ICAP's Support to Zambia's COVID-19 Response –C19RM

Presenter:

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31st August 2024

Zambia Medical Association Annual Scientific Conference

Outline

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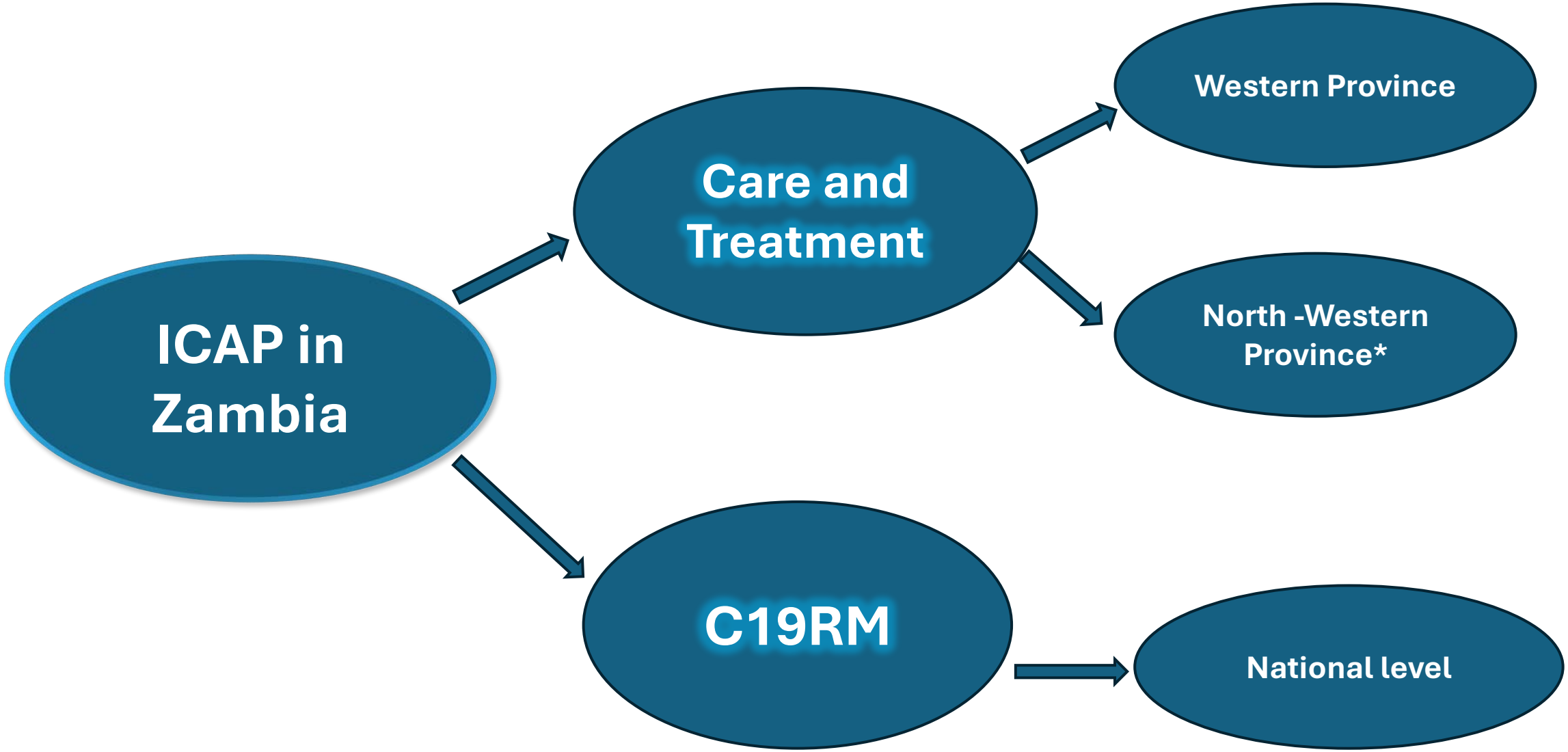
Introduction

- ICAP at Columbia University was founded in 2003 by Wafaa El Sadar – at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University in New York, USA
- Based in over 40 countries
  - Currently have over 200 projects running worldwide
- Originally called “International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs” – name has since changed to ICAP with expansion of SOW
  - Maternal and Child Health
  - Non-communicable diseases
  - COVID-19
  - Antimicrobial resistance etc.
- Believes in transforming the health of populations through **innovation, research**, and **global collaboration.**

