

**DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, THAILAND**



**Community Involvement
in The Thai Probation System**

by

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Community Involvement Overview



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1952 B.C.

- The initiation of Thai probation system

1985 B.C.

- The introduction of the COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT scheme in the probation system

1992 B.C.

- The establishment of the Department of Probation, Thailand

Community Involvement

Volunteer Probation Officer



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Since 1985 The concept of community involvement has been implemented to the Thai probation system as **the Volunteer Probation Officer program**

Volunteer Probation Officers (VPO) are community members who voluntarily work with the Department of Probation in providing probation services.

Community Involvement

Overview



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Community involvement has proven to be a crucial part in non-custodial measures. As for the department alone, we can only provide partial community protection and limited range of support to the offenders, nevertheless, the community, itself, can fulfill this gap.

By bring in the community to the probation system, the community will work collaboratively with the department in preventing recidivism , as well as, in enhancing the offenders' reentry processes.

Community Involvement



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VPO's roles and responsibilities

When VPO scheme was first introduced, the VPO assisted the probation officers in term of providing supportive care for probationers.

As time evolved, VPO were trained-:

- To monitor and provide appropriate supervision to probationers, as well as their families
- To make proper social intervention through the implementation of rehabilitating skills

In addition VPOs help -:

- Connect the community to the Department of Probation and the Ministry of Justice
- Raise the community's awareness toward the probation system and how it helps protect the community
- Promote social reintegration of the offenders
- Expand the level of community involvement

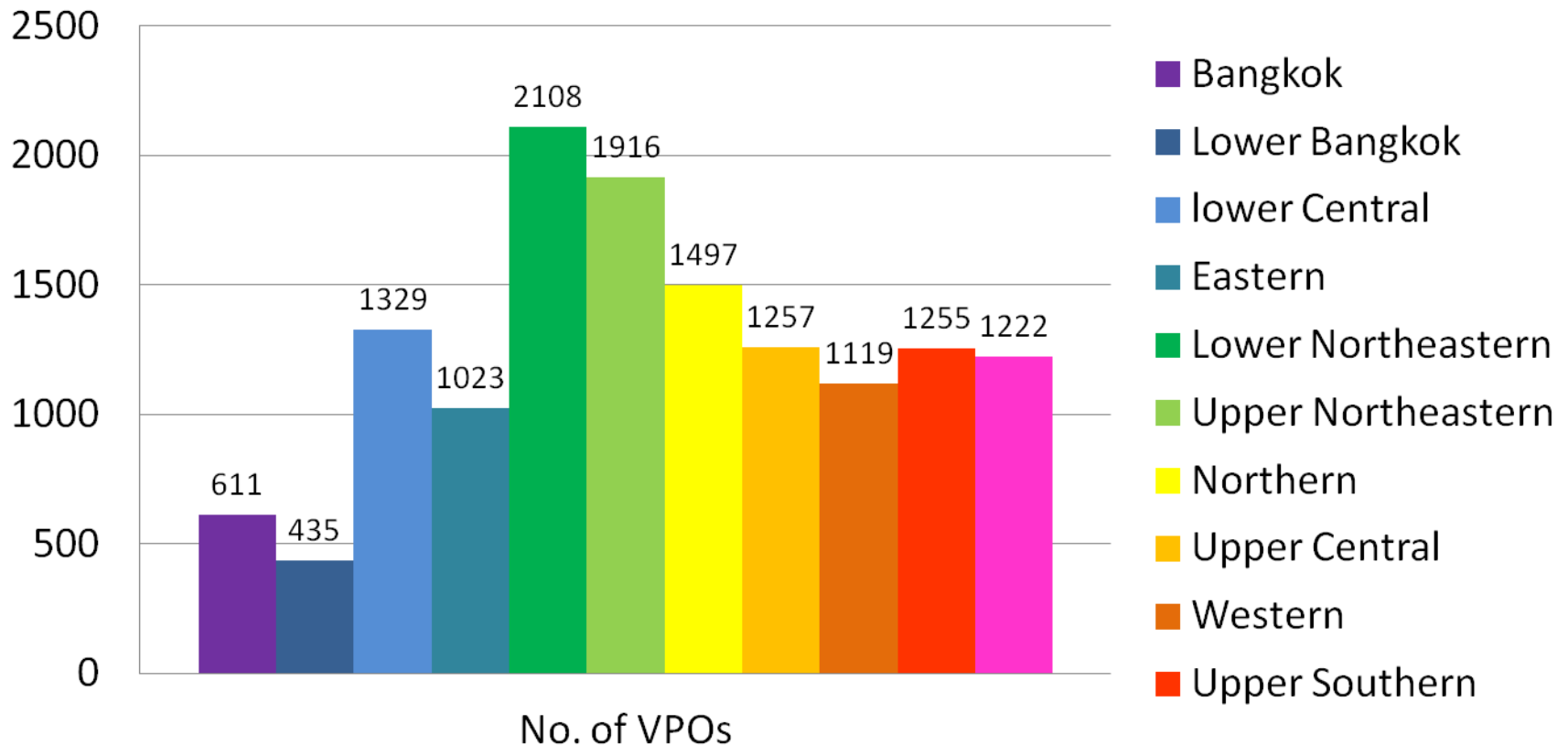
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VPO Fact and Figures 1



