

Differentiated Service Delivery across the HIV Cascade: Leveraging DSD Strategies to Optimize Linkage, Retention, and Re-engagement

Kigali, Rwanda | August 15-19, 2022

Background: The [HIV Coverage, Quality, and Impact Network \(CQUIN\)](#) convenes partner countries to adopt, implement, and expand effective differentiated service delivery (DSD) for HIV. Led by [ICAP at Columbia University \(ICAP\)](#) with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, CQUIN facilitates experience sharing, cross-learning, and collaborative problem-solving, and provides targeted, demand-driven technical assistance and support.

When the CQUIN network launched in 2017, its primary focus was the scale-up of differentiated models for people doing well on treatment. Over time, the network has expanded to include diverse DSD treatment strategies, including those for advanced HIV disease, TB/HIV, HIV and noncommunicable diseases, maternal and child health, and key and vulnerable populations. With participation from 21 country teams, 8 active communities of practice, and an expanding portfolio of webinars, workshops, country-to-country visits, technical assistance, and catalytic projects, CQUIN has fostered vibrant and high-impact exchange amongst ministries of health, recipients of care, implementing partners, donors, and global agencies.

In 2022, CQUIN is expanding its scope to include DSD across the HIV cascade, starting with an all-network workshop on *Leveraging DSD Strategies to Optimize Linkage, Retention, and Re-engagement*. The meeting will convene country teams to discuss key issues related to the “cyclical” cascade – the recognition that many people living with HIV cycle in and out of treatment over time and that DSD can be key to supporting treatment continuity. Participants will share best practices and innovative person-centered approaches designed to optimize linkage, review lessons learned about same-day and out-of-facility ART initiation, explore the importance of tailored support for early retention, discuss the impact of offering less-intensive treatment models to people during the first 6 months of treatment, and exchange lessons and tools for re-engagement of people with treatment interruptions.

Each country team will be asked to meet in advance of the CQUIN workshop to:

- Review national guidelines, policies, and performance data related to:
 - o *Linkage*, including linkage of HIV-positive clients to treatment services and high-risk HIV negative clients to prevention services
 - o *Retention*, disaggregated by DSD model and recipient of care group when possible
 - o *Re-engagement*, including policies related to treatment interruptions, transfers, and return to care
- Identify priority challenges related to differentiating linkage, retention, and re-engagement services
- Identify best practices, resources, and tools to share with other network countries

Key participants in these country-level discussions should be those nominated to attend the meeting, particularly MOH representatives, including DSD coordinators and M&E representatives, national

networks of people living with HIV, representatives of key and vulnerable populations, donors, implementing partners, and other stakeholders.

Meeting Objectives:

- Collaboratively explore common barriers and facilitators to treatment continuity
- Exchange best practices and lessons learned re: optimizing linkage, retention, and re-engagement
- Share DSD program tools, resources, and job aids related to linkage, retention, and re-engagement strategies
- Identify shared gaps, challenges, and opportunities for future joint learning, co-creation of tools and resources, and country-to-country exchange visits

Agenda: The meeting will start with an opening reception on the evening of Monday, August 15th and will be followed by four days of workshop activities, concluding on Friday, August 19th. Methods will include plenary presentations, panel discussions, breakout, and report-back sessions. The meeting will be held in English, with French interpretation. A detailed agenda will follow.

Deliverables:

- Country action plans to optimize linkage, retention, and re-engagement services
- Meeting report, outlining the next steps and the way forward