

Differentiated Service Delivery to Provide High-Quality HIV Services to Key Populations: A Virtual Meeting August 25-26 and 30-31, 2021

Background:

Optimizing service delivery for key population groups, including sex workers (SW), gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender people and people who inject drugs (PWID) is a global priority. Key populations are disproportionately affected by HIV in all epidemic contexts, and KP and their sexual partners accounted for 62% of new HIV infections in 2019, making HIV prevention efforts tailored to these groups essential for epidemic control. In western and central Africa, incident HIV infections follow global trends, with 69% of new infections occurring in KP and their partners in 2019. In eastern and southern Africa, HIV also disproportionately affects KP and their partners relative to their population size, accounting for 28% of all new infections in 2019. In addition to primary prevention, identifying, linking and retaining KP living with HIV to treatment is also essential for epidemic control. Members of KP groups often have worse outcomes across the HIV cascade, attributed to multiple psychosocial factors and structural barriers, including substantial stigma and unique social, economic and legal vulnerabilities. Client-centered, differentiated care responsive to KP's complex biomedical and psychosocial needs is required to improve outcomes across the spectrum of HIV services, including testing, prevention and treatment.

In response to this imperative, two multi-country learning networks are partnering to co-convene a meeting on differentiated service delivery (DSD) for key population groups in Africa. The [CQUIN Learning Network](#) is designed to improve the coverage, quality, and impact of HIV services by facilitating the scale-up of DSD via south-to-south learning. [ICAP at Columbia University](#) assists member countries to adopt, implement, and expand effective DSD models by enabling experience sharing, cross-learning, and collaborative problem-solving, and by providing targeted, demand-driven technical assistance and support. The [South-South HIV Prevention Learning Network \(SSLN\)](#), supports the Global HIV Prevention Coalition to strengthen country HIV prevention programmes via shared learning, joint problem solving and networking. SSLN is coordinated by [Genesis Analytics](#) and the [University of Manitoba](#) and supports countries to identify programmatic gaps and priorities for their HIV prevention response, build social capital for joint problem solving, document, share and replicate promising practices and identify their capacity development and technical assistance needs. Both networks are supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the 21 countries in the CQUIN network¹ include the 10 countries in the SSLN.²

Given the importance of differentiated approaches to HIV services and the synergies between CQUIN and SSLN, the networks are planning a virtual meeting focused on DSD for KP, with the goal of sharing current science and guidance; catalyzing exchange of best practices; and supporting partner countries to improve the quality and coverage of HIV services for SW, MSM, transgender people and PWID.

¹ Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

² Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

The agenda for the workshop has been designed following consultation with a wide range of key population representatives, recipients of care, ministries of health, implementing partners and global experts. Over a period of four days, participants will explore global best practices, share case studies, resources and tools, and engage in intensive south-to-south consultation. Collaboration will continue after the workshop, as the two networks support ongoing south-to-south exchange, communities of practice, and joint learning.

Objectives:

- Present basic concepts, conceptual frameworks and global guidance related to differentiated HIV testing/linkage, prevention, and treatment services for KP groups.
- Center the voices and experiences of KP-led organizations and recipients of care
- Review case studies and best practices related to DSD models for KP across the spectrum of HIV services.
- Collaboratively explore crosscutting barriers and facilitators to DSD for KP
- Discuss strategies for KP program monitoring and evaluation
- 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 workshop will convene participants, including global experts and teams from all 21 CQUIN/SSLN network countries.

Agenda: The virtual meeting will take place over four half-days, from 25-26 August and 30-31 August 2021. Each day of the workshop will focus on different themes and will include focused plenary presentations, panel discussions and parallel sessions with country case studies. The workshop will last approximately 4 hours each day, inclusive of two 30-minute breaks between sessions.

The meeting will be held in English with simultaneous French and Portuguese translation. A detailed agenda will follow.