

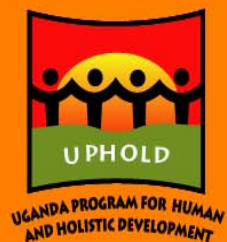
Mitigating Gender – Based Violence to Increase HIV/AIDS Couple Counseling and Testing Uptake in Uganda

*Presentation for the Annual Scientific Conference, Makerere University
Medical School and IPH*

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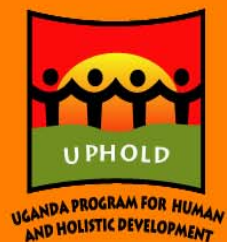
Definition of Gender Based Violence

“Any act of violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering for women/men, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life”

(United Nations General Assembly 1993)



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Background - I

In Africa,

- 60% of new HIV infections are contracted from a spouse
- 1% of couples living together have been tested together

(Source: Raising Voices 2006)

In Uganda,

- Only 11% of men and 13% of women have tested for HIV
- 5% of the couples are discordant

(Source: Ministry of Health, ORC-Macro, 2006)



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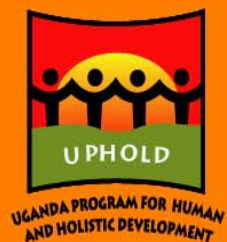
Background - II

- Fear of violence and other negative social outcomes are critical barriers to:
 - Women's access to HIV testing and counseling
 - Women's ability practice other preventive behaviors
 - Women's ability to disclose HIV status to partner(s)
- Women who experience violence are more likely to be with men who are at elevated risk for HIV
- Women who have experienced early physical and/ or sexual abuse are more likely to engage in risk behaviors

(Source: *Raising Voices 2005*)



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Magnitude of Gender based violence

- 1 in every 3 women globally has been beaten, abused or coerced into sex during her lifetime
- In a study in Kenya, 60% of married women reported one or more episodes of domestic violence; 45% of wives reported on-going abuse
- Approximately 48% of girls and young women age 10 –24 years report their first sexual encounter as coerced

*(Source: Population Reports, Ending violence Against Women, Helse, Ellsberg, Gottemoeller, 1999
Gender Series: Domestic Abuse in Kenya by Tony Johnston, PSI, 2002
Garcia – Moreno and Watts 2000)*



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Beliefs and attitudes on GBV

Beliefs/Attitudes that magnify Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

- In a study in rural Uganda, 60% of men and 87% of women believed that beating was justified if the woman was unfaithful*
- 75% of women in Tanzania believe they do not have the right to refuse sex**

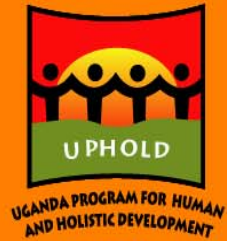
“We must eliminate violence against women if we are to stop the spread of AIDS.” *Dr. Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS*

*Source: Domestic Violence in rural Uganda: evidence from a community-based study, Michael A. Koenig et al. Bulletin of the WHO 2003.

**Source: Allen S. Department of Global Health, Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. WHO Multi-county study on women's health and Domestic Violence against Women



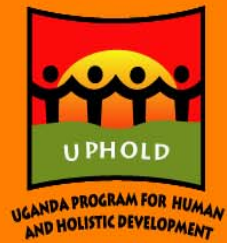
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UPHOLD Interventions - I

- UPHOLD is a USAID-GoU bilateral program with interventions in three sectors: Education, HIV and Health
- Program assumption 1: Social transformation at the family and community level is essential to reduce gender based violence
- Program assumption 2: Mitigating Gender based violence will increase utilization of HCT:
 - Couple counseling/ Disclosure
 - PMTCT

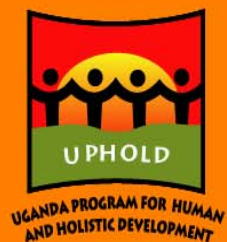




UPHOLD Interventions - II

- In 2005 UPHOLD, awarded Family and Community Action Grants to 25 civil society organizations (CSOs) to conduct HIV/AIDS related interventions
- 7 of the grantees were to address GBV



