

Syphilis/HIV Duo Testing

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CQUIN 6th Annual Meeting

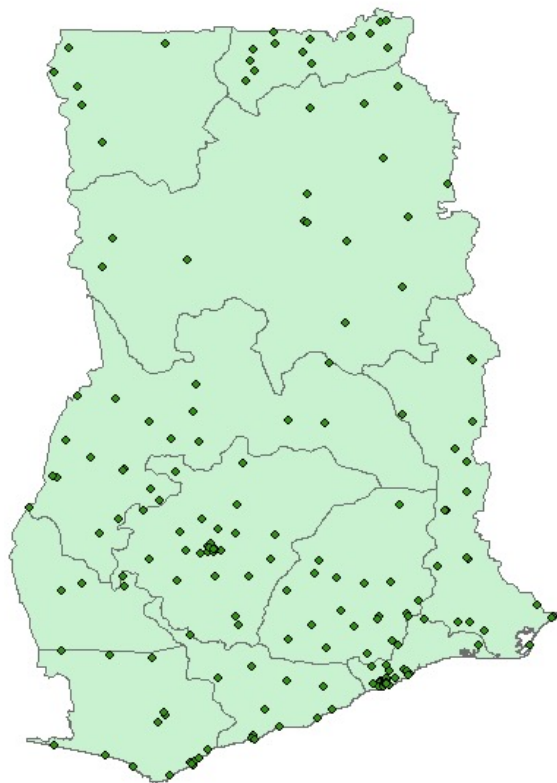
December 6 – 9, 2022 | Durban, South Africa



Background

- Historic challenges with HIV/Syphilis gap in Ghana
- WHO recommends using dual HIV/Syphilis rapid diagnostic tests as the first test in antenatal care (ANC) to prevent mother-to-child transmission.
- Scaling-up use of dual tests and achieving 95% Syphilis testing coverage is a priority in Ghana's triple elimination strategy for HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B.

Implementation process



Location of Implementation Sites , Ghana

- In 2018, the Ghana Health Service engaged key stakeholders to plan the introduction of the dual test
- An assessment was conducted to select the First Response HIV/Syphilis duo kit
- Quantification and procurement done for the selected test kits, and trained service providers
- Orientation provided for service providers
- The national rollout began in October 2020
- Ghana has over 2,000 PMTCT sites spread across the country

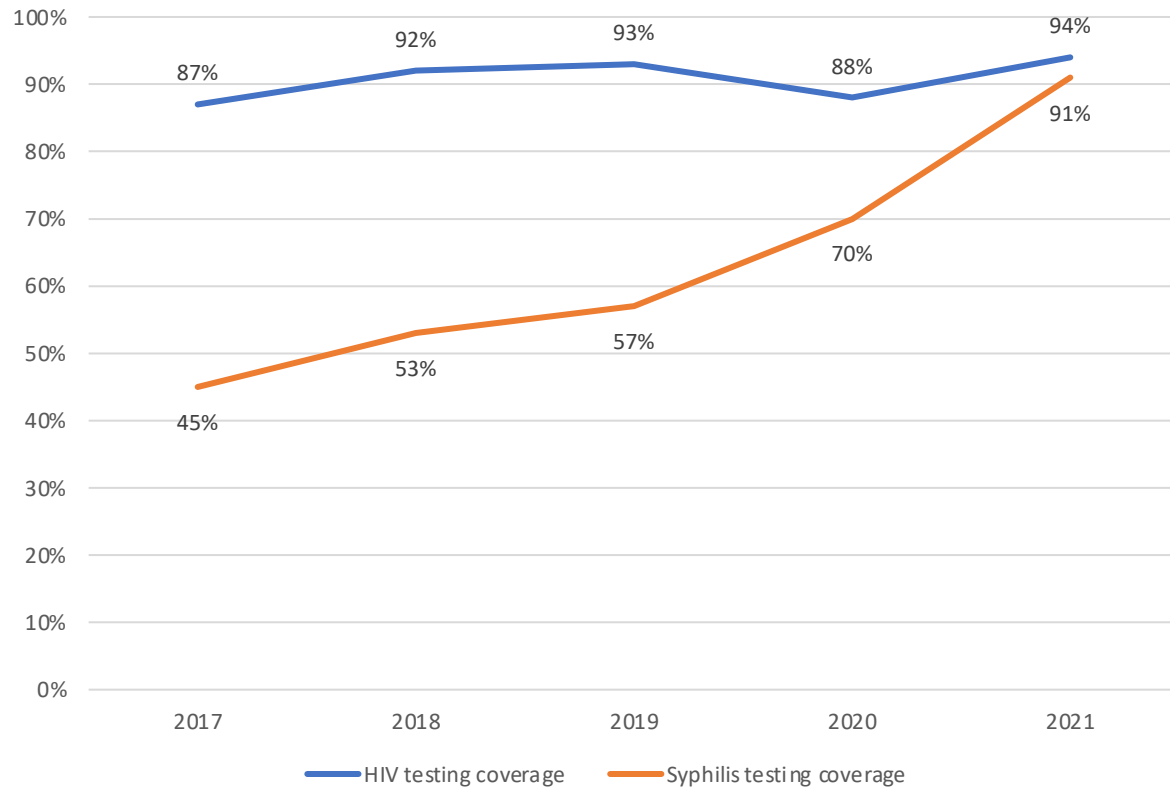
Results

Following its introduction;

