



# Taking Differentiated Service Delivery to Scale: DSD Implementation in Uganda

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## BACKGROUND

Uganda joined the CQUIN network in 2018. DSD in Uganda is implemented at scale, with an emphasis on increasing community DSD coverage following the roll-out of new consolidated HIV guidelines in 2022.

DSD in Uganda is coordinated by a dedicated technical working group (TWG), which meets on a quarterly basis and holds additional *ad hoc* meetings as needed. The DSD TWG is composed of representatives from key stakeholders, including donors, implementing partner leads, civil society organizations, the Ministry of Health, and recipients of care (RoCs).

The National HIV treatment policies and guidelines promote the use of DART, including among diverse RoC groups. National DSD quality standards are not well-streamlined but are being aligned with current HIV service delivery quality standards.

RoCs are engaged in DSD through representation in the TWG and are involved in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of DSD activities.

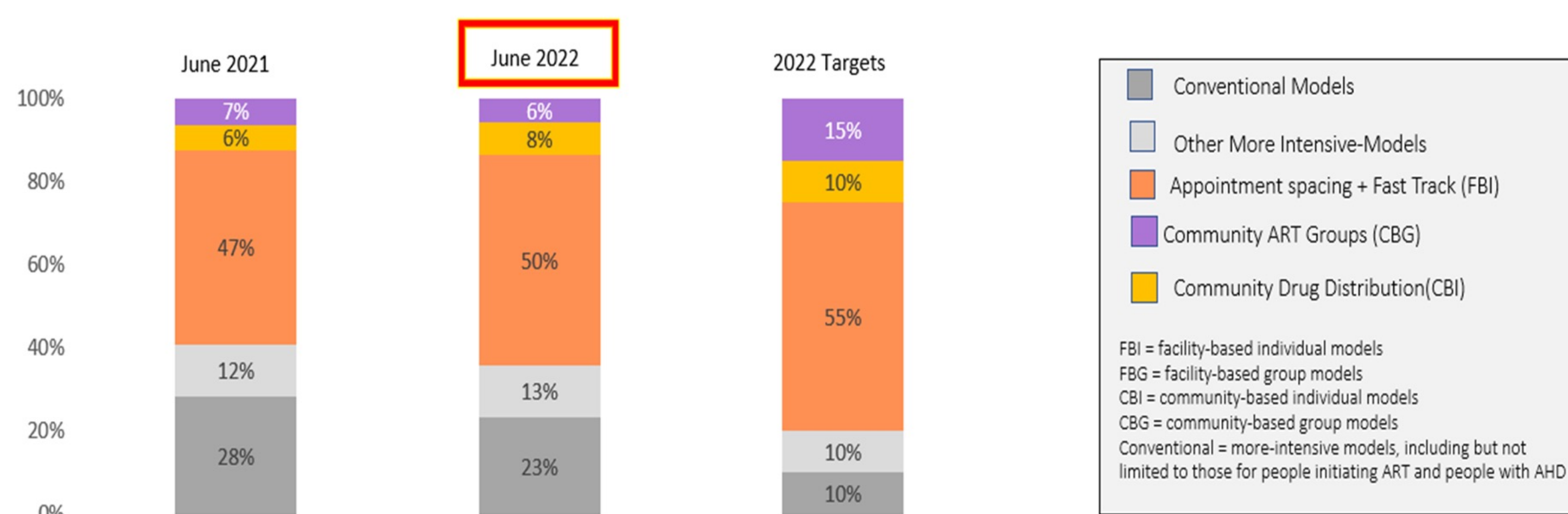
## DSD IMPLEMENTATION

Uganda implements five differentiated treatment models. The two more-intensive models include the Facility-based Individual model (FBIM) and Facility-based Group model (FBG). The three less-intensive models include the Fast Track Drug Refill (FTDR), Community Drug Distribution Point (CDDP), and Community Client-Led ART Distribution (CCLAD) models. Eligibility for less-intensive models includes anyone aged 15+ years who is stable, with no advanced HIV disease (AHD), and is not pregnant or breastfeeding.