Notable Recent Work in Zambia

- ZAMPHIA 2015 -2016
  - Informed the country's HIV and AIDS policy
- Zambia Biobehavioural Survey
  - Data to guide interventions among KPs
- Care and Treatment Award –Southern Province
  - Province awarded best parameters in HIV performance
- C19RM
  - Support towards Zambia's COVID-19 response

ICAP in Zambia's Portfolio



*Commences Oct 24

C19RM Background

- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating global impact
  - Over 750 million confirmed cases and close to eight million deaths as of August 2024(WHO,2024)
  - Zambia has not been spared, experiencing 349,842 confirmed cases and 4,077 deaths as of July 2024 (WHO,2024).
- To address the evolving nature of the pandemic, Zambia needed effective tools and strategies
  - Transition from an emergency response to a long-term approach
- The COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) project thus established to support Zambia's existing COVID-19
  - Funded by the Global Fund through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Has been running since October 2022

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C19RM Structure

COVID-19 RESPONSE MECHANISM (C19RM)

General Objective

- Strengthen Zambia's COVID-19 response
- Mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on HIV/TB services
- Enhance the integration of COVID-19 and Long COVID into existing health systems

Specific Objectives

Clinical Response
- Rollout of COVID-19 anti-viral therapy
- Bidirectional Screening for TB and COVID-19

Supply Chain Response
- To strengthen COVID-19 and epidemic commodity security

Data and M&E Response
- Strengthen COVID-19 HMIS

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Key Performance Indicators for the C19RM

	Objective	KPI	Target	Status
1	To support rolling-out of the oral antiviral (Paxlovid) for individuals with COVID-19 at risk of developing severe disease	# of provinces able to provide C19 antiviral therapy	100%	
2	Coordinate the establishment of routine and integrated TB/COVID-19 bidirectional screening at health facilities	# of provinces carrying out bidirectional screening for C19 and TB	100%	
3	Improve commodity security for COVID-19 prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and standardization of service delivery	# of provinces reporting on C19 commodities/ able to pull using eLMIS	100%	
4	Strengthen COVID-19 vaccination data management and integration of the electronic report systems in COVID-19	Data completeness and correctness at DQAs in provinces offered TA	100%	