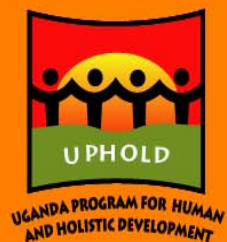


UPHOLD Grantees for mitigating GBV

- Rakai Health Sciences Program, Rakai
- Rural Welfare Improvement for Development (RWIDE), Kyenjojo
- Maturity Audio Vision (MAV), Mbarara
- Environmental Community Health Outreach Foundation (ECHO), Luwero
- World Vision - Luwero,
- World Vision – Kitgum
- Uganda Reproductive Health Bureau, Bugiri



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Objectives of the Interventions

- To enhance the grantees' ability to undertake a gender – based analysis of violence and HIV/AIDS and apply it to prevention programming
- To increase awareness about GBV, its causes, types and consequences



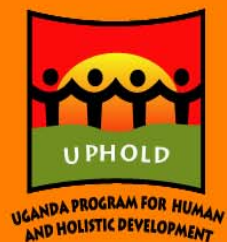
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Intervention Approach-1

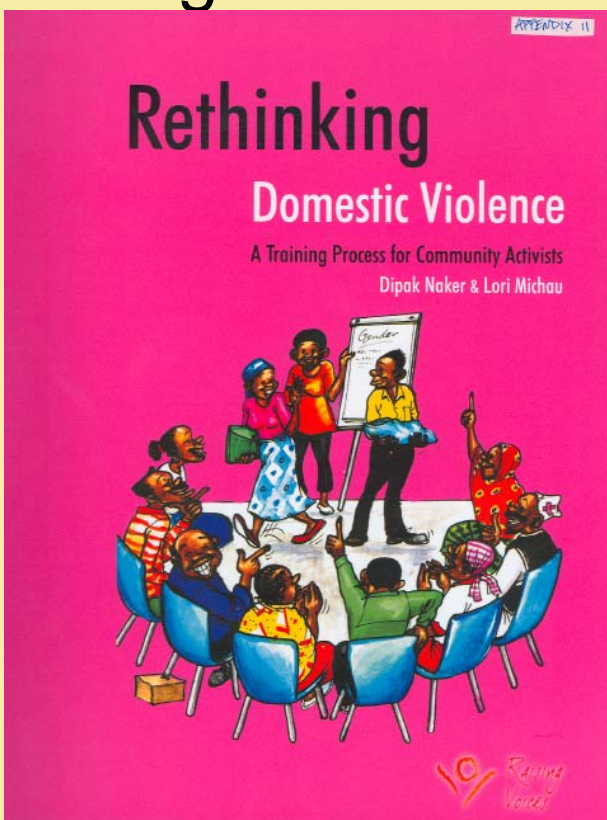
- August 2005, *Raising Voices* trained the CSOs to improve GBV programming in their activities
- Training focused on:
 - Rights-based community mobilization approaches to prevent GBV
 - Integration of GBV into HIV Counseling & Testing (HCT) programs
 - Resource packs & posters on couple dialogue on testing & disclosure



