

Differentiated HIV Service Delivery: Optimizing Person-Centered HIV Services in Lesotho

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BACKGROUND

Lesotho joined the CQUIN network in 2022; with DSD coordinated by the HIV/TB Technical Working Group (TWG). Recipients of care (RoCs) are represented on the TWG; however, there is a need to enhance their engagement through periodic community satisfaction surveys, sensitization on available of DSD models, and stronger RoC participation in coordination activities. Key 2023 successes include the development of a health sector HIV/TB strategic plan that includes DSD strategic objectives. Key priorities for 2024 include finalizing the DSD manual, developing a national DSD scale-up plan, training health care workers on DSD models, and rolling out revised M&E tools.

DSD IMPLEMENTATION

Figure 1: DSD Model Mix: Results vs. Projections

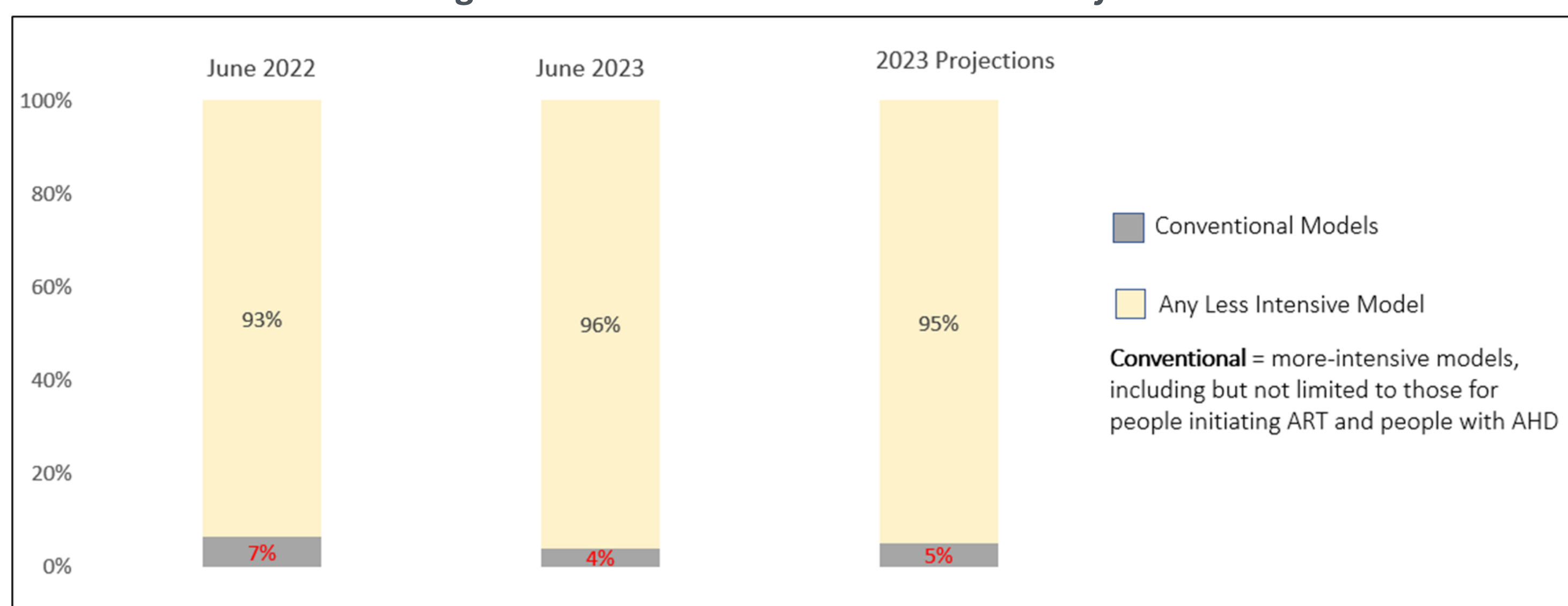
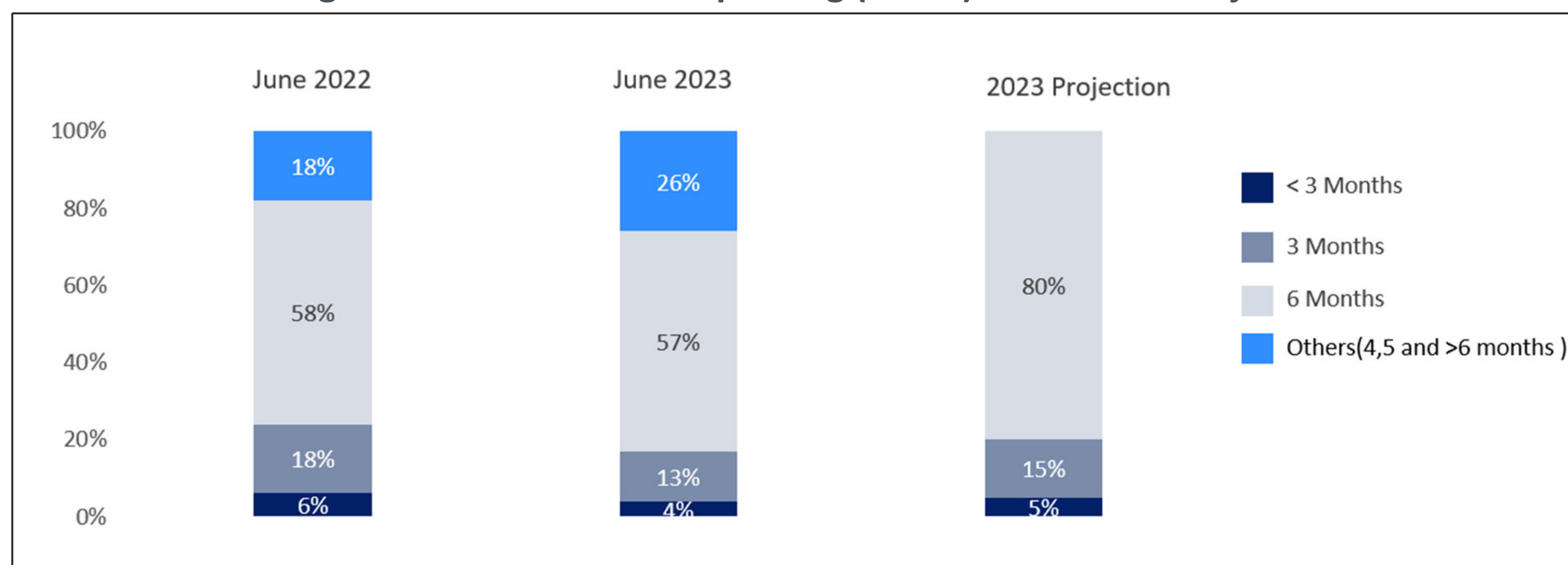