Done Ongoing Off course

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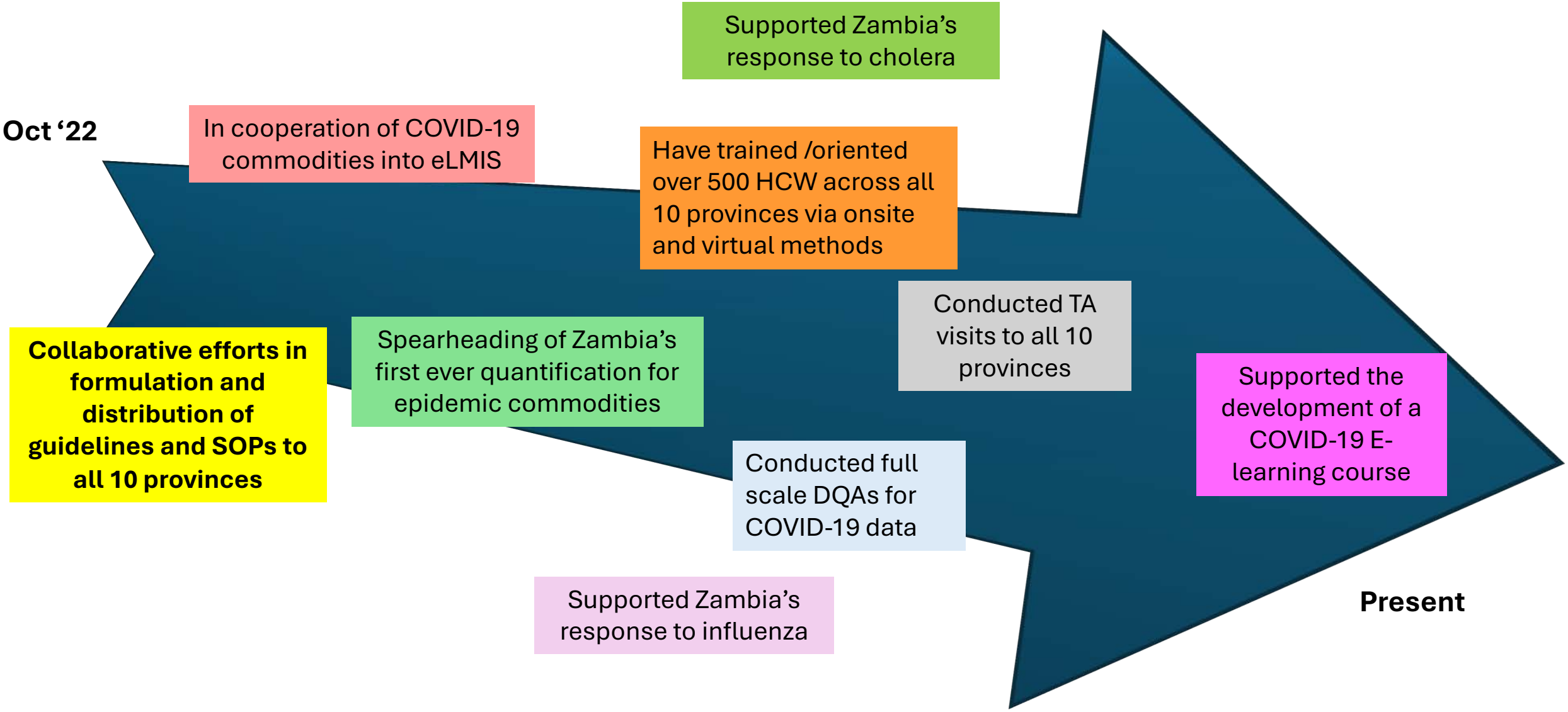