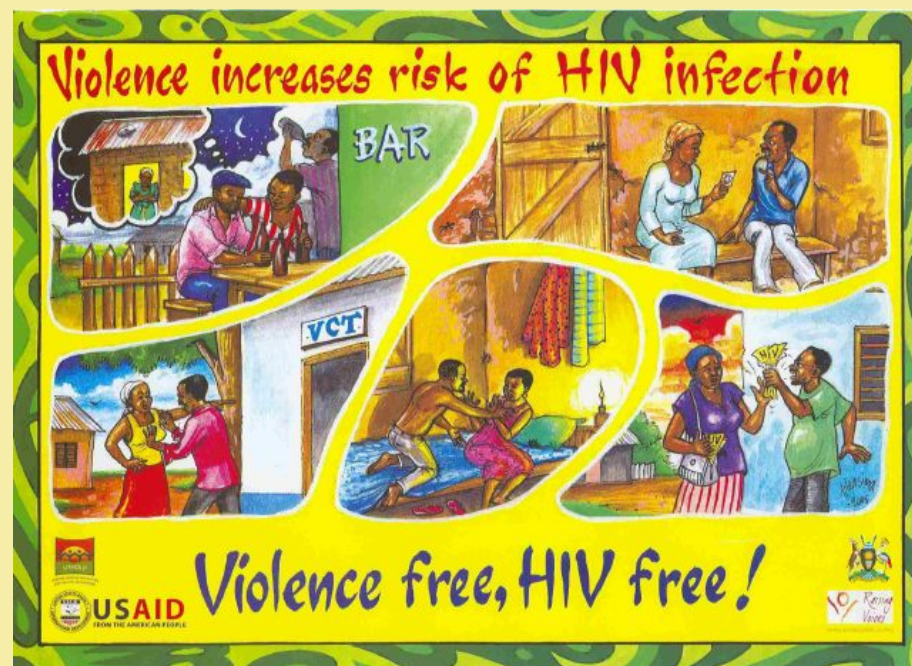


Resource packs & Posters

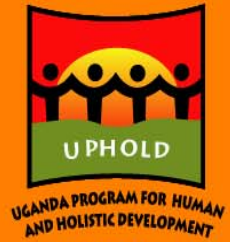
Training Manual



Poster 1

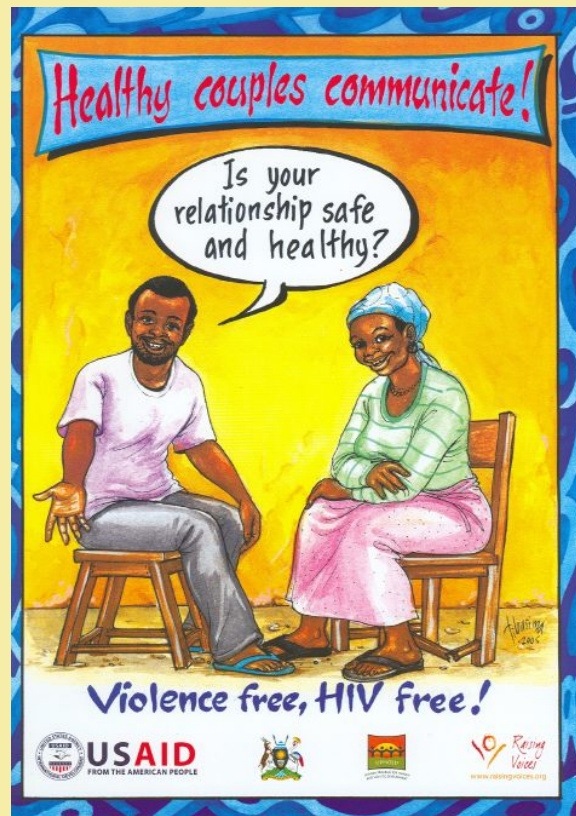


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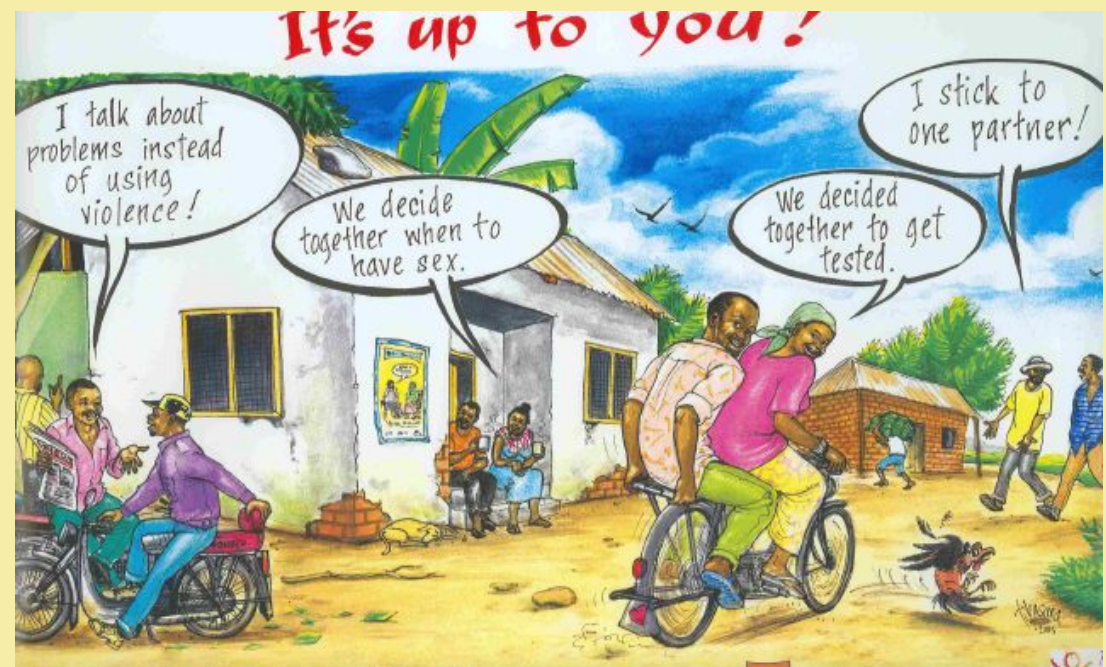


Resource packs & Posters

Poster 2



Poster 3

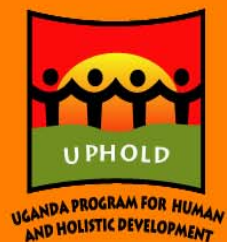




Intervention approach-2

- UPHOLD developed script concepts and contracted *Ndere Troupe* to train 200 local groups in the UPHOLD supported formerly 20 districts
 - Key concepts in the scripts include:
 - Association of fear of violence with use of social services and other important practices
 - People have human rights and dignity; Abuse is a crime and should be stopped
 - Respecting these rights shows courage, control and maturity
 - Suggested actions: If a person feels violent, they could: walk away, talk to someone else, ask for a mediator



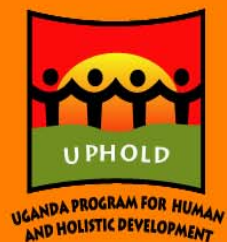


Intervention approach-3

- Training of Radio Presenters
 - In conjunction with the Ministry of Health and *Raising Voices*, top radio presenters from key FM Stations were trained in promoting prevention of GBV
 - Focus was on increasing understanding about GBV, its causes, types and consequences
 - Radio Stations, through their corporate responsibility programmes, have dedicated airtime to dialogue about and find solutions for GBV



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Evaluation of the intervention

- Use of the routine UPHOLD M&E reports
- HMIS data for HCT indicators
- Data analyzed for period before and after GBV interventions

