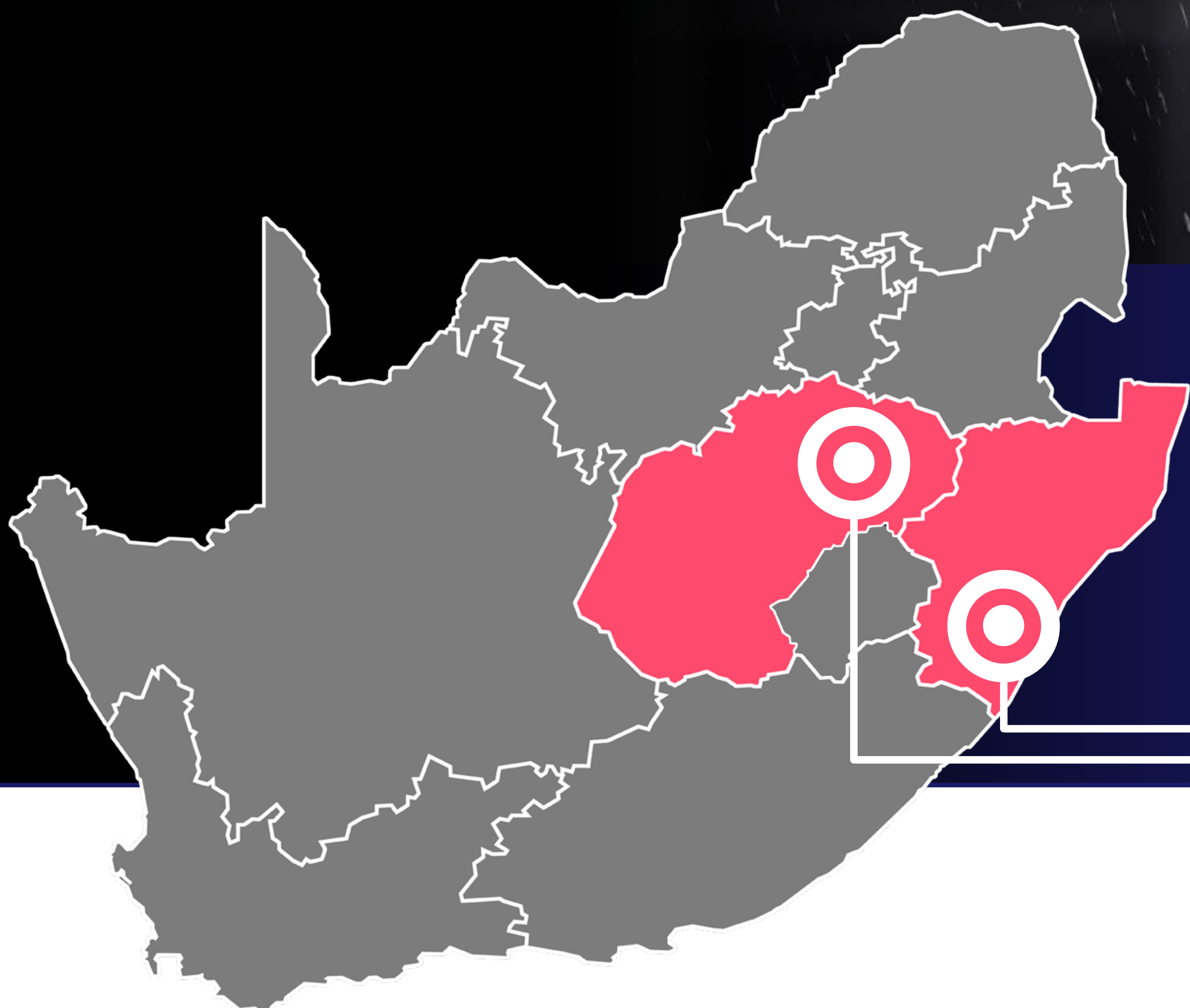


PLANNING ON A MICRO LEVEL

Following a cohort of sex workers using the micro planning methodology

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BACKGROUND

Criminalisation of sex work in South Africa results in sex workers not trusting easily and providing false personal information. This results in programme monitoring systems having multiple unique identifiers attributed to one person. Sex work is mobile and dynamic, with sex workers moving across the country. Following a cohort of sex workers therefore becomes very difficult.

