HIV Learning Network
The CQUIN Project for Differentiated Service Delivery

icap Global Health

Program Officer, HIV Testing Services

Dr. Zeye M. Nkomela (MD)

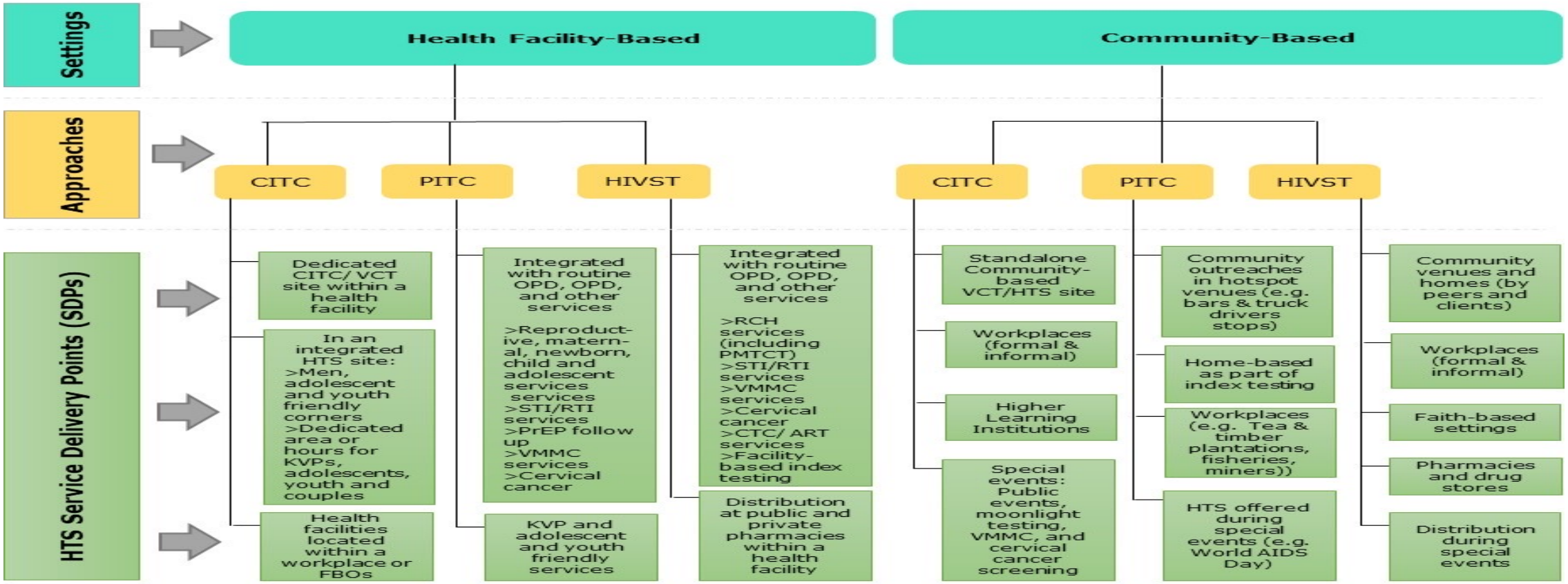
Leveraging DSD Strategies to Optimize HIV Testing and Linkage Services
March 13-16, 2023 | Nairobi, Kenya

Outlines

- HTS program in Tanzania
- Certification program
  - *Policy and framework*
- Testing site certification
  - *Standards, Score level, Process, Results & Challenges*
- Non lab tester certification
  - *Process, Score level, Results*
- Recommendation