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Number of VPOs by Areas (TOTAL 13,082)



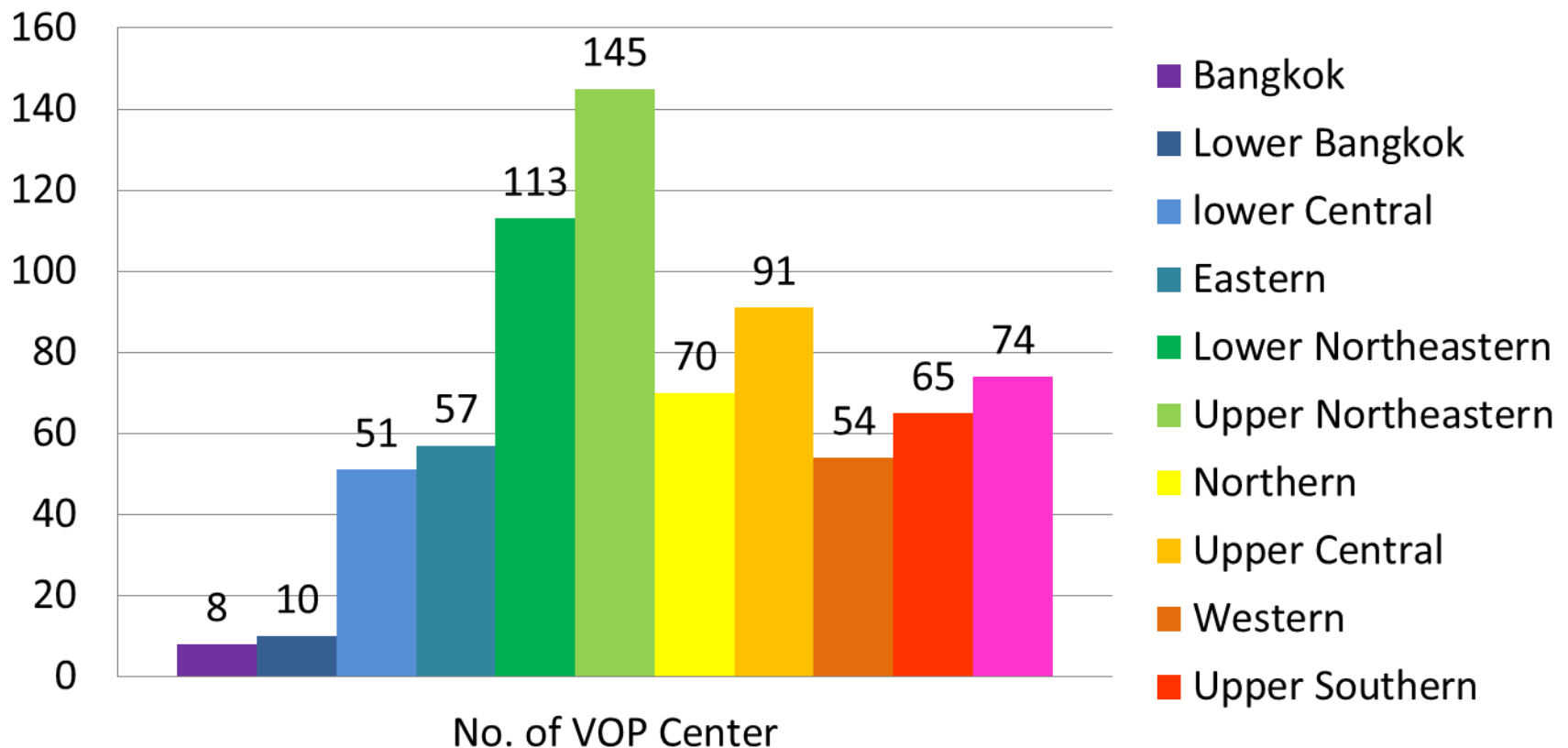
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VPO Fact and Figures 2

