The CQUIN Project for Differentiated Service Delivery





# Program Officer, HIV Testing Services

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Leveraging DSD Strategies to Optimize HIV Testing and Linkage Services

March 13-16, 2023 | Nairobi, Kenya





### **Outlines**

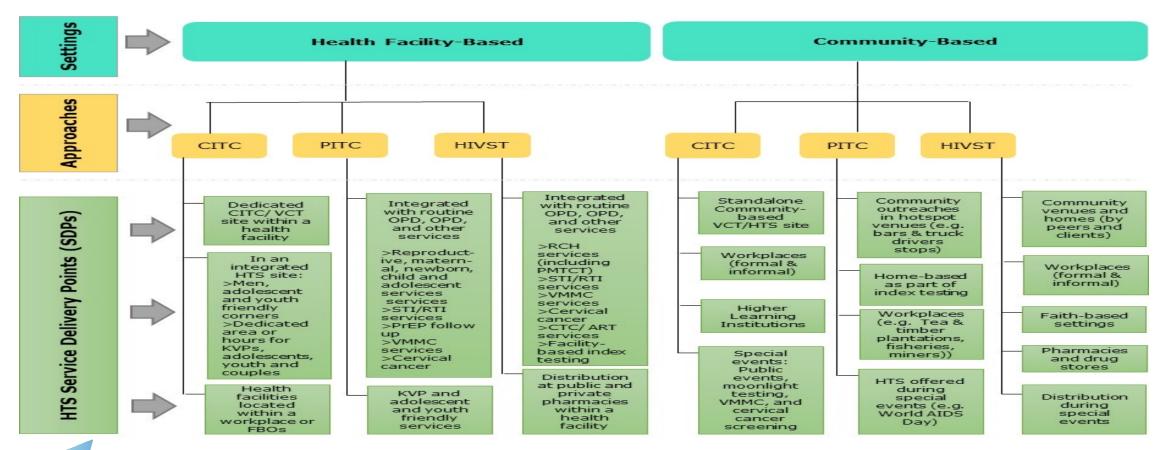
- HTS program in Tanzania
- Certification program
  - Policy and framework
- Testing site certification
  - o Standards, Score level, Process, Results & Challenges
- Non lab tester certification
  - o Process, Score level, Results
- Recommendation





### HTS program in Tanzania

#### HTS Settings, Approaches and Service Delivery Points

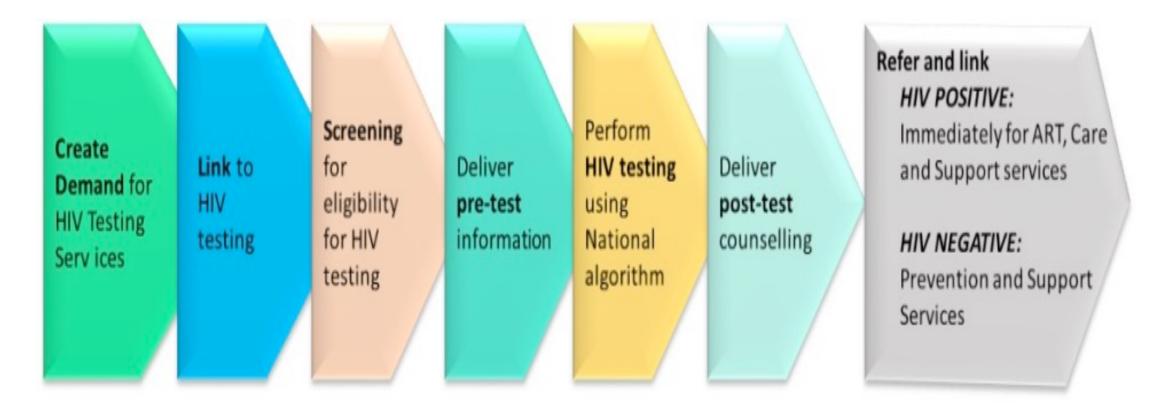






### HTS program in Tanzania (2)

#### **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

**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA** Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children **National Framework for Point of Care Testing** Certification **First Edition** October 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



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## Certification of testing sites





### Quality standards for HTS

### Personnel Training and Certification

- Staff trained on HIV rapid testing, EQA, QC, Safety
- Staff certified to conduct service