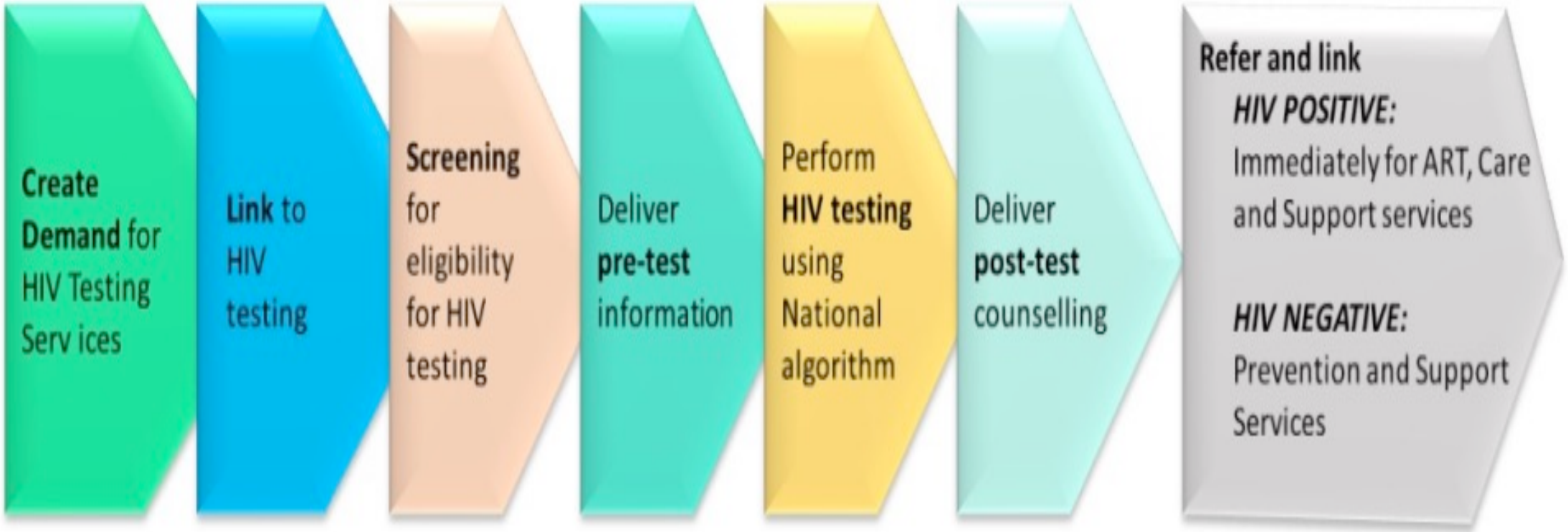
HTS program in Tanzania

HTS Settings, Approaches and Service Delivery Points



HTS program in Tanzania (2)