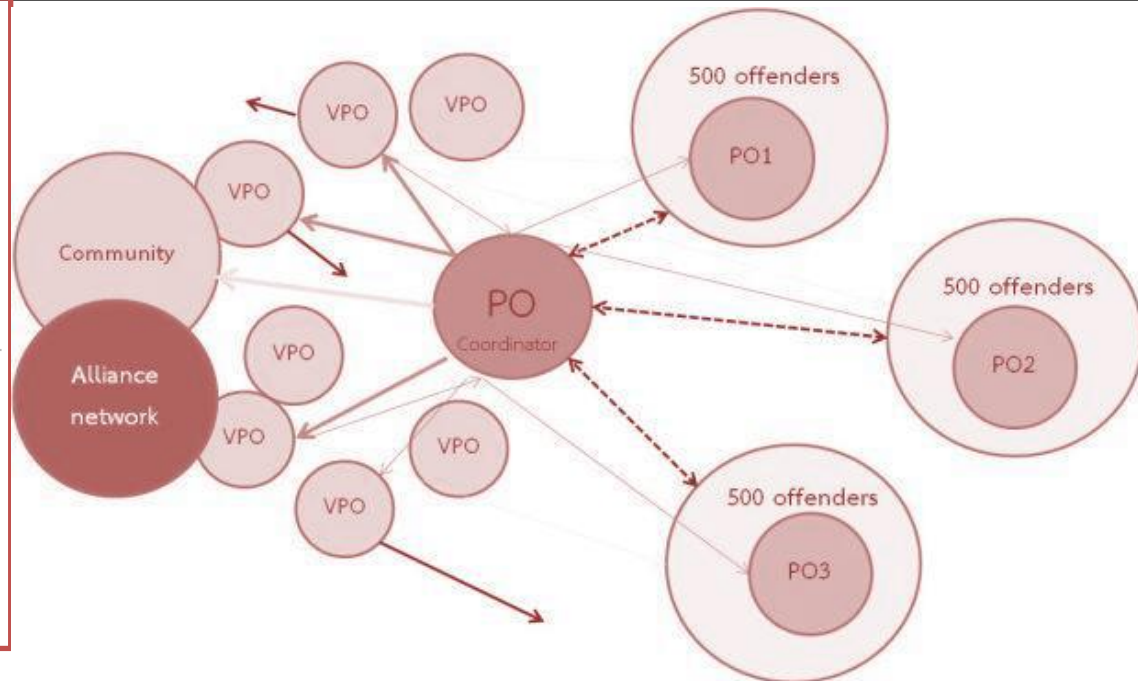
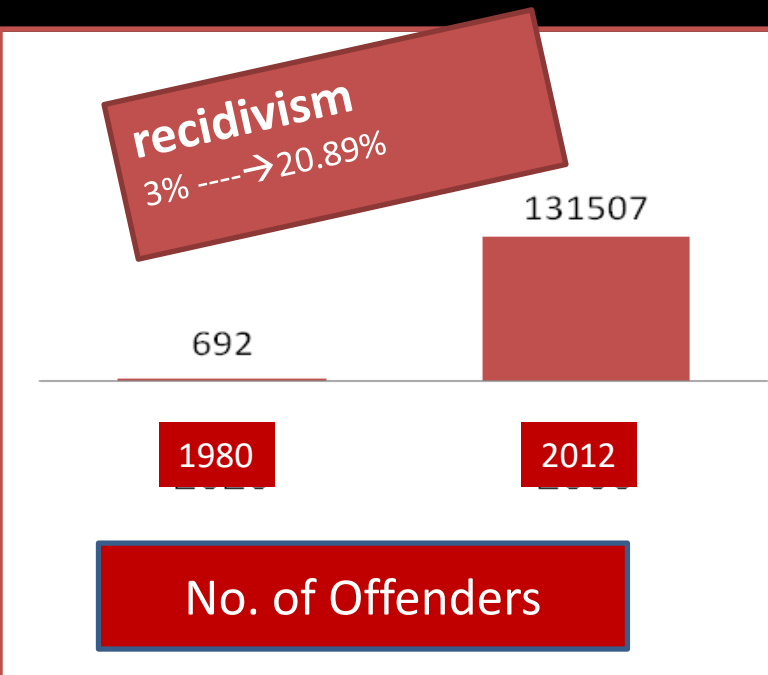