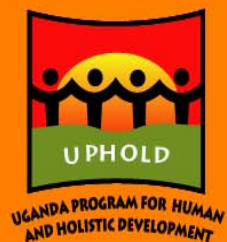




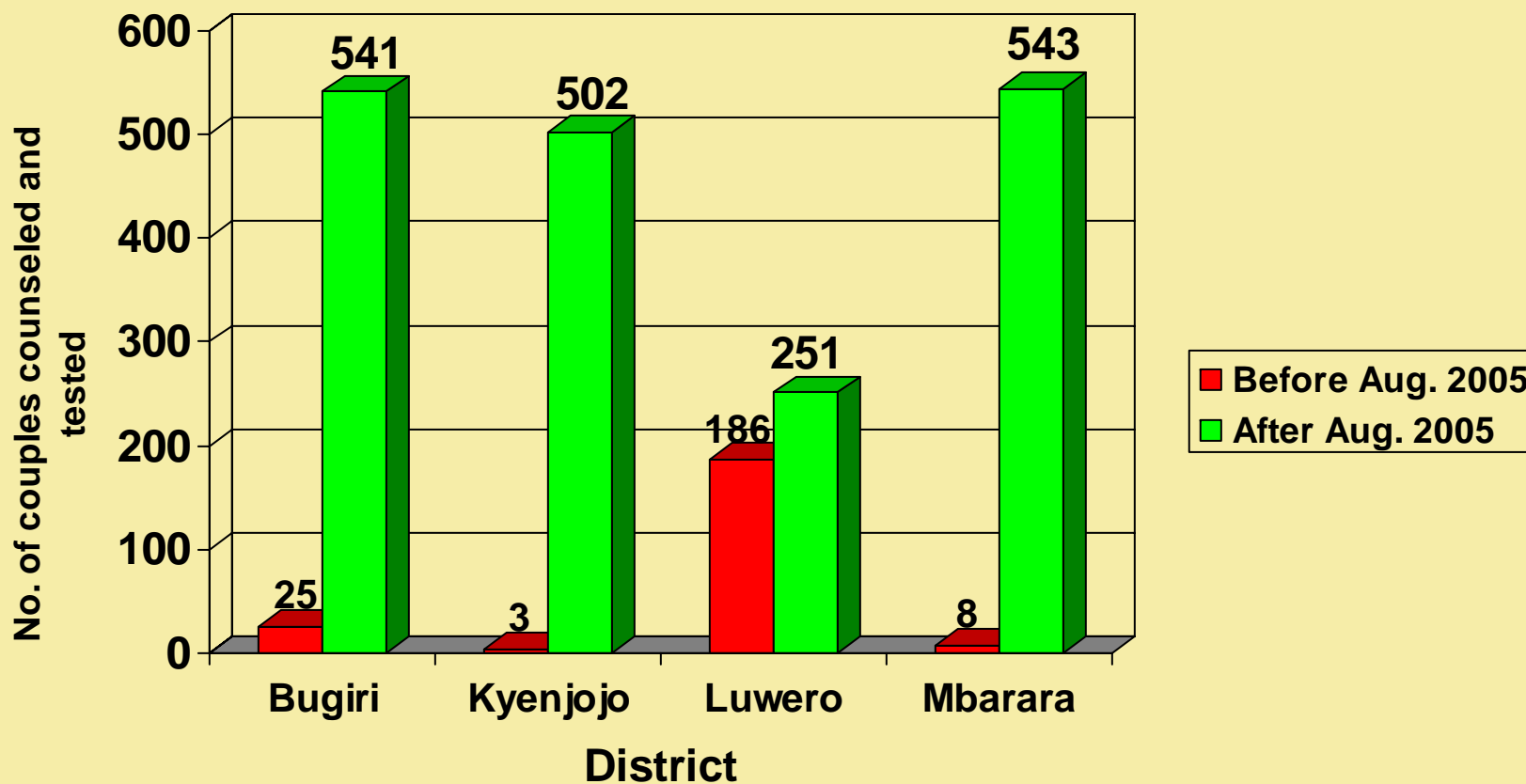
Results

- Areas where GBV was incorporated into CSO programs showed increased numbers of couples testing for HIV
 - 222 vs 1,837 over an eight month period of implementation
- Qualitative information showed that women felt more confident about disclosing their HIV test results to their partners when both couples attended sessions on GBV