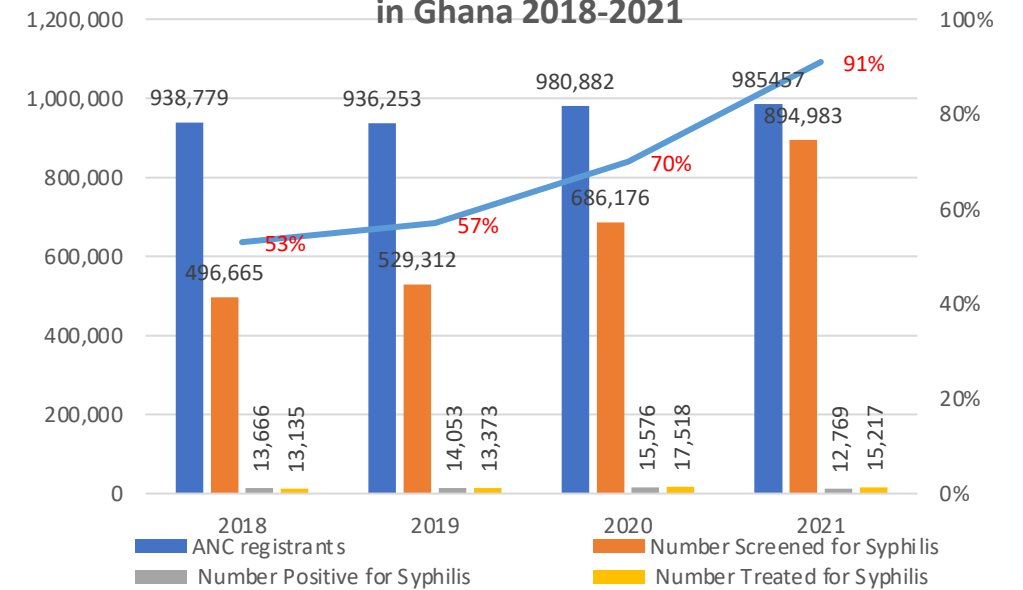
- Syphilis testing coverage increased from 53% to 91%.
- the National Programme found dual tests reduced overall procurement costs by at least 16%.
- it reduced time spent per client
- Provided a convenient one-stop access to lab services and
- decreased commodity storage costs and space.

Results

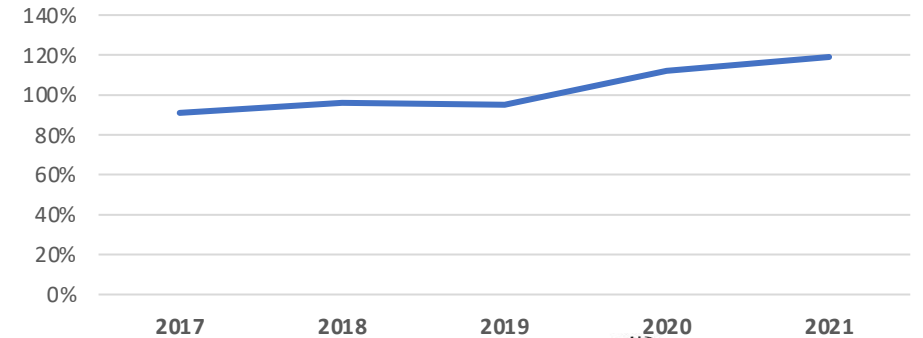
Trend in HIV and Syphilis Testing Coverage among ANC Registrants



Syphilis Testing Cascade Among ANC registrants in Ghana 2018-2021



Proportion of Syphilis cases treated (%)



Challenges

- Not all PMTCT sites were trained on new algorithm before the roll out.
- Some service providers conveniently use the dual test instead of the approved test for the non-pregnant population
- Treatment of partners is a challenge

Lessons learnt

Broad stakeholder engagement was essential for the success of the dual test rollout.

Adopting the dual HIV/Syphilis RDT in ANC is feasible and critical in improving differentiated testing for Pregnant women.

National Programmes should establish robust systems to facilitate the dual test's rapid evaluation, adoption, and scale-up.

Orientation of staff was essential in success of rollout

Recommendations

- Improving service coverage is key to the elimination of both syphilis and HIV.
- Dual test kits commodity security should be complemented by a robust supply chain management system and supportive supervision

Conclusion

Adoption of the dual HIV/Syphilis rapid diagnostic test in ANC is feasible and critical in improving syphilis testing coverage.

Ghana's early adoption of the dual test has accelerated progress toward national targets within the triple elimination strategy.

National programmes should establish robust systems to facilitate the dual test's rapid evaluation, adoption and scale-up.

Thank you