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Number of VPO Centers by Areas (TOTAL 738)



Background: **TEAM Model**



An increase in the number of offenders while there were.....

- lack of POs
 - lack of quality control system
 - Inadequate offender supervision and rehabilitation
 - Insufficient of volunteer probation officers (VPOs) utilization
 - Weak/limited community and alliance network involvement
- Leading to an increase of recidivism rate**

Community Involvement

TEAM system



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Recently

TEAM model was proposed and piloted to enhance the VPO scheme and the effectiveness of the supervision system.

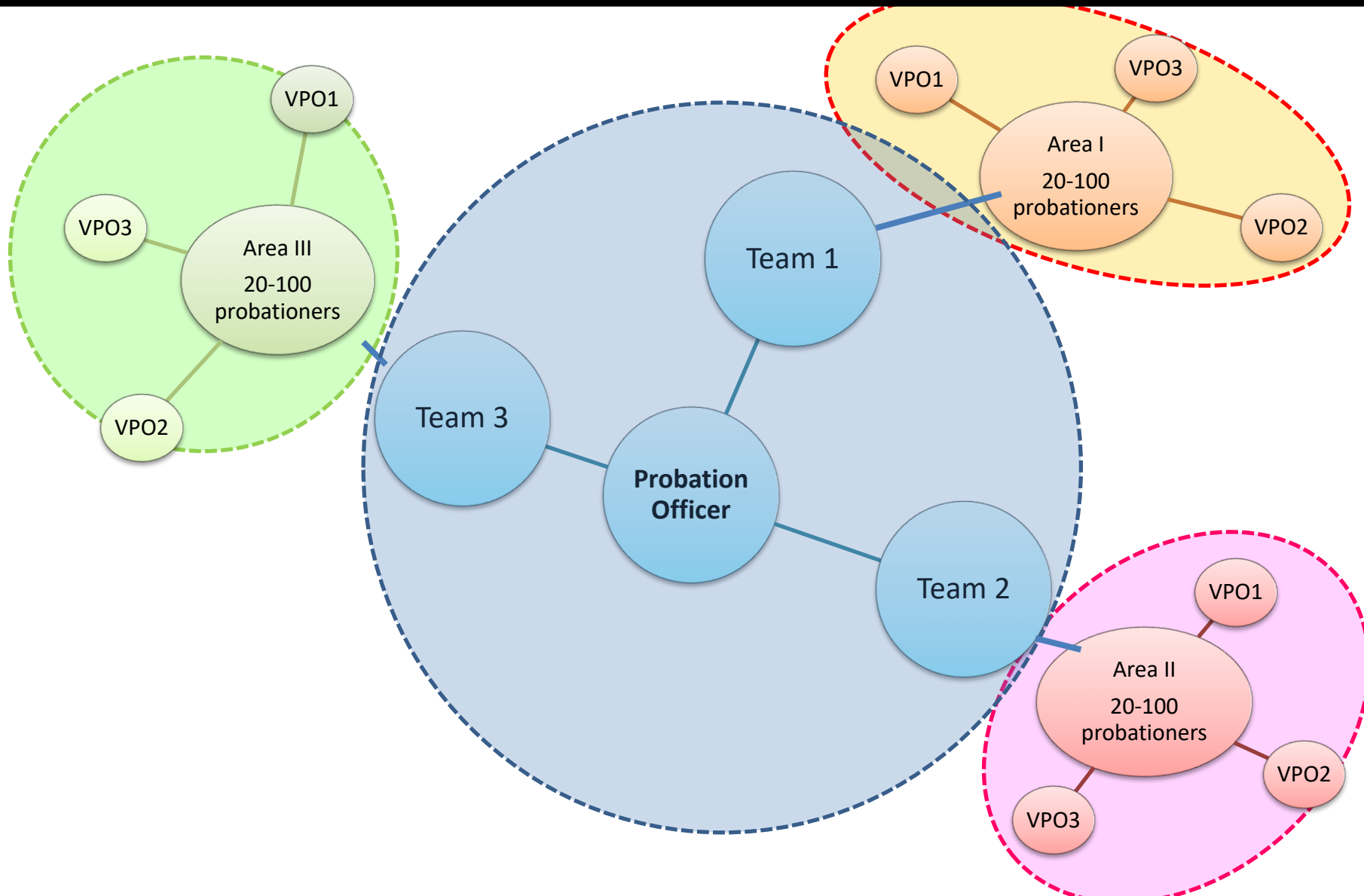
The model emphasizes on-:

- Integrative system called **Community-Based Correction Integrated TEAM model**
 - Cooperation among probation officers and VPOs within quality control system
- One team is comprised of 1 Probation officer who acts as the team leader and 3 VPOs as team members
 - Each Team covers different surveillance areas.

Community Involvement TEAM Model



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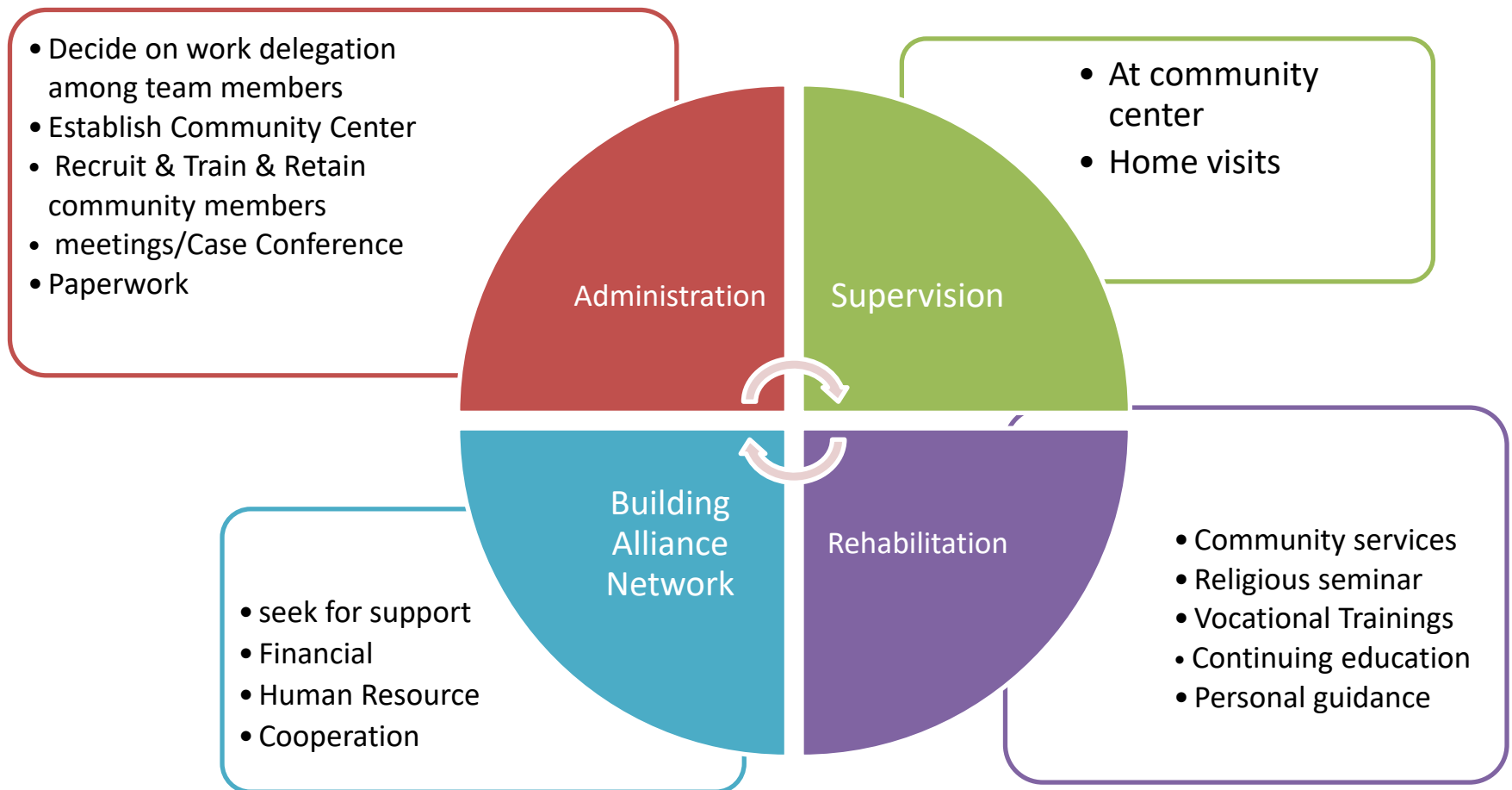


Integrated TEAM Model

- The concept of client-centered
- The area-based operation with responsible teams that comprised of probation officers and VPOs
(1 PO : 9 VPOs : 3 areas)
- Strengthen operation through better coordination, teamwork, and maximization of community resource utilization

Operated plan : Execution

Each team operated according to plan, that covered 4 main tasks; handling administrative task, building an alliance network, carrying out offender supervision, and rehabilitation activities



Community Involvement Administration



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Administration

- Decide on work delegation among team members
- Establish Community Center
- Recruit & Train & Retain community members
- Meetings/Case Conference schedule
- Paperwork



Offender supervision skills Training by the POs



The team arranged monthly case conference



The community center established in Saraburi province.



The team leader decided on work delegation

Community Involvement Supervision



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Supervision

- Home visits
- At community center

A home visit by VPO



Offender monthly report at community centers
organized by VPOs



Offender orientation activities at community centers
organized by the team



Community Involvement

Building Alliance Network



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Building Alliance Network

- Financial Resources
- Human Resources
- Other cooperation



Local Administration committees

- Supplied material needs for organizing activities and infrastructures.
- Provided venue & manpower for activities
- Extended alliance network
- Raised funds for activities
- Supervised offenders who live in their area.
- Cooperatively arranged community service activities for offenders

Private Sector

- Supplied material needs for organizing activities and infrastructures.
- Offered employment opportunities for offenders
- Donated money for activities
- Provided skills training sessions for offenders

Temples, Religious institutions

- Provided venues for activities
- Religion related Trainings
- Food supply
- Supply for community service activities

Vocational Colleges

- Arranged vocational skills training sessions for offenders
- Provided trainers
- Supplied material needed for training activities

The Department of Continuing Education

- Survey offenders' educational needs
- Designed curriculum that fit with their needs
- Organized courses in the offenders' residential areas
- Evaluated curricular for further development

Community Involvement Rehabilitation



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Rehabilitation

- Community services
- Religious seminar
- Vocational Trainings
- Continuing education
- Personal guidance
- Camps for addicts



With support from local vocational college, provided skills trainings for offenders, e.g. reused old woods to make furniture, satellite dish installation.



