

# Sierra Leone

**Dr. Gerald Younge, Program Manager National AIDS Control Program**

**CQUIN 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

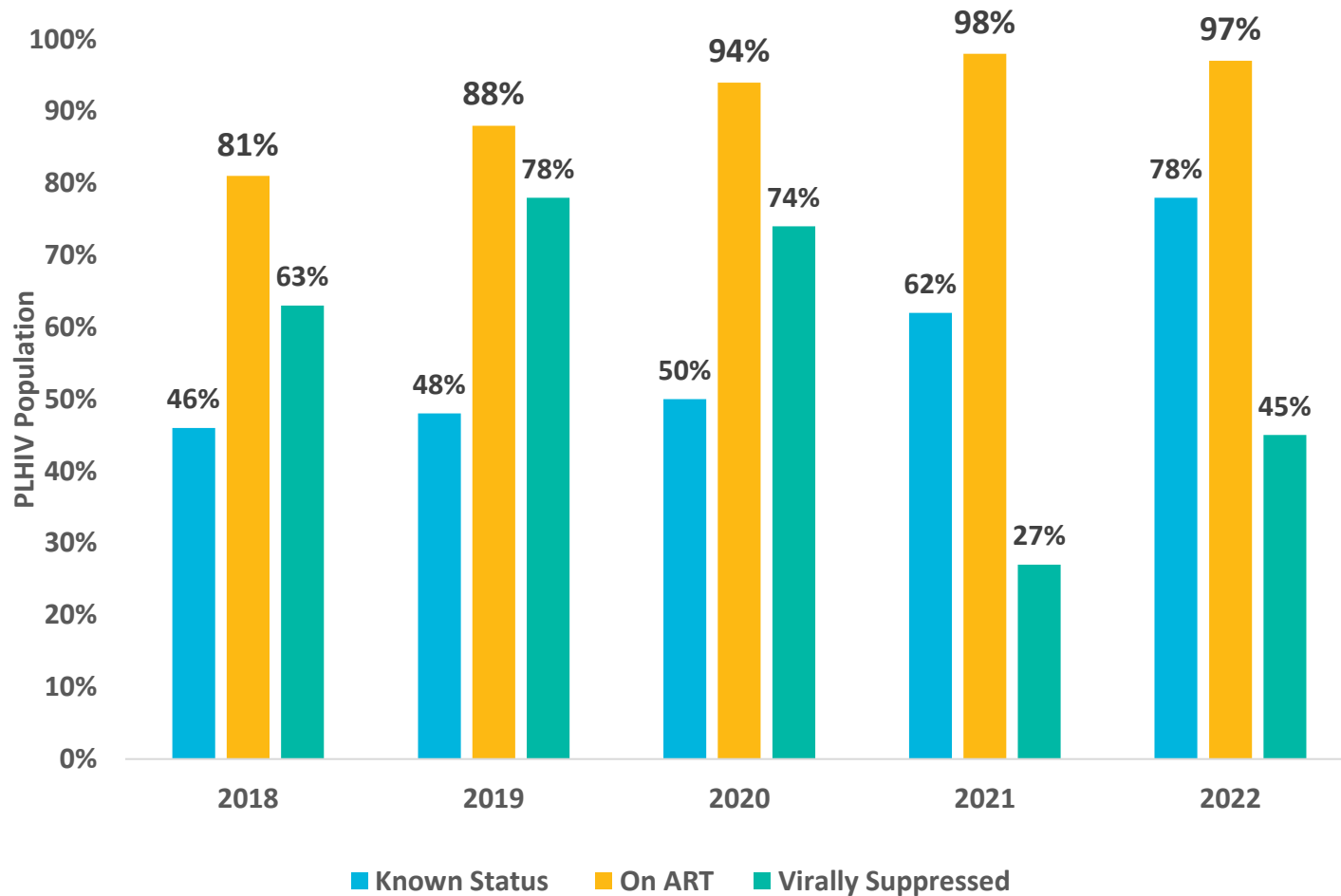
November 13 – 17, 2023 | Johannesburg, South Africa