HIV TESTING SERVICES (HTS) PACKAGE

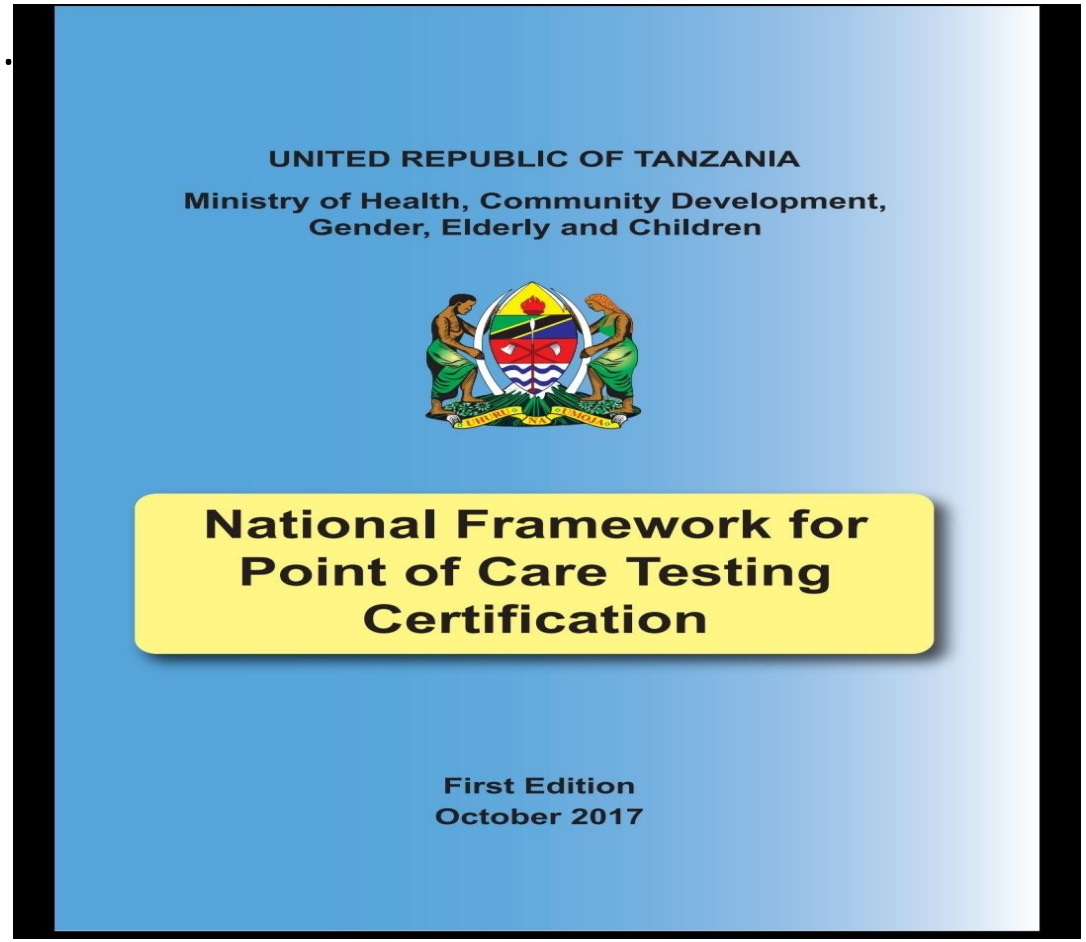


Certification Program

- Monitoring the quality of testing is crucial
- Non Laboratory testers and site certification is important in assuring quality of HIV testing services

  Increasing access to diagnostics
- Legal recognition of competencies and quality of services towards improving HIV point of care testing