Participated in The Drink Don't Drive Campaign organized by the local admin



Collaboration with the local rehab center, organized camp for addicts



With local senior citizen club, offenders attended traditional new year activities



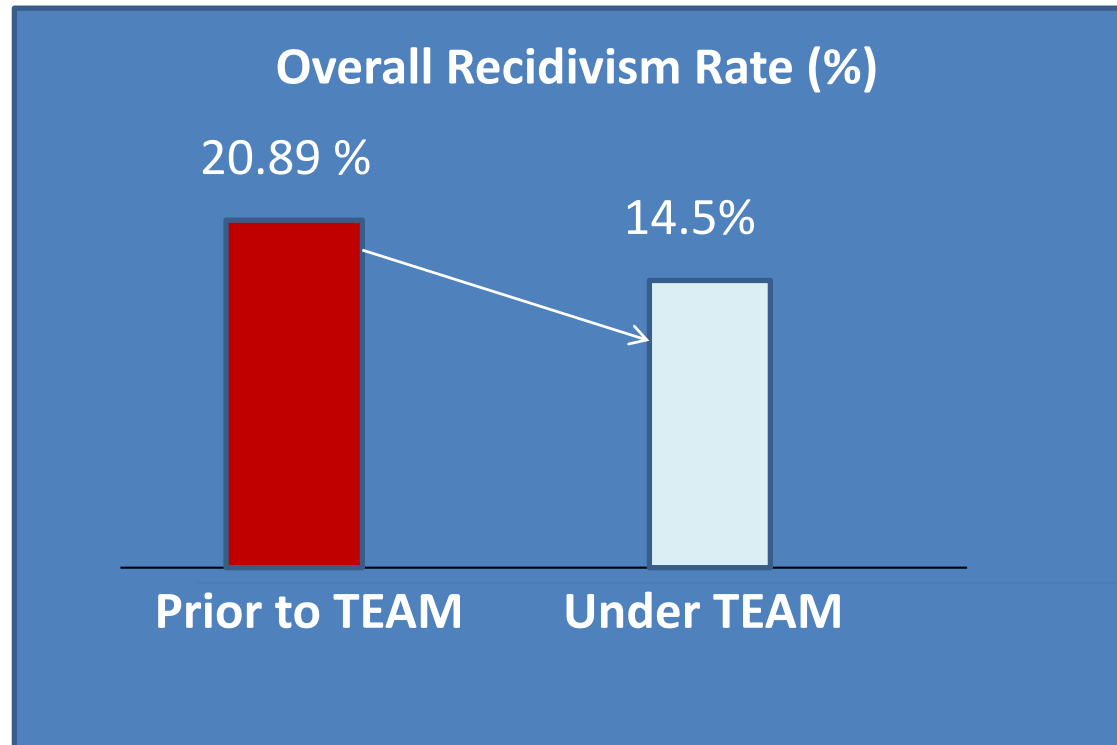
The Team provided group counseling activities

Community Involvement Evaluation



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5 percent reduction of recidivism rate related to increases in the intensity of supervision, culturally sensitive rehabilitation activities, community involvement, and accessibility of service.