Figure 2: Multi-month Dispensing (MMD): Results vs. Projections



Clients who are newly initiated on ART, have high viral load, have advanced HIV disease (AHD), and/or who restarted ART after stopping for at least one month are eligible for one month of ART supply and are seen monthly at the health facility.

Less-intensive models include:

Community ART Groups (CAGs), outreach groups, Community ART Distribution, Bonolo Meds, virally suppressed, stable children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and teen clubs.

Of the 230 health facilities providing ART services in Lesotho, approximately 80% offer less intensive DART models. Most patients currently on ART (81%) are virally suppressed and qualify for MMD, receiving more than a 3-month drug supply. The national M&E system has revised its tools to include WHO-recommended DART indicators, which will be fully operational in 2024.

CQUIN ENGAGEMENT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Lesotho is part of the following communities of practice: DSD Coordinator's community of practice, AHD, dHTS, Differentiated M&E, Differentiated TB/HIV, DSD for key populations, and Community engagement.

In terms of country-to-country visits, Lesotho has been selected and prioritized for early 2024.

Key lessons learned include:

- Improving the M&E system can lead to improved reporting at the national level and improvement in overall scores.
- The scale-up of coverage and quality of DSD should be preceded by strategic policies and guidelines.
- Network countries have provided a platform for cross-country learning through the sharing of experiences and tools on DSD implementation.