### Documentation & Records

- Availability and use of standardized registers
- Secure storage of registers
- Recording of invalid results

Quality of HIV Rapid Testing Services

### External Quality Assessment

- Testing point enrolled into EQA Program
- EQA reports reviewed
- Corrective actions implemented
- Periodic SS conducted
- Documentation of EQA issues

#### **Physical Facility**

- Availability of Designated area for testing
- Availability of storage area
- Temperature controlled environment
- Sufficient lighting

#### Safety

- Availability and use of PPEs
- Availability and use of job Aids and SOPs for Safety i.e HCWM, blood spills management
- Availability and use of hand washing facilities

#### Pre testing

- Availability of National Testing Guidelines & Algorithm
- Sufficient supplies for sample collection
- Proper Client Identification

#### **Testing**

- Availability and use of SOPs and job Aids
- Availability and use of timers
- Accurate use of sample collection devices
- Routinely use of Quality Control specimen





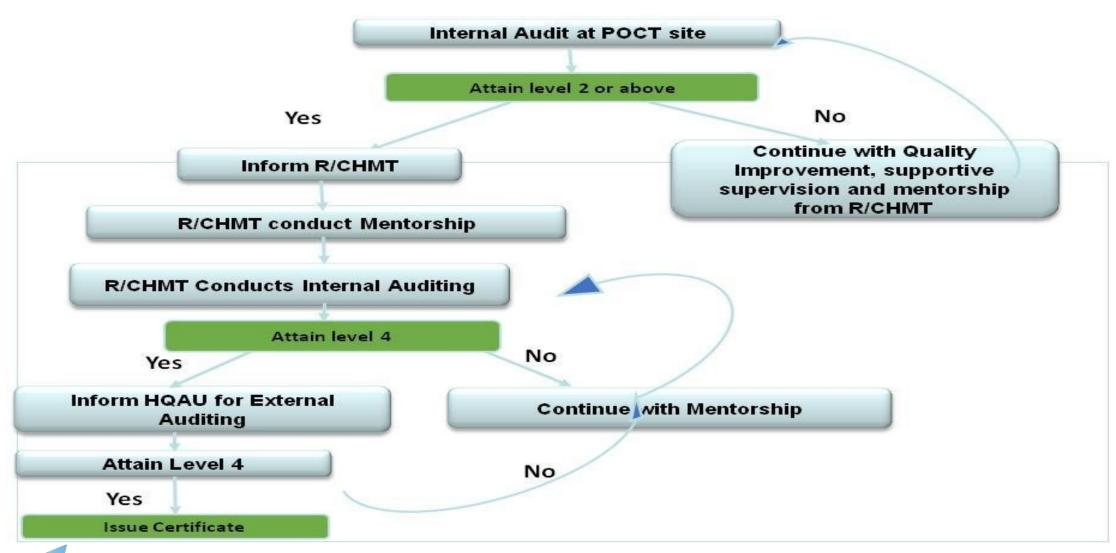
### Level of Compliance to Quality Standards