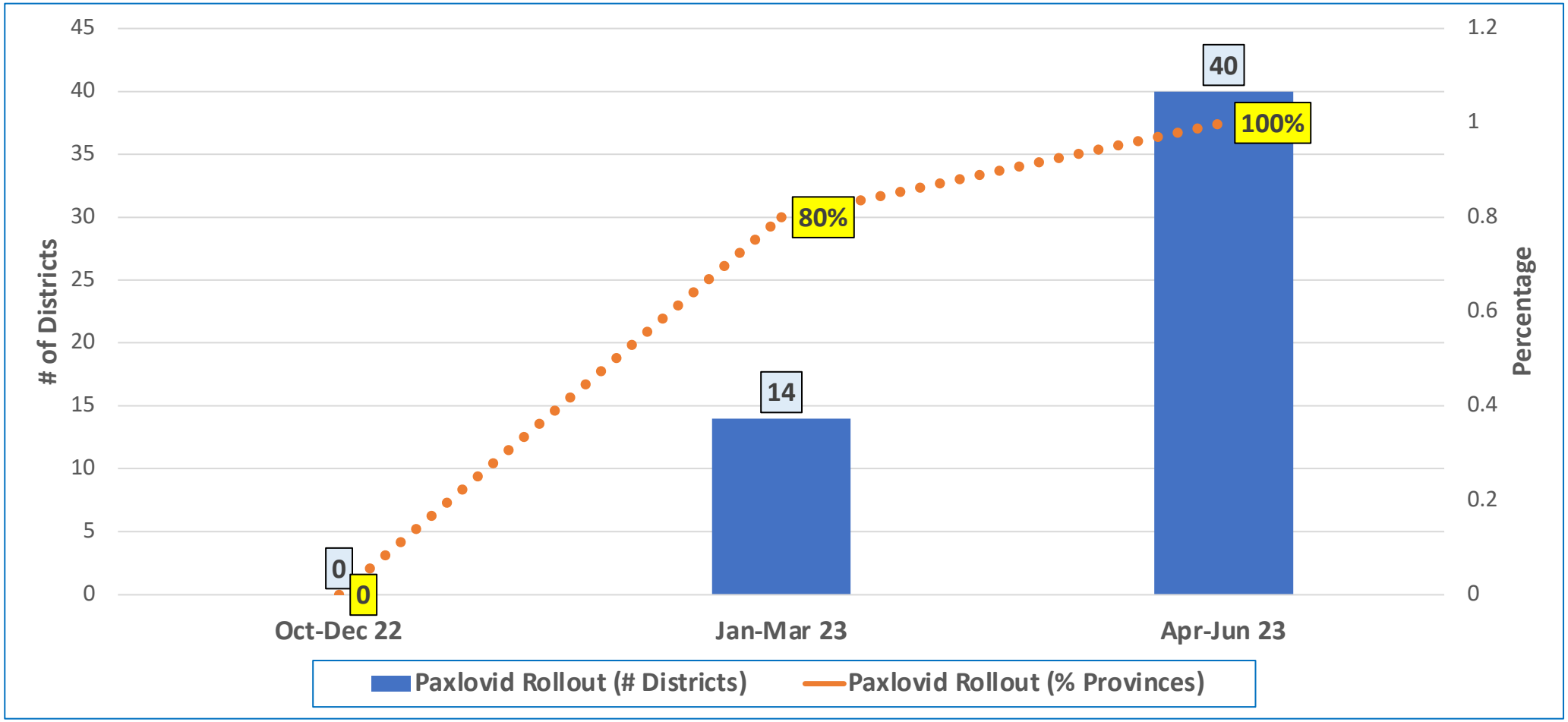
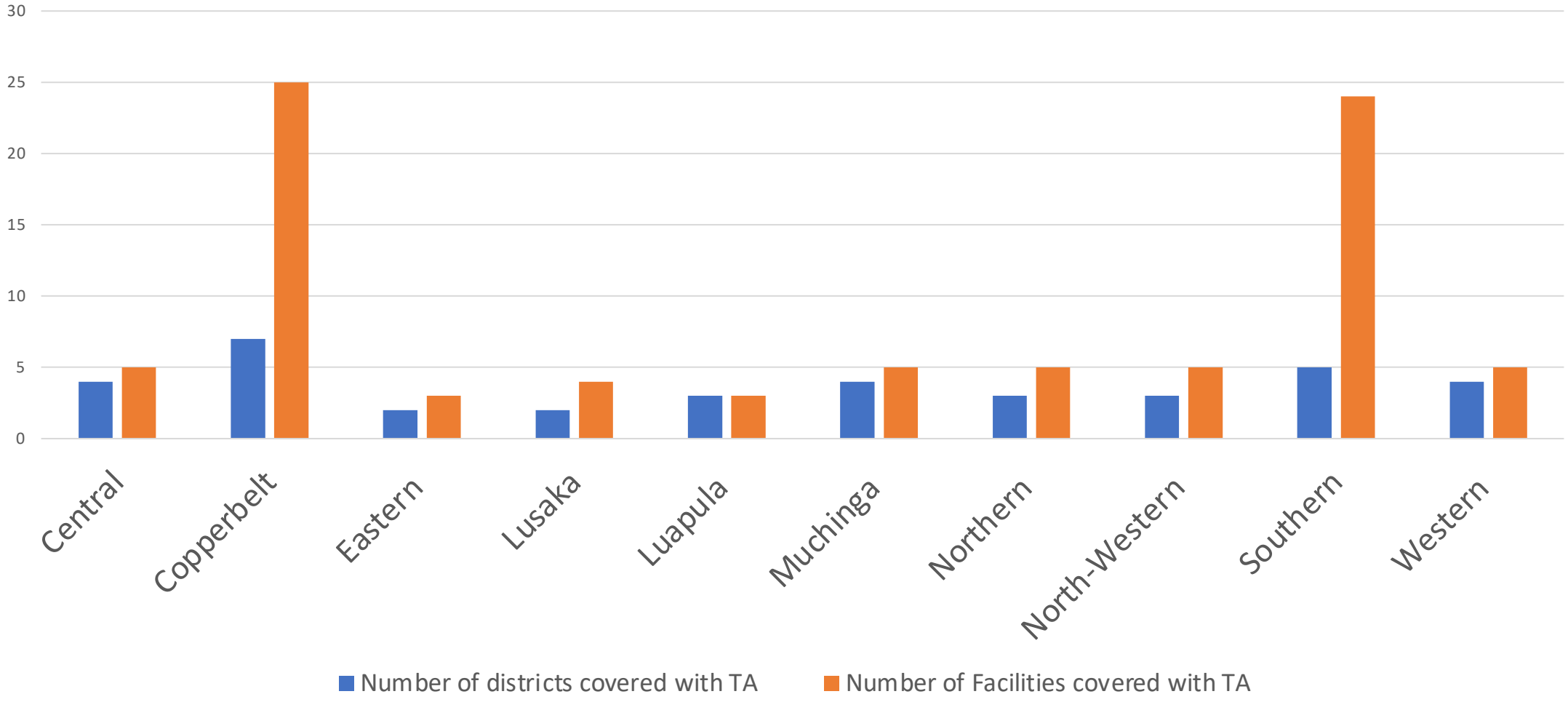
Highlights of C19RM



