

Differentiated Service Delivery across the HIV Testing Cascade: Leveraging DSD Strategies to Optimize Mobilizing, Testing and Linkage to post-test services

Nairobi, Kenya | March 13-16, 2023

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 child health, key populations, and more. In 2022, CQUIN expanded its scope to include DSD across the HIV cascade (testing, linkage, retention, and re-engagement).

In 2023, CQUIN plans to launch a Differentiated HIV Testing and Linkage Services (dHTS) Community of Practice. Preparations commenced with a wide stakeholder consultative process to define key elements of a mature national HTS program. ICAP's CQUIN team worked closely with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), Ministries of Health, the World Health Organization, PEPFAR, the South-to-South Learning Network, and other partners to conceptualize a Capability Maturity Model (CMM) for HIV testing and linkage services. The dHTS CMM was piloted in seven countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Malawi, Senegal, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), and all 22 countries will use the finalized CMM to conduct dHTS self-staging in early 2023. On March 13-16, 2023, CQUIN will host an all-network differentiated testing and linkage meeting, convening country teams to discuss key issues related to the differentiated HIV testing cascade: mobilizing, testing, and linkage to posttest services.

Participants will share best practices and innovative approaches designed to optimize **mobilization** for HIV testing including the use of age specific, gender appropriate and sub-population tailored social behavioral change communication (SBCC) messaging. Teams will discuss innovative approaches to HIV **testing** and exchange best practices about how to achieve equitable, high-quality, and high-impact testing services. Using the status neutral testing framework, they will also discuss **linkage** to treatment for people testing positive and linkage to prevention for people at high-risk of acquiring HIV who test negative, including strategies for effective and efficient linkage to post-test services for people testing for HIV at facility and community levels. In addition, teams will discuss approaches that enhance integration of HTS into other services such as maternal/child health, and health services for key and priority populations.

In addition to completing the CQUIN dHTS capability maturity model self-staging exercise, 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 *Mobilizing for HIV Testing:* When, Where, Who, what of mobilizing for HTS

- *Testing for HIV*: HTS models and approaches, testing for special population categories, what works well (performance against testing targets)
- *Linkage to post-test Services*: Linkage of HIV-positive clients to treatment services and high-risk HIV negative clients to prevention services
- Identify priority challenges related to differentiating mobilization, testing and linkage to posttest 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 HTS coordinators, 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:

- Exchange best practices and lessons learned re: Mobilizing, Testing, Linking after HIV testing
- Share DSD for HTS program tools, resources, and job aids related to Mobilizing, Testing, linkage strategies
- Identify shared gaps, challenges, and opportunities for future joint learning, co-creation of tools and resources, and country-to-country exchange visits
- Develop country specific action plans based on identified gaps on the dHTS CMM dashboard

Agenda: The meeting will start with an opening reception on the evening of Monday, March 13th and will be followed by three full days of meeting activities, concluding at the end of the day on Thursday, March 16th. 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
- Meeting report, outlining next steps and plans for the CQUIN dHTS community of practice