# Outline

- **Where are we now?**
  - Progress towards 95:95:95 targets
  - Treatment capability maturity model self-staging results
  - DART model mix and MMD
  - AHD CMM self-staging results
  - dHTS CMM self-staging results
- **How did we get here?**
  - Country planning and coordination activities
  - Engagement with CQUIN
  - Update on CQUIN Action Plan
    - 6<sup>th</sup> annual meeting action plans
    - dHTS meeting action plans
  - Integration of HIV and Non-HIV services into DSD
  - Successes and Challenges
- **What's next?**

# Progress towards the 95:95:95 targets



- Sierra Leone faced prolonged viral load machine breakdown including sub-optimal laboratory operations
- Concerted effort is made using POC for VL and EID services
- Opportunity windows are leveraged at the central lab to process/analyze some samples
- GF and PEPFAR procured New VL/EID machine for SL
- NACP developed VL/EID accelerated response plan to reach 58,000 PLHIV within 4 months of equipment installation

# CQUIN Treatment Dashboard Results: 2023

			M&E System	
			Facility Coverage	
			AHD	
			Key Populations	
<b>Policies</b>			MCH	
<b>Guidelines</b>			Family Planning	
<b>Scale Up Plan</b>	<b>Diversity</b>	<b>Community Eng.</b>	Quality	<b>Impact</b>
<b>Procurement</b>	<b>Coordination</b>	<b>TB/HIV</b>		
<b>Client Coverage</b>	<b>Training</b>	<b>HTN</b>		
Most mature domains			Least mature domains	

SL continued to make progress in targeting high-quality person-centred care including DSD.

- Sierra Leone has trained 1,006 from the planned 700 (144%) HCW in DSD in 15 of 16 districts
- Service integration with non-HIV units, including facility coverage and population-specific interventions, have been limited by slow progress in the rollout of the revised M&E tools

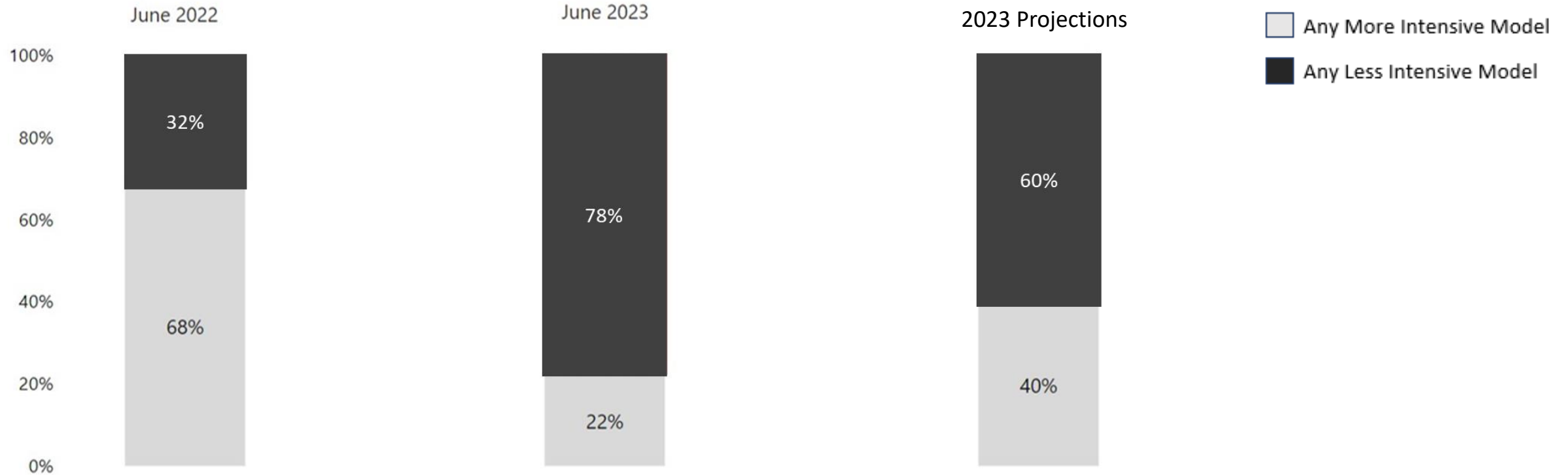
# CQUIN Treatment Dashboard Results: Change Over Time