Micro planning, an outreach strategy for peer educators, has been designed and successfully implemented in India with sex workers. In 2018, a programme targeting sex workers, managed by NACOSA and funded by the Global Fund, adopted the micro planning methodology to strengthen cohort tracking of sex workers in Thabo Mofutsanyana, Free State and Ugu, KwaZulu-Natal.

THE SEX WORK PROGRAMME

Peer educators are ex or current sex workers that go to sex work hotspots and provide sex workers with risk reduction information and education, condoms and lubricant and mobilise sex workers for clinical, legal and social services.

IMPLEMENTING MICRO PLANNING

NACOSA attempted the micro planning methodology in South Africa for the first time with success. NACOSA undertook the following steps:

1 PLACE BASED

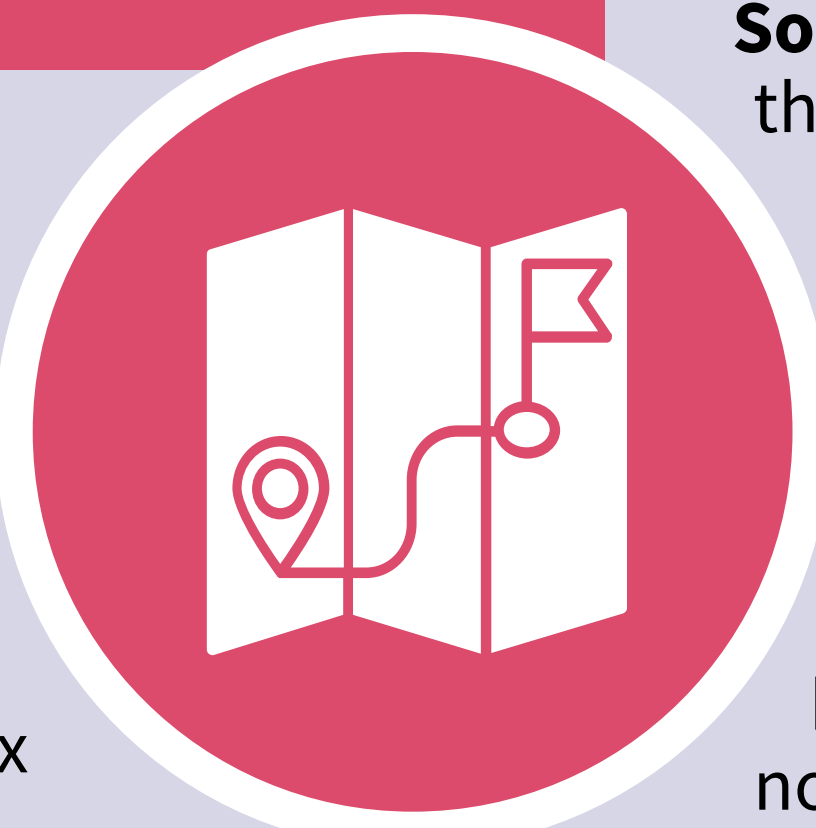
All peer educators were PLACE BASED. This means that specific peers were responsible for specific hotspots and the cohort of sex workers in those hotspots. This allowed the sex workers to build strong relationships of trust with the peer educators. Peer educators that move from



