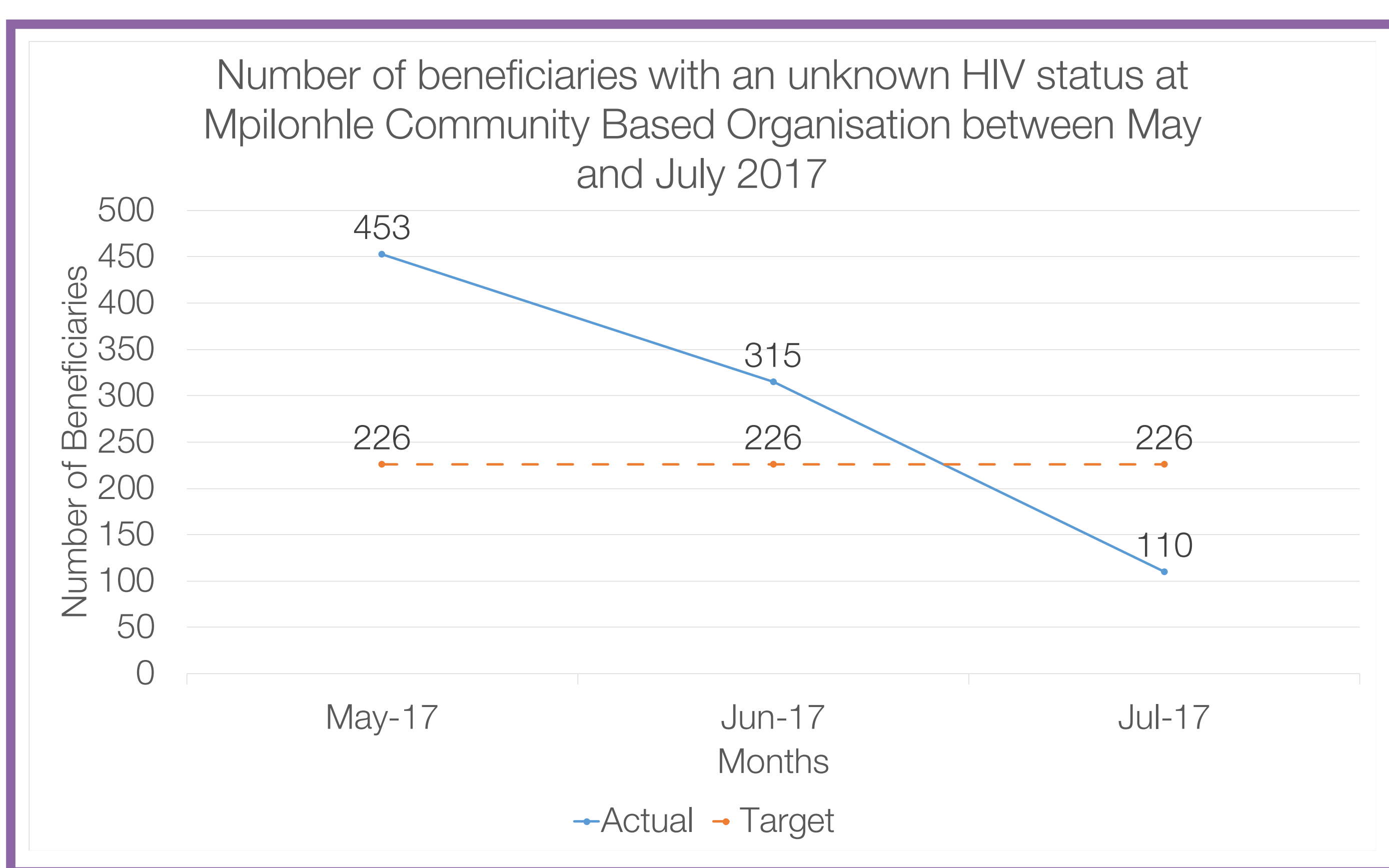
Objective

The objective was to achieve a reduction in the high number of programme beneficiaries with an unknown HIV status at Mpilonhle CBO by more than 50% over the 3 month period May 2017 to July 2017 (i.e. reduce the number of beneficiaries with an unknown HIV status from 453 to < 226 by 31st July 2017).

Summary Result & Outcome of Intervention

It is evident based on the data illustrated that the changes implemented through this improvement project positively impacted on reducing the number of clients with an unknown HIV status at Mpilonhle CBO.

At the end of the 2nd month, there was a 30,5% reduction in the number of children with unknown HIV status. This number continued to fall to 75,7% at the end of the three months exceeding the target (50%).



Project Design and Change Ideas

Established how clients with an unknown HIV status were being monitored at Mpilonhle



Creation of a simple consolidated database using Microsoft Excel to replace paper based logs



Once the new system was in place, the number of clients that needed to be reduced based on the system was confirmed



Facilitators and supervisors trained on the KidzAlive Programme which outlined strategies to encourage children to get tested



Ongoing use of the database to monitor progress of the new strategy which included application of KidzAlive techniques

Lessons and Recommendations

As a learning experience from this study, and to note for possible future implementation at other CBOs it would be advisable for the improvement team to properly orientate all CBO staff about the project prior to the commencement. It was interesting to note that valuable information was often relayed to the project team from the least expected sources at the CBO. The main limitation of this study was that it was conducted at only one CBO.