Results-Before and after GBV



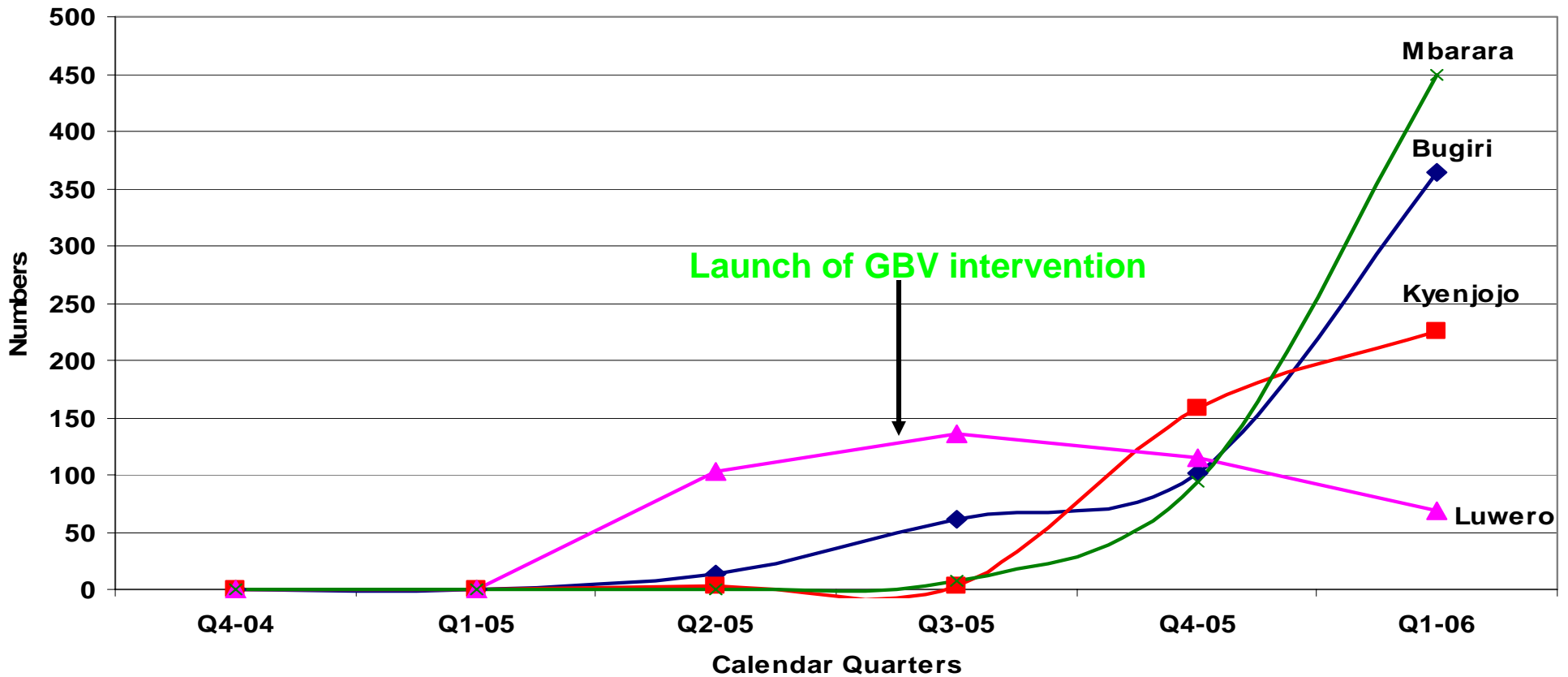
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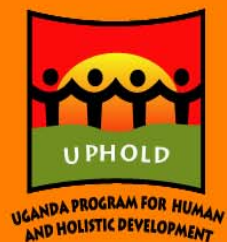


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Resultscontinued

Couples Counsellled by Calendar Quarter

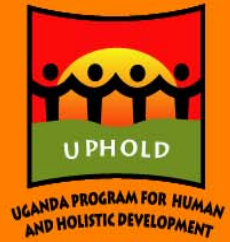




Conclusions

- GBV is a significant barrier to accessing HIV preventive services
- Creating community awareness & facilitating family dialogue leads to increased couple testing and hence a reduction in gender differences in service uptake
- Community leaders and law enforcement officers should especially be targeted in awareness campaigns



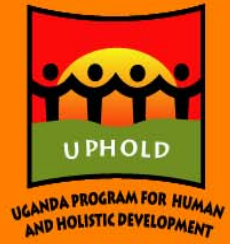


Acknowledgments

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Thank You