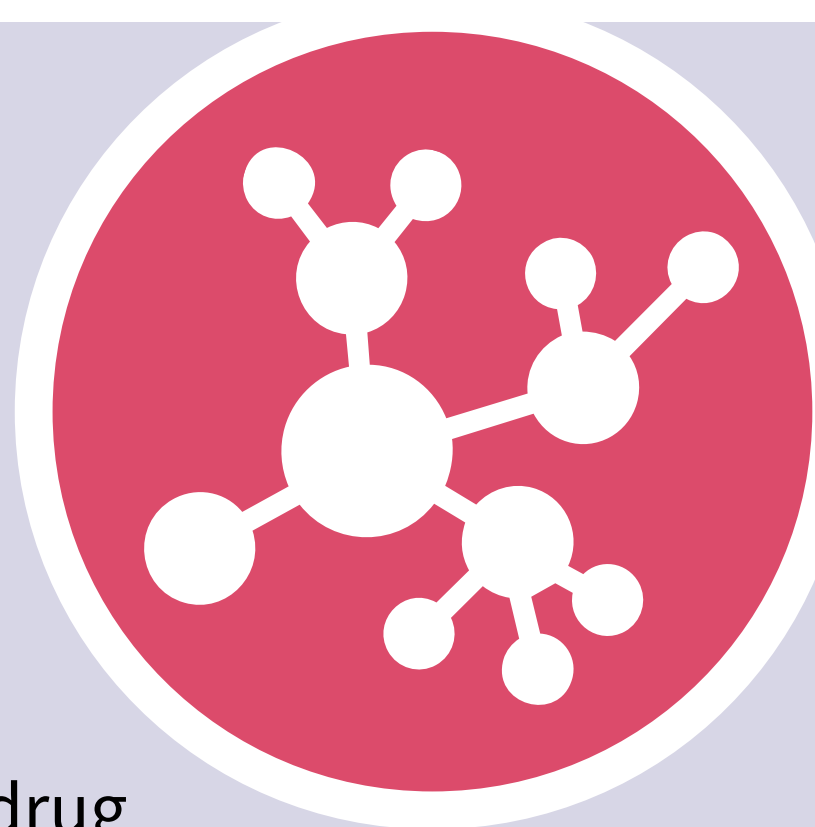
place to place will not work with micro planning (this is also called a roaming peer model where peers are not responsible for specific sites, but move from area to area to reach sex workers).

2 MAPPING & TOOLS

Once the sites were mapped, numerous micro planning tools were implemented to support peer educators successfully follow their cohort of sex workers.



Place profile – peer educators complete this profile of each place to document the specifics of each place such as the number of injecting drug users, their gender and ages, well as risks of the place.



Social network mapping – maps out the peer educators social network in the places of programme implementation. This tool supports linkage and assigning peer educators to places.

Risk assessment – helps the peer educator assess the sex workers risk which includes clinical, social and behavioural risk factors that may or may not heighten risk.

Client Tracking – peer educators track the services provided to sex workers on outreach, immediate needs of the sex worker as well as any changes to the sex workers risk profile.

Peer assessment – this tool randomly assesses the peer educator's performance with the sex workers in the peer's assigned site.

These micro planning tools were contextualised differently for the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal, based on the context of the site as well as the profile and needs of the sex workers in those sites.