- Way to implement
  - The HLPC Act, No. 22 of 2007 that demand licensing of personnel performing rapid health laboratory test
  - WHO hand book ***"Improving the Quality of HIV-Related POCT: Ensuring the reliability & Accuracy of HIV test results***

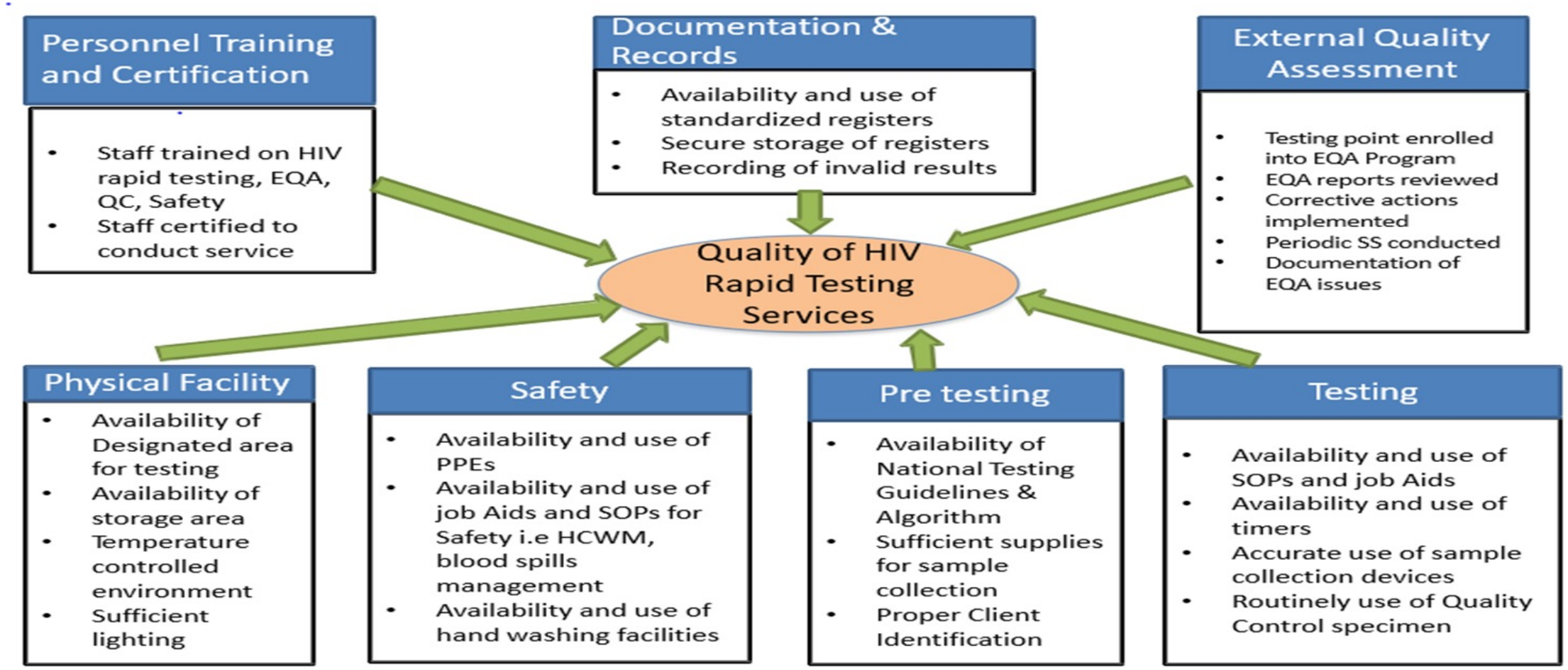
National Framework for POCT Certification,2017