Currently, a total of 1,939 health facilities in Uganda provide ART, with 1,648 (85%) providing less-intensive models. 64% of people on ART are enrolled in less-intensive models.

Currently-available MMD data are general and do not disaggregate each DSD model nationally. There are plans to collect these data in the future following the revision of data collection and reporting tools.

Figure 1: DSD Model Mix: Results vs. Targets



There have been several notable changes in Uganda's model mix since 2021:

- The proportion of people on ART enrolled in less-intensive models increased from 60% to 64%.
- The proportion of people on ART enrolled in community-based models increased from 13% to 14%.
- There has been a marked increase in the number and proportion of people enrolled in the outreach model (a community-based individual model).

## DART CAPABILITY MATURITY MODEL SELF-STAGING

Figure 2: DART Capability Maturity Model self staging - 2022

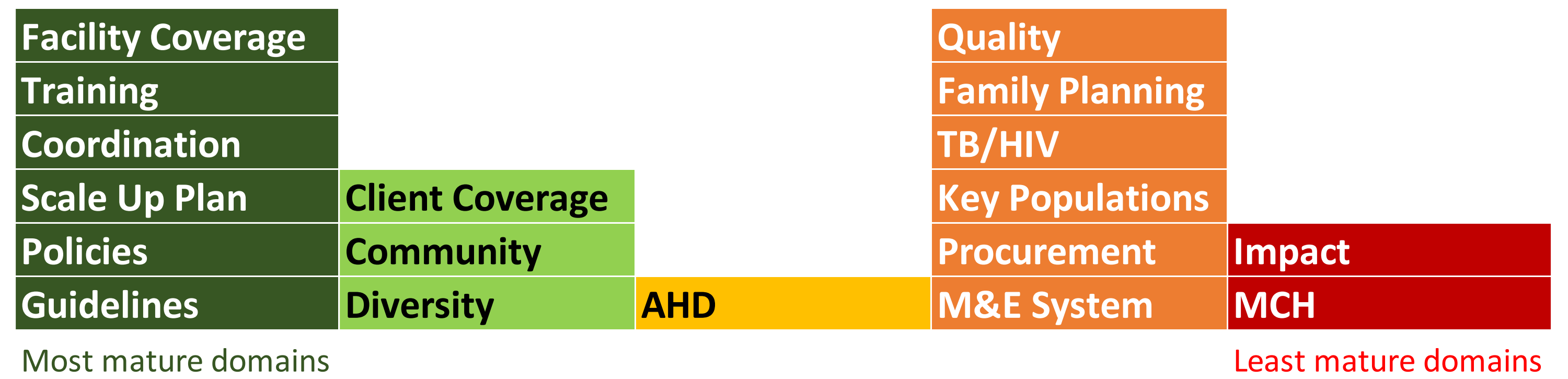
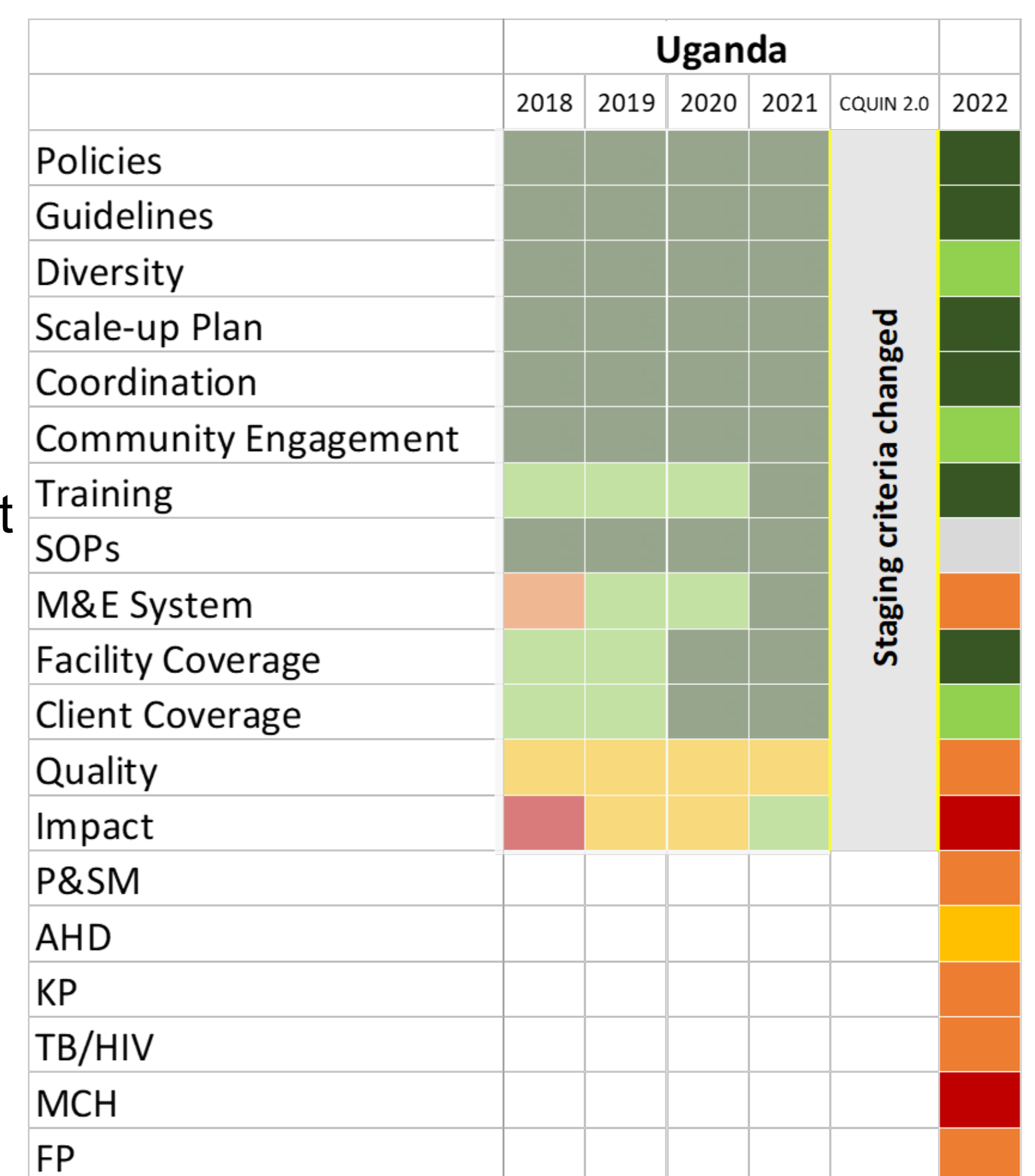


