

Strengthening national transplant infrastructure through International collaboration: lessons from the DKMS experience in Colombia

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Background

Access to unrelated stem cell transplantation in Latin America remains limited by regulatory, logistical, and infrastructural constraints. DKMS's operational experience in Chile, where it supported multiple transplant centers and helped strengthen donor-related workflows, provided strategic insights for shaping a collaborative model in Colombia. These insights guided the partnership with the Colombian Bone Marrow Donor Registry of IDCBIS "Dar Células" and national transplant centers to improve operational readiness, enhance knowledge transfer, and strengthen national transplant capabilities.

Objective: To describe the operational context, early outcomes, and transferable practices arising from collaboration between DKMS, IDCBIS, and Colombian transplant centers.

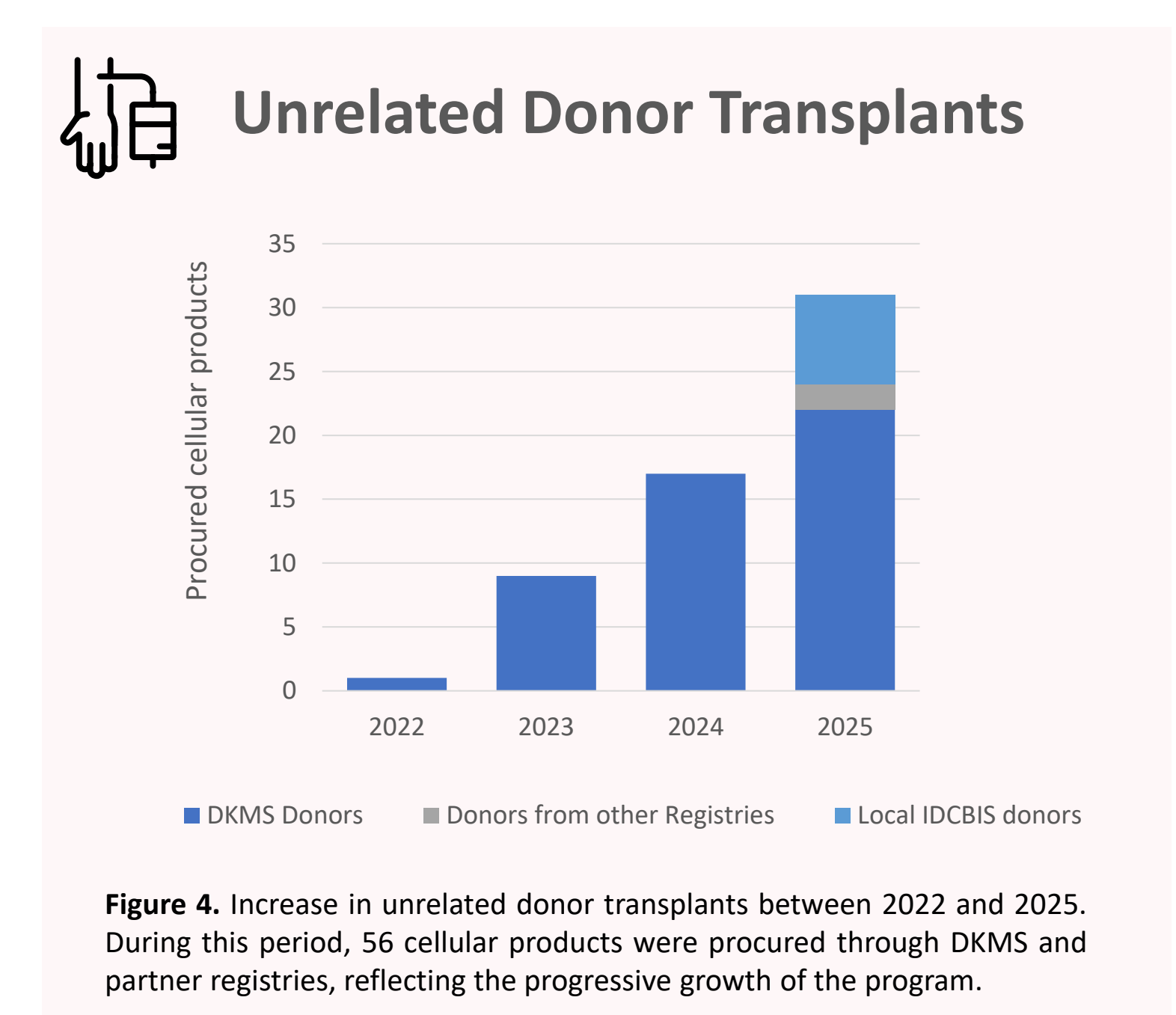
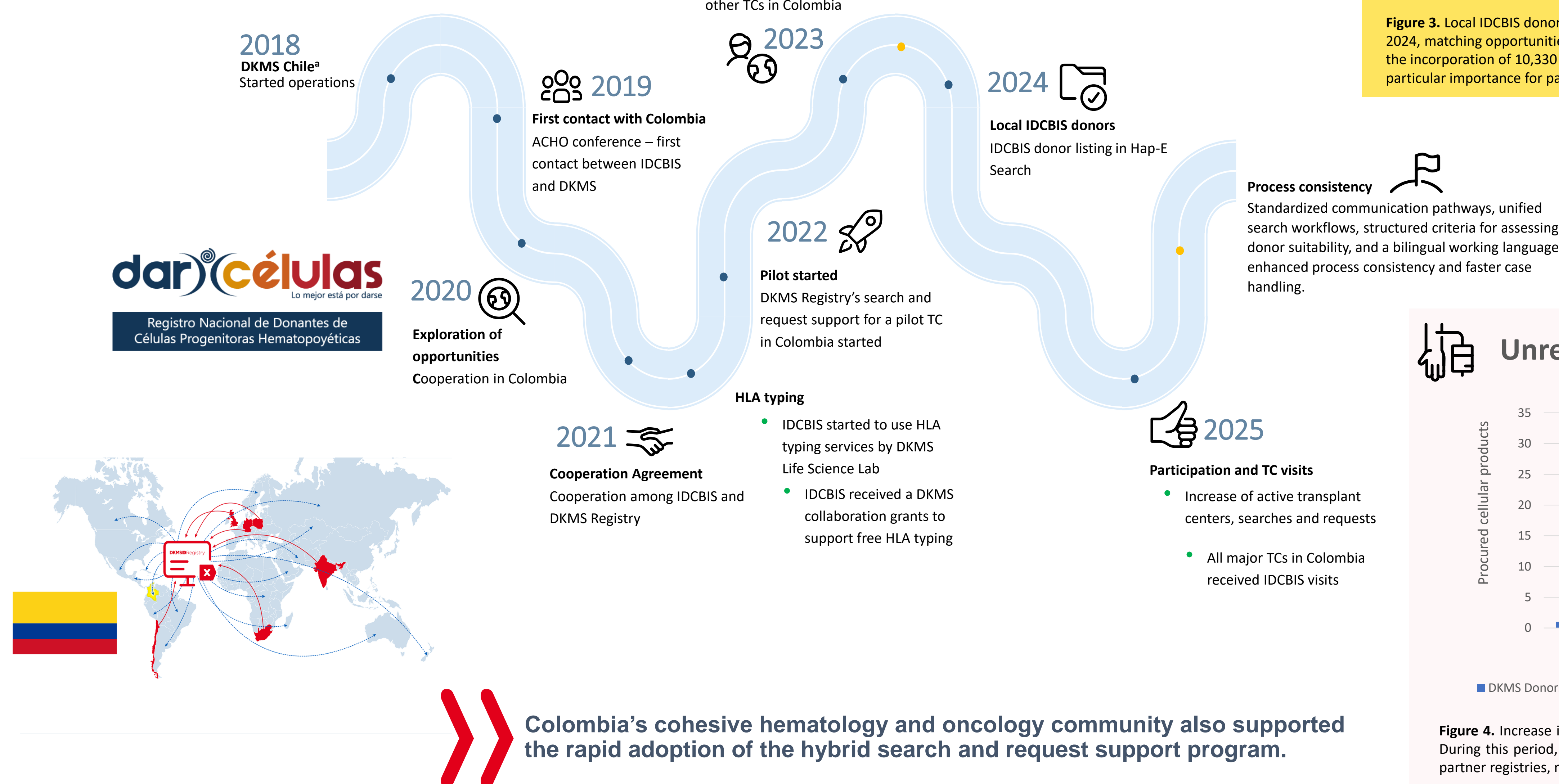
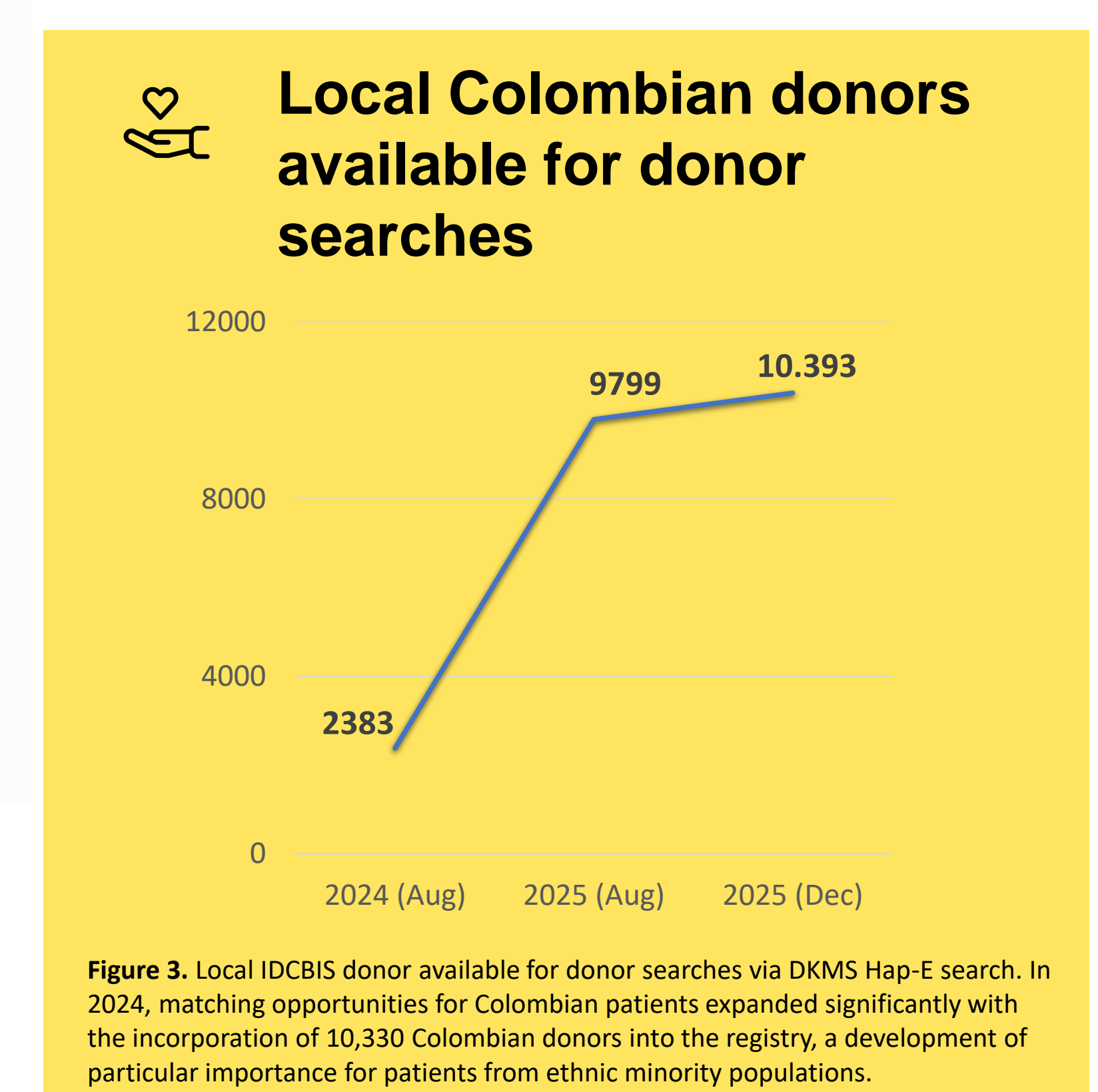
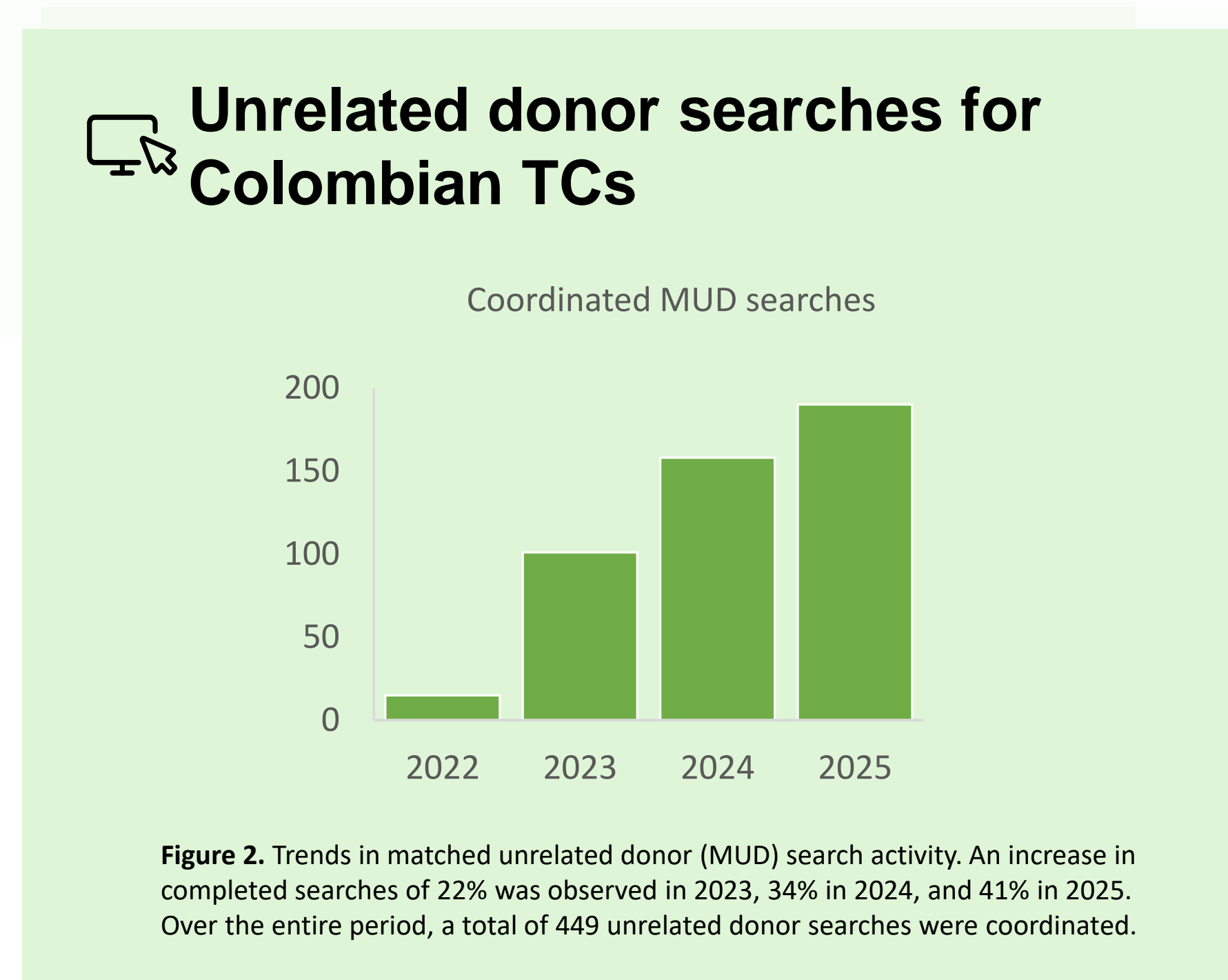
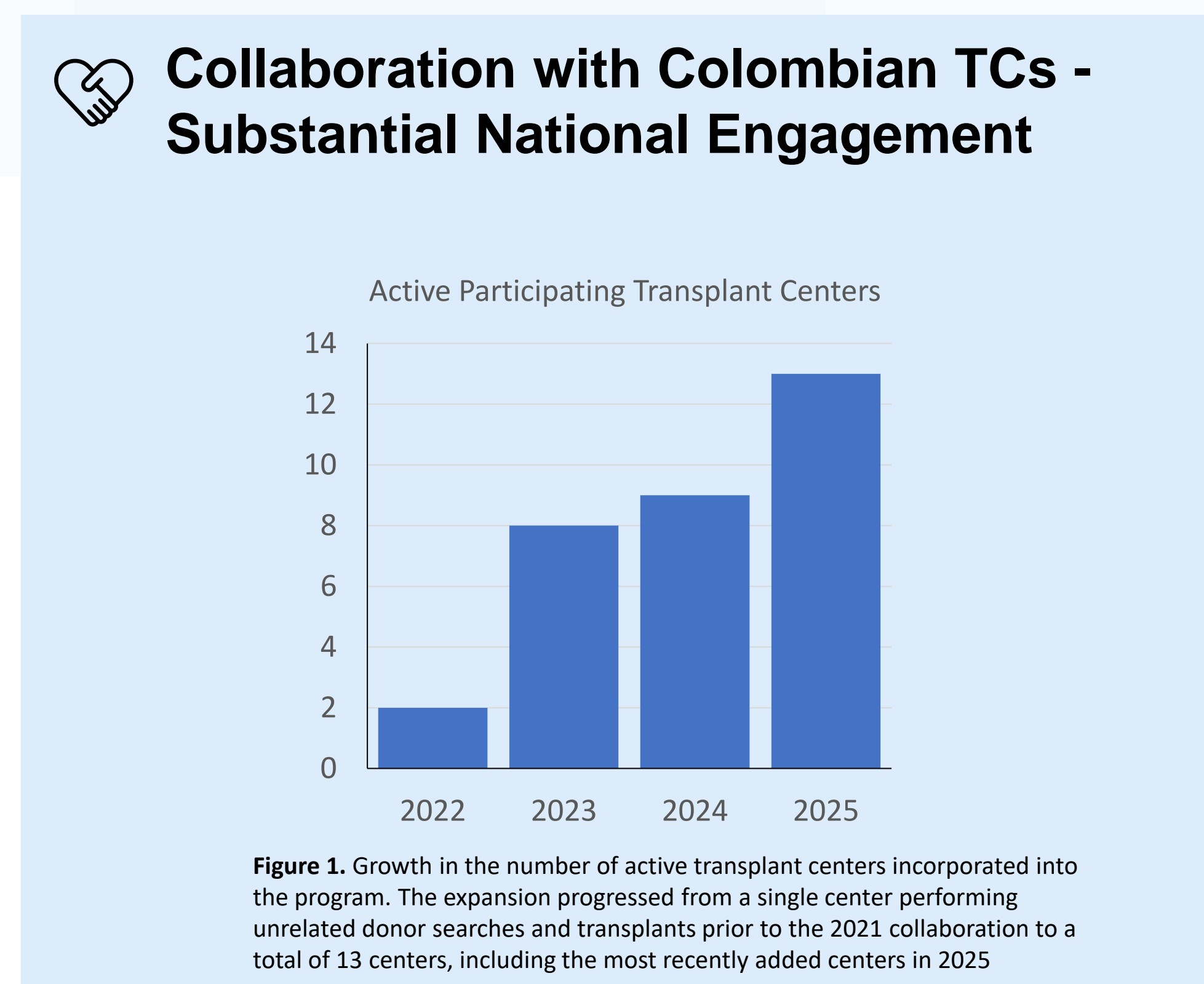
DKMS Group and DKMS Registry:

- DKMS Group is a non-profit organization, offering various services through its departments and affiliate organizations to support unrelated hematopoietic stem cell transplantation
- DKMS Registry operates as an international registry and works in close cooperation with transplant centres (TCs) and other international registries to support patients in need of unrelated stem cell products
- DKMS Chile started operations on 2018
- Collaboration between DKMS Registry and IDCBIS started on 2021

Methods

Key challenges in the Colombian unrelated HSCT landscape were identified and addressed through the development of a complementary model between IDCBIS and DKMS Registry. Under this model IDCBIS led domestic donor recruitment and public outreach initiatives, while DKMS Registry provided centralized search coordination and product procurement. Transplant centers were supported through access to affordable high-resolution patient HLA typing, domestic and globally registered unrelated donors via Hap-E Search, and extensive training on search and request procedures aligned with WMDA standards. A bilingual working environment was adopted to enhance engagement and facilitate communication across teams. Early outcomes and outreach impact were analyzed using operational data (2022-2025) from donor search requests, match identification (global and IDCBIS donors), and product procurement and deliveries timelines.

Results



Conclusion

Leveraging lessons from Chile and adapting them to Colombia's context has strengthened national transplant capacity and long term sustainability.

Expanding equitable access to stem cell transplantation in Latin America requires intentional knowledge transfer, structured cooperation, and strong partnerships with transplant centers.

Every patient deserves access to unrelated HSCT, and collaboration is key to breaking down barriers.

By supporting transplant centers in countries where unrelated donor transplantation is still emerging, DKMS helps expand access to life saving therapies and brings hope closer to patients.

The collaboration between an international operator and a local organization illustrates how internationally supported yet locally driven capacity building can enhance national transplant infrastructure and improve patient access across Latin America