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





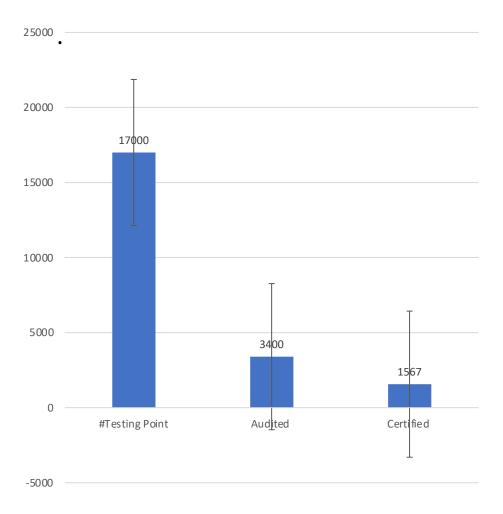
### **HIV POCT Certification Process**

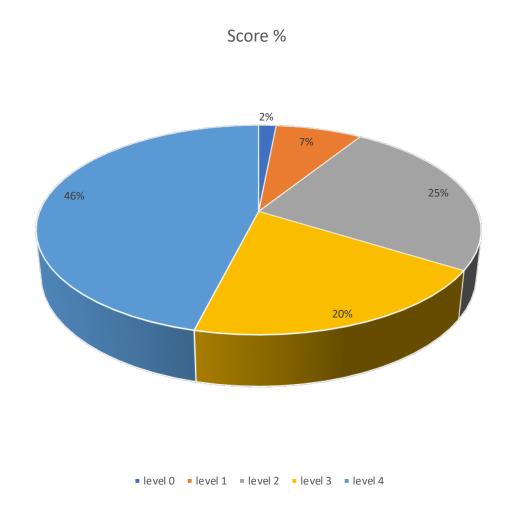






### Results: 2018-2022









### 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





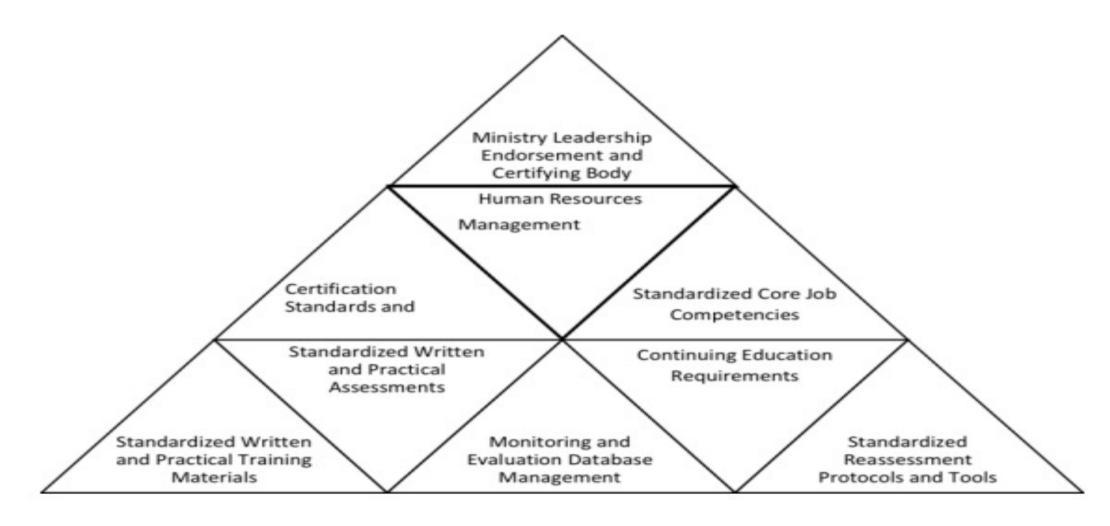


### Certification on non lab testers





### POC TESTER CERTIFICATION PROCESS







### Score of examination

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

Direct observation checklist 90%

Sample panel 100%

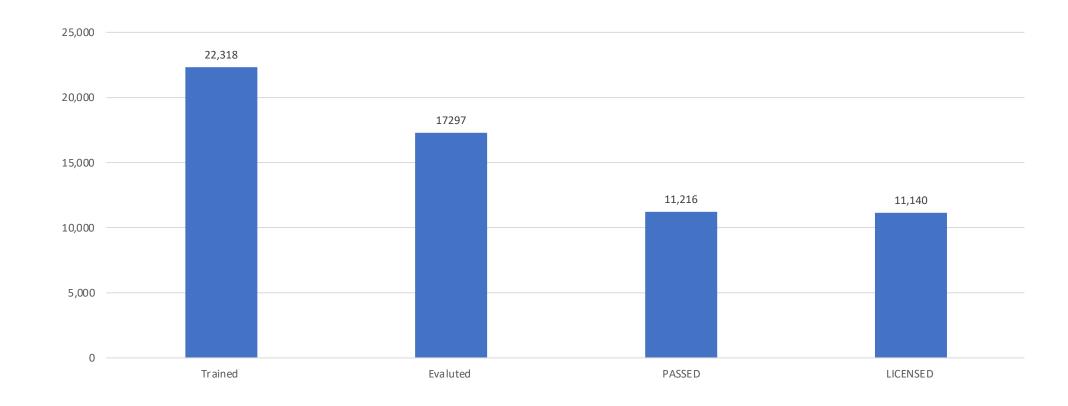
□ Average should score 95%





### 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



#### **HIV Learning Network**

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