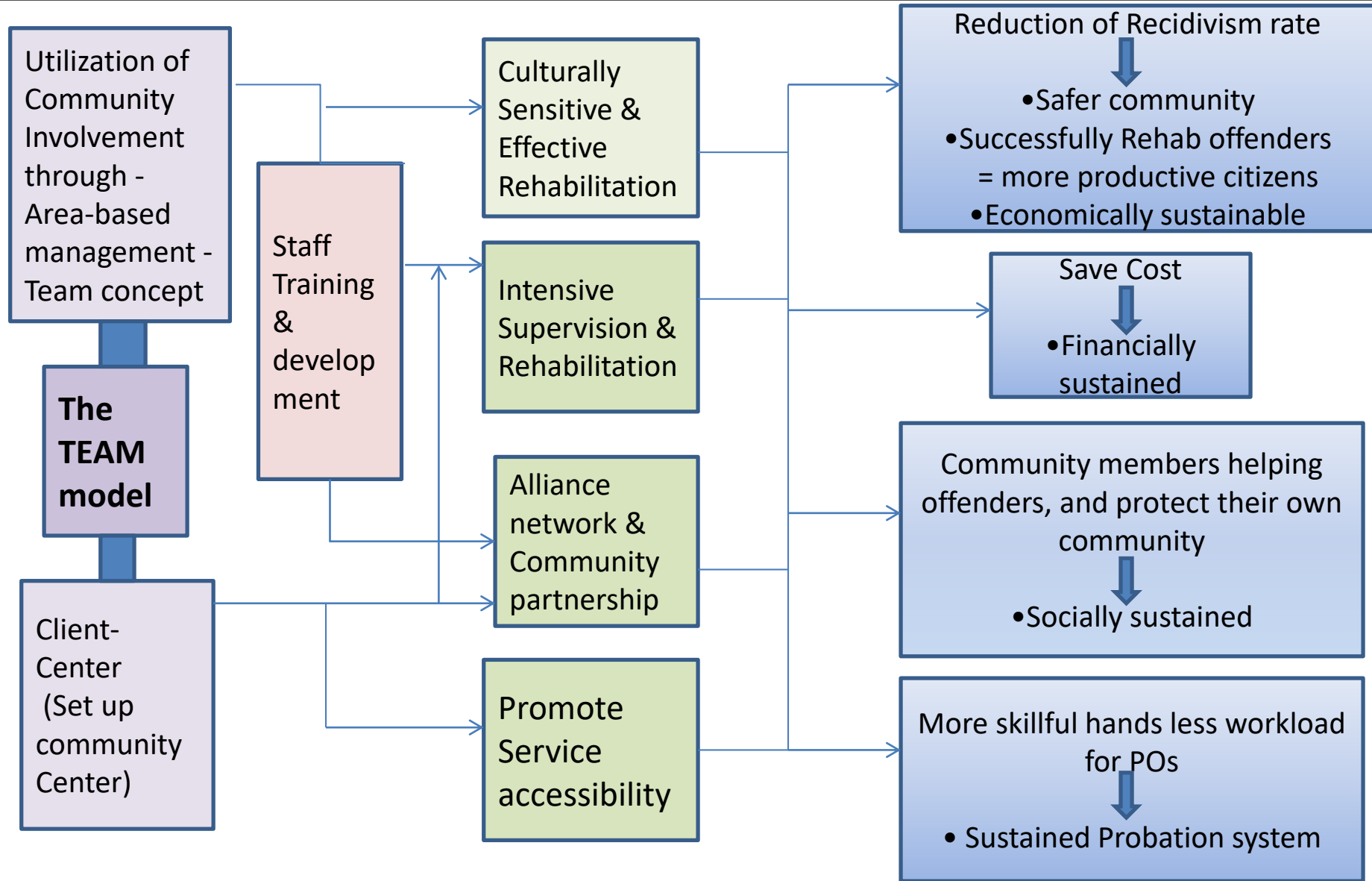


Community Involvement

Evaluation



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Lessons Learned

1. Go Local

Localization was needed even though the TEAM model provided a concrete structure as the foundation framework for offender supervision and rehabilitation system

2. Community Center

The community centers facilitated and strengthen the collaboration.

3. Executives' support is "a must"

4. The evidence-based practice

It was essential in reflecting the initiative's impact.

7. A sense of community ownership

should be strengthened to empower these volunteers.

6. Volunteer spirits

and philanthropy of the community members were part of the success factors.

5. Trainings

could be used to motivate, illustrate, and even convinced them to adopt certain attitudes, perspectives, and mindsets that were crucial for probation works; such as, the concept of humanistic view, non-custodial measures, and teamwork.

Thank you