- **Purpose: Guidance to strengthen certification process for HIV testing sites (POCT) and non laboratory testers**
- **Audience: All levels of health care delivery system, development and Implementing partners**
- **Level of Implementation: Applicable all health facilities where testing is performed by non laboratory testers at different points of care**

Certification of testing sites

Quality standards for HTS

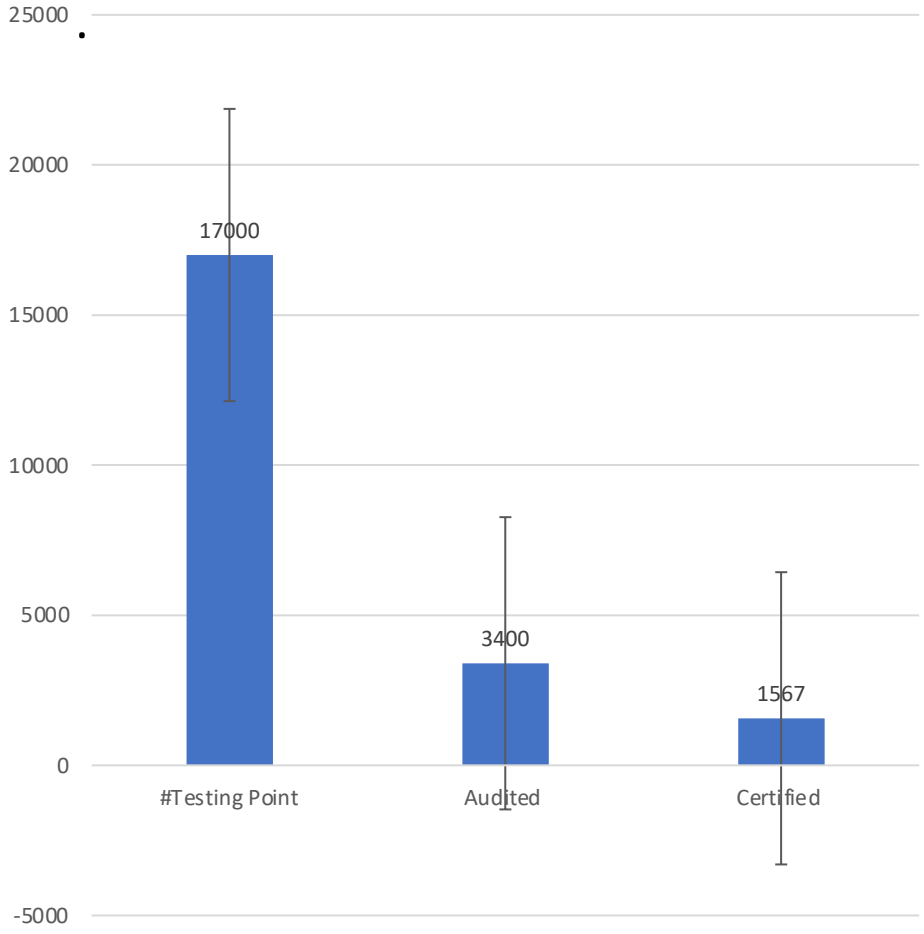


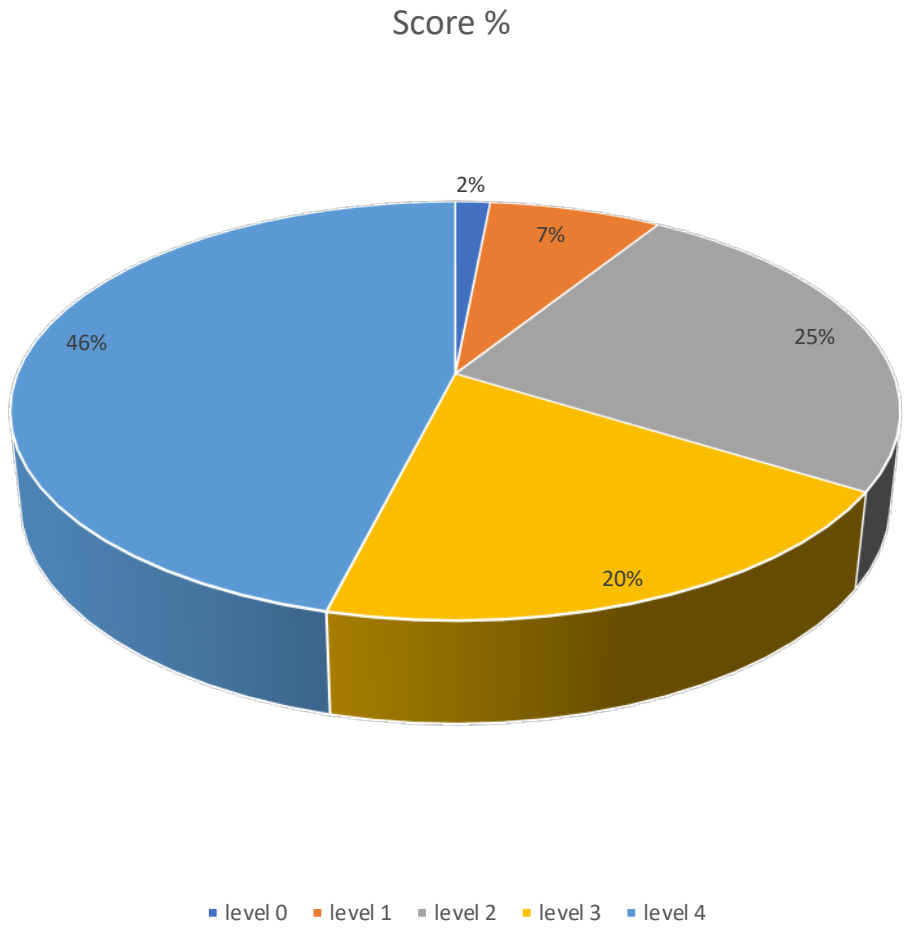
Level of Compliance to Quality Standards

S/NO	LEVEL	SCORE	REMARK
1	level 4	90% or higher	Eligible to national site certification
2	Level 3	80% - 89%	Close to national site certification
3	level 2	60% - 79%	Partially eligible
4	level 1	40% - 59%	Needs improvement in specific areas
5	Level 0	Less than 40%	Needs improvement in all areas and immediate remediation

HIV POCT Certification Process

Results: 2018-2022





Challenges

- Sub optimal coverage on site audit and certification (20%)
- Few gaps in documentation on HTS register
- Most of testing points audited are not performing IQC as to per national guidelines
- EQA reports from NPHL are neither reviewed nor corrective actions implemented in most of the sites
- Inadequate documentation and maintaining of EQA data

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Certification on non lab testers