Figure 2 shows the results of the Uganda country team's recent self-staging using the CQUIN DART capability maturity model. In 2022, Uganda achieved the most mature stage (dark green) in six domains, while two domains were in the least mature stage (red).

Figure 3 describes DART capability maturity model progress over time and the results of the revised and expanded DART capability maturity model used in 2022.

Figure 3: DART CMM 2018 – 2022



## CQUIN ENGAGEMENT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2022, Uganda's engagement with the CQUIN network included:

- Joining several Communities of Practice: Care & Treatment, AHD, TB/HIV, M&E, PMTCT, QI, KP, and HTS
- While the team did not conduct learning visits to other countries, Uganda hosted visits from the following three countries: Ghana, Burundi, and Rwanda.
- Piloting the dHTS capability maturity model dashboard

Key lessons learned from CQUIN meetings include:

- Self-evaluation to identify programmatic and operational gaps through discussions with other countries
- Knowledge exchange during webinars
- Focused action-planning on coverage and quality improvement

These lessons learned have led to the adoption of normative guidance on DSD, which has been incorporated in the revised national DSD guidelines.

Together with local partner, The AIDS Support Organization, the Uganda Ministry of Health is sharing two tools that reflect best practices in HIV programming:

- The DSD audit tool
- Mobile Community Client-led ART Distribution (MCCLAD) for children and adolescents

## NEXT STEPS/WAY FORWARD

In the coming year, Uganda plans to:

- Roll out the new 2022 guidelines across the country
- Scale up community DSD, including to both stable and unstable children and adolescents
- Review and update DSD quality standards