Generally, there is a gradual maturity of the enabling domains from 2022 to 2023

- Improvement in 14 [78%] of the 18 domains while 3 of the domains remained static [excl. Policies that maintained dark green staging and HTN]
- Training, PSM, diversity and client coverage recorded rapid progress. This is attributable to the strong partnership and collaboration with GF and PEPFAR continuous supportive supervision, engagement of district M&E teams, and districts Pharmacist to support MMD/MMS, community advocacy, and Government procurement policy change to support last mile delivery of HIV commodities
- While tool revisions have been completed, printing, training and distribution remain a rate-limiting step impacting facility coverage, population-specific interventions and non-HIV service integration
- Community engagement is evolving, including population-specific inclusion across activities

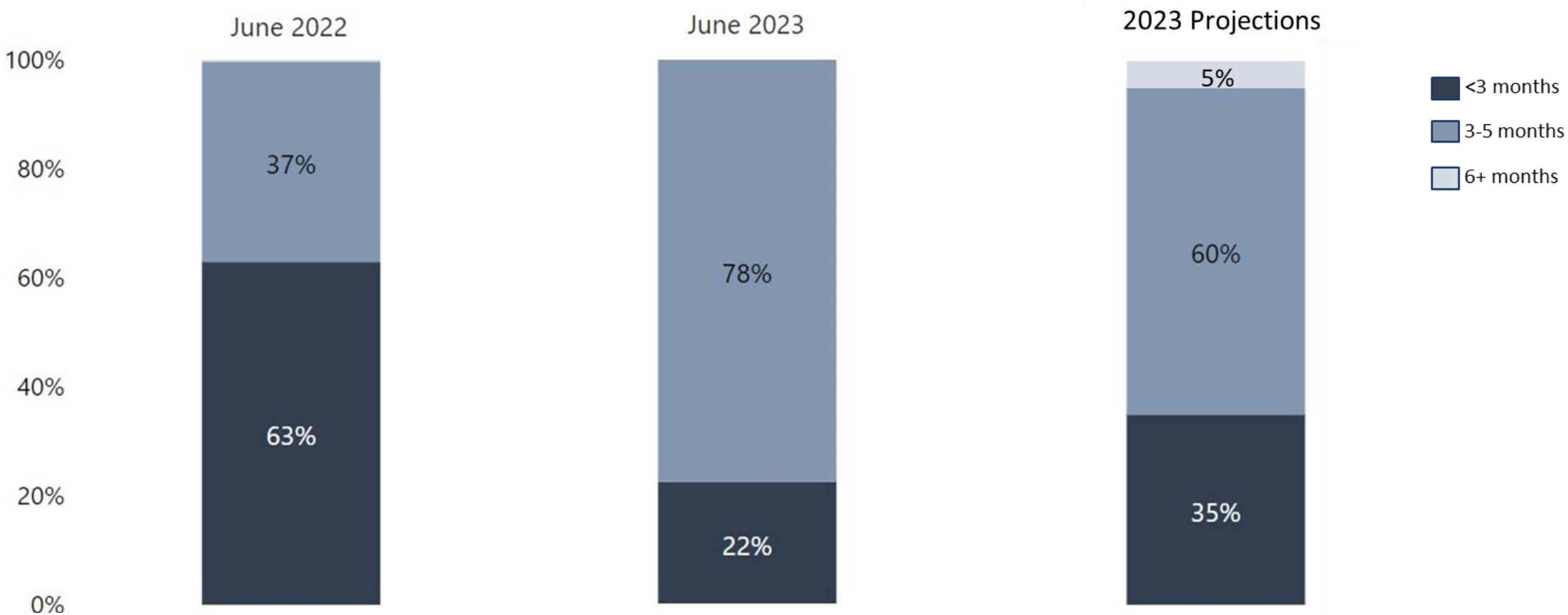
	Sierra Leone	
	2022	2023
Policies	Dark Green	Dark Green
Guidelines	Yellow	Dark Green
Diversity	Red	Light Green
Scale-up Plan	Orange	Dark Green
Coordination	Light Green	Light Green
Community Engagement	Orange	Yellow
Training	Red	Light Green
M&E System	Red	Orange
Facility Coverage	Red	Orange
Client Coverage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