POC TESTER CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Score of examination

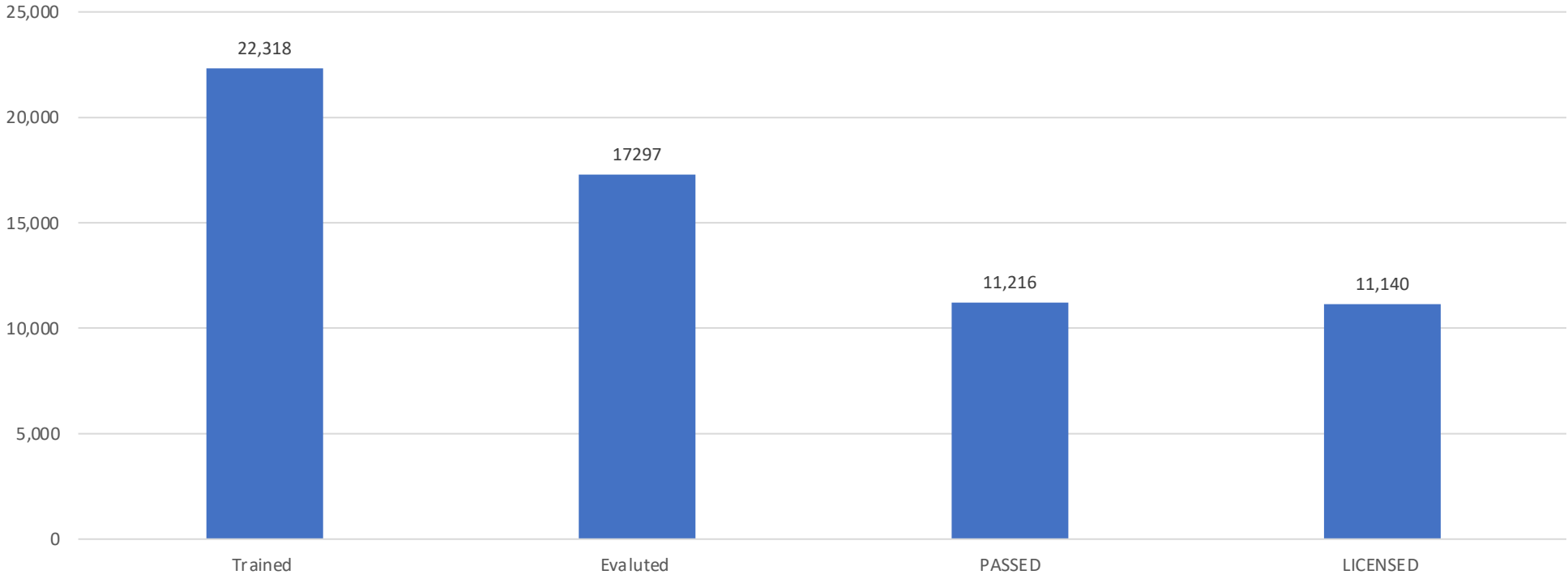
1. Theory examination should score 80%
2. Practical examination :

    Direct observation checklist 90%

    Sample panel 100%

- ❑Average should score 95%

Results: 2022



Achievement

- HIV Rapid testing performed with licensed testers
- Quality of HIV testing results maintained
- HIV testers follow National testing algorithm in all site
- Good support in implementation of Non laboratory testers from development and Implementing partners (CDC,THPS.MDH,AMREF)
- Approved HIV Rapid test modules developed and used

Challenges

- Sub optimal coverage for licensing the non lab tester.
- Missing the database of total numbers of Testers in each region so that we can compare against trained & licensed testers in order measure the target.

Recommendations

Establishment /Finalization of Testers' database and digitalization of evaluation tools

HTS Country priorities to focus on Quality of testing.

- Proper Implementation of **National POCT Certification Program** will enhance**:**
  - Provision of accurate and reliable HIV rapid test results
  - Reduction of complaints and confusion from our clients,
  - Equitable and appropriate enrolment of clients into Anti Retroviral Treatment (ART),
  - Improve quality of HIV testing services

Thank you!