Paxlovid Rollout by Province & District June 23

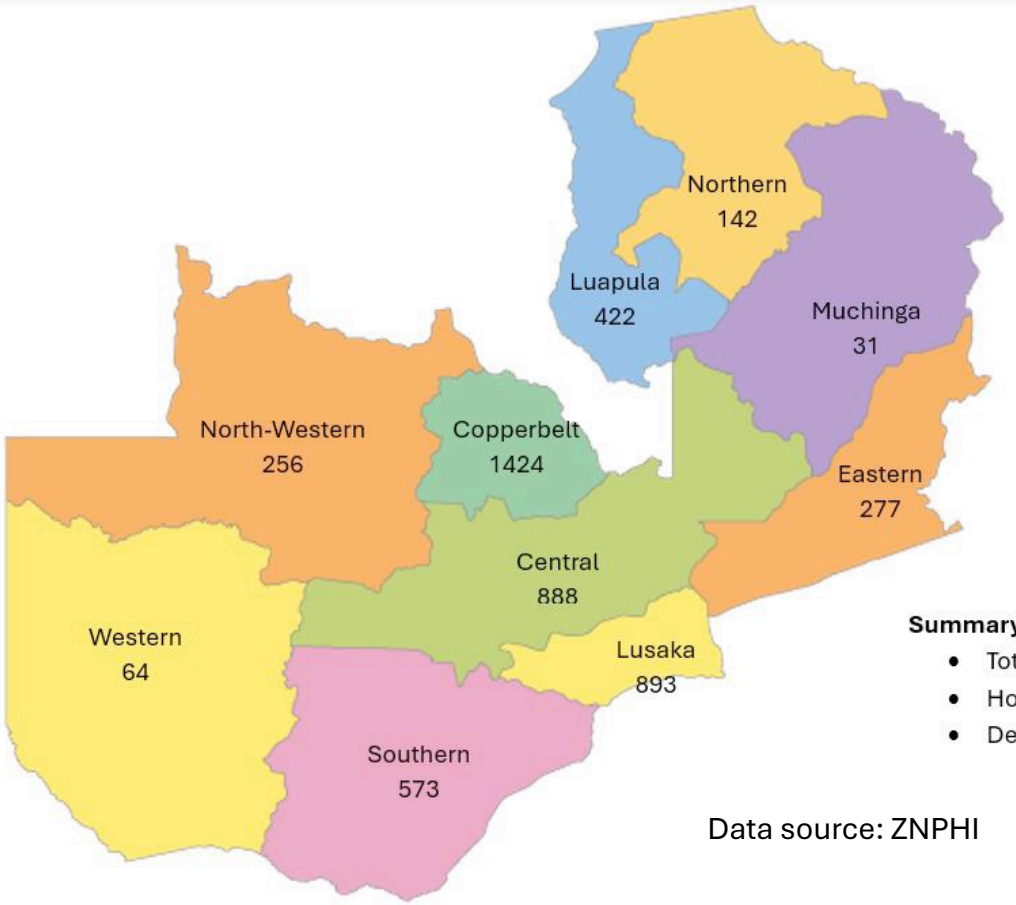


ICAP's TA footprint across Zambia



Challenges

- Misconception among HCW and the public that COVID-19 is over
- Ongoing outbreaks in the midst of COVID-19



Data source: ZNPHI

Lessons Learned

- Embedding of TA within MoH structures
  - Ensures that TA moves in line with country's strategic plans and objectives
- COVID-19 has highlighted many other gaps that in the continuum of care so there is need to integrate them in messaging
  - NCDs, Emergencies , Mental Health, Self care among HCW
- Collaboration with other IPs
  - Avoidance of duplication of labour, Synergy on shared goals, Greater impact on the ground
- Tailored methods of capacity building for different cardres
- Need for constant engagement of both HCW and the public
  - Countering of misconceptions and myths
- Need for room to adjust scope of work
  - Cholera outbreak

Thank You