# Differentiated Treatment Model Mix



- Facility-based, less intensive models are prioritized due to the non-rollout of revised national tools
- Appointment spacing without Fast-Track [MMS/MMD] scale-up resulted in the significant shift (i.e. 46% improvement) recorded in 2023, exceeding the set target of 60%
- NACP engaged all district pharmacists to support MMS/MMD implementation, District M&Es were trained and integrated into the program, which enhanced reporting
- GoSL reforms that ensure HIV commodities are delivered directly to the warehouse limited product stockouts and clearing of all HIV commodities

# Differentiated Treatment: Multi-month Dispensing



- Significant roll-out of MMS/MMD was recorded in 2023 compared to 2022
- The 6-month shift is expected to happen with procurement of 60 to 90 days pack sizes of ART as this was factored in the GF grant cycle 7 procurement

# CQUIN AHD Dashboard Results 2023

		<b>Policies</b>	<b>AHD Scale-up Plan</b>	
		<b>Client Coverage 3</b>	<b>Diagnostic Capability 1</b>	<b>Coordination</b>
		<b>Client Coverage 4</b>	<b>Facility Coverage</b>	<b>Diagnostic Capability 2</b>
<b>Guidelines</b>	<b>SOPs</b>	<b>Supply Chain</b>	<b>Client Coverage 1</b>	<b>Client Coverage 2</b>
<b>ROC Engagement</b>	<b>Training</b>	<b>M&amp;E System</b>	<b>Quality</b>	<b>Impact</b>

Most mature domains

Least mature domains

SL recognized the role of AHD care in achieving epidemic control.

Progress made includes:

- Revised and validated national treatment guidelines to cover AHD, including standard AHD package of care
- AHD reflected in the revised National HIV Strategic Plan, scale-up plans have no clear targets
- Clients' coverage is limited by a short supply of commodities and delayed rollout of the revised M&E system
- Capacity to implement is limited to PEPFAR supported health facilities and one national tertiary referral centre
- Current DSD TWG will be expanded to include coordination of AHD interventions
- SL will develop SoPS to guide Health facility-appropriate AHD level of care and scale up training



# CQUIN Testing & Linkage Dashboard – 2023

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

SL has made progress from the last staging of the dHTS staging in March 2023 as follows:

- The revised national Consolidated ART guidelines addressed most gaps including verification testing, private sector engagement, financing and linkage to prevention
- dHTS is coordinated by the DSD technical working group
- Scale-up plan includes evidence-guided training of health care workers across the districts of Sierra Leone
- Implementation of HTS is differentiated by epidemic, population and prevalence of settings

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# Country Level Planning and Coordination

- **What platform is used for planning and coordinating DSD activities in the country?**
  - Held 4 DSD TWG meetings focusing on program implementation and scope expansion (service integration)
  - Held 4 engagement meetings with leaderships of different HIV implementing partners to get technical and financial commitment to DSD rollout
    - IPs included budget line to train staff
    - IPs include budget lines to fund