

**The CQUIN Learning Network Annual Meeting:
Fostering Scale Up of Differentiated Service Delivery to Achieve Sustainable
Epidemic Control**

Venue: Polana Serena Hotel, Maputo, Mozambique

Date: February 12th to 15th, 2018

Background:

Extraordinary progress has been achieved in confronting the global HIV epidemic. The number of people living with HIV accessing antiretroviral treatment (ART) in low- and middle-income countries rose from 400,000 in 2003 to 18.2 million in 2016, and an estimated 7.8 million deaths have been prevented by the scale-up of ART services. Increased access to prevention and treatment has also led to a 35 percent drop in new HIV infections since 2000, including a 58 percent decrease amongst children.

Despite these successes, much more needs to be done. In order to achieve the ambitious UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets by 2020, affected countries face several critical challenges:

- The number of people on ART will need to double, a serious problem for overcrowded health facilities staffed by overworked health care workers;
- The quality and acceptability of HIV treatment services will need to improve, in order to better engage and retain patients in treatment;
- HIV programs will need to become more efficient, in order to treat more patients with the same (or fewer) resources.

In response to these imperatives, there is growing evidence supporting differentiated service delivery (DSD) as a way to enable health systems to manage the growing numbers of patients receiving HIV treatment, while at the same time improving access to HIV prevention and treatment services, the quality of HIV programs, patient satisfaction and outcomes.

With support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, ICAP at Columbia University launched the *HIV Coverage, Quality, and Impact Network (CQUIN)* in March 2017, to enable the adoption, implementation and scale-up of high quality differentiated service delivery models by supporting a network of countries at various stages of implementing DSD, enabling experience sharing, cross-learning, and collaborative problem solving.

Since its launch, the CQUIN learning network has rapidly expanded, fostering ongoing knowledge exchange regarding the implementation and scale-up of DSD for HIV. CQUIN has hosted workshops, seminars, webinars, and journal clubs and supported a growing range of south-to-south exchange visits, technical assistance, and catalytic research projects. Initial communities of practice have been launched, focusing on M&E of differentiated services, DSD for patients at high risk for HIV disease progression, and DSD for adolescents. Additional communities of practice will be launched in the coming months. CQUIN also introduced the DSD dashboard as a tool for staging and tracking country progress in DSD scale up.

The CQUIN annual meeting will provide an opportunity for countries to review global DSD best practices, take stock of their progress, exchange best practices, and identify priorities for the coming year.

Key Objectives:

- Review country progress in DSD scale up
- Facilitate exchange of knowledge, resources and strategies for taking DSD models (DSDM) to scale at national level
- Share research findings, best practices and innovations in DSDM for diverse patient categories
- Review initial experiences and outputs of the CQUIN Communities of Practice
- Identify common gaps, challenges and opportunities for future joint learning, co-creation of tools and resources and future south-to-south exchange visits

Participants

The annual meeting will bring together 110-130 participants from the CQUIN network countries, the CQUIN advisory group and participants from the international community. Country teams will include MoH, USG, implementing partners, civil society and academic institutions.

Agenda

The meeting will begin with an opening reception the evening of Monday, February 12, followed by full-day meetings from Tuesday, February 13 through Thursday, February 15. Presentations will take the form of plenary, panel discussions, parallel sessions, breakout group discussions and poster presentations. A detailed agenda will be shared in due course.

Deliverables

1. Updated DSD dashboard for member countries that highlights progress made by the countries in advancing DSDM in their respective countries
2. Country specific action plans for the current year
3. Recommendations for joint learning and co-creation of tools
4. CQUIN annual meeting report