DART CAPABILITY MATURITY MODEL TRENDS (2022-2023)

Figure 3: DART Capability Maturity Model Trends (2022-2023)

Domain	Lesotho	
	2022	2023
Policies	Dark Green	Dark Green
Guidelines	Dark Green	Dark Green
Diversity	Dark Green	Dark Green
Scale-up Plan	Red	Red
Coordination	Dark Green	Dark Green
Community Engagement	Dark Green	Dark Green
Training	Dark Green	Dark Green
M&E System	Dark Green	Dark Green
Facility Coverage	Dark Green	Dark Green
Client Coverage	Dark Green	Dark Green
Quality	Red	Red
Impact	Red	Red
P&SM	Dark Green	Dark Green
AHD	Dark Green	Dark Green
KP	Red	Red
TB/HIV	Dark Green	Dark Green
MCH	Dark Green	Dark Green
FP	Dark Green	Dark Green
HTN	Dark Green	Dark Green

Figure 3 shows Lesotho's self-assessment using the CQUIN DART capability maturity model in 2022 and 2023. In 2023, Lesotho achieved the most mature stage (dark green) in **six domains** (policies, diversity, coordination, supply chain, KP, and TB/HIV domains), while nine domains (scale-up plan, training, M&E system, quality, impact, KP, MCH, FP, and HTN) remained in the least mature (red or orange) stage.

Of note: a health sector TB/HIV strategic plan with DSD strategic objectives has been developed, which resulted in improvement in the policy domain.

AHD CAPABILITY MATURITY MODEL SELF-STAGING

Figure 4: AHD Capability Maturity Model Results, 2023

Policies	Dark Green
Guidelines	Dark Green
AHD Scale-up Plan	Dark Green
Coordination	Dark Green
Diagnostic Capability 1	Dark Green
Diagnostic Capability 2	Dark Green
Client Coverage 4	Dark Green
Training	Light Green
SOPs	Yellow
Facility Coverage	Yellow
Client Coverage 2	Yellow
Client Coverage 3	Yellow
Supply Chain	Yellow
M&E System	Yellow
ROC Engagement	Orange
Client Coverage 1	Red
Quality	Red
Impact	Red

Most mature domains (Dark Green and Light Green) | Least mature domains (Red)

Figure 4 shows results of Lesotho's recent self-assessment using the CQUIN AHD capability maturity model. In 2023, Lesotho achieved the most mature stage (dark and light green) in 44% (8/18) of the domains, while 17% (3/18) of the domains remained in the least mature (red) stage.

dHTS CAPABILITY MATURITY MODEL SELF-STAGING

Figure 5: dHTS Capability Maturity Model Results, 2023

Policy: Strategic Model Mix	Dark Green
SOPs	Dark Green
dHTS Training	Dark Green
EQA/IQC	Dark Green
Proficiency Testing	Dark Green
Policy: Linkage	Light Green
Meaningful CE	Light Green
Coordination	Light Green
Clinical Services	Light Green
Financing and Resource Allocation	Yellow
Procurement & Supply Chain Management	Yellow
Policy: Optimizing HIV Testing	Yellow
Implementation and Scale-Up Plan	Yellow
M&E	Yellow
Linkage to Tx: Timely Linkage	Yellow
Linkage Tx: Confirm/Verification Testing	Yellow
Linkage to Prevention and Other Services	Yellow
Private Sector Engagement/Oversight	Red
Population Coverage	Red
Impact: Knowledge of HIV Status	Red
Impact: Linkage to Treatment	Red
Impact: Linkage to Prevention	Red

Most mature domains (Dark Green and Light Green) | Least mature Domains (Red)

Figure 5 shows results of Lesotho's recent self-assessment using the CQUIN dHTS capability maturity model. In 2023, Lesotho achieved the most mature stage (dark green) in 23% (5/22) of the domains, while 23% (5/22) of the domains remained in the least mature (red) stage.

NEXT STEPS / WAY FORWARD

DSD-related goals for 2024 include:

- Finalizing the DSD manual
- Developing a national DSD scale-up plan
- Training health care workers on DSD models and implementation
- Rolling out revised M&E tools to improve reporting
- Streamlining engagement with the private sector

What we want to learn more about in 2024:

- Facility and community-based DSD
- Meaningful engagement of RoCs
- VISITECT implementation for AHD
- KP programming
- M&E of DSD