COHORT TRACKING OF SEX WORKERS WAS STRENGTHENED

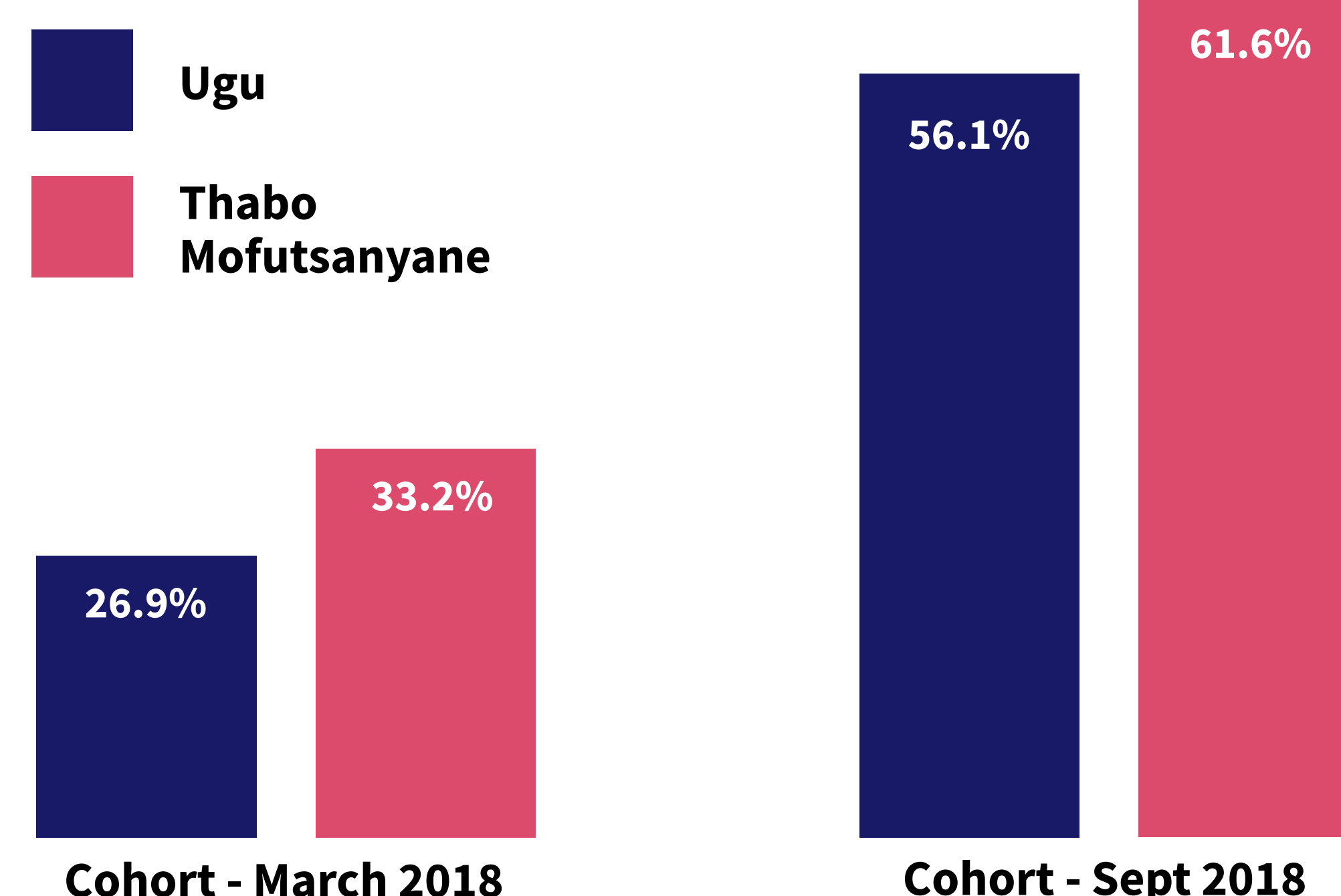
Since the inception of micro planning, there has been a significant improvement in the cohort tracking of sex workers in Ugu, KwaZulu-Natal and Thabo Mofutsanyana, Free State.

Reach for the time period in the two districts:

Cohort tracking of sex workers will never be perfect due to the mobility of the population, however, the micro planning methodology supported peers to develop stronger relationships with their social network and sex workers, ultimately developing a stronger cohort to follow and track in their sites. Peer educators have also been able to conduct high quality risk assessments of sex workers, and places of sex work in their sites and provide services tailored to specific needs.

1,687
THABO
MOFUTSANYANE

4,320
UGU



CONCLUSION

A micro planning methodology works to follow a cohort with place-based peer led sex worker programmes and can be successfully contextualised to suit site level needs. Micro planning should be considered an effective outreach methodology to be used for all criminalised or key population programmes wishing to strengthen their cohort tracking.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Micro planning guidelines need to be contextualised based on the site and needs of the population.
- Place based peer educators are essential to following a cohort of sex workers.
- Micro planning to be considered for other key population programmes wishing to strengthen cohort tracking such as men who have sex with men or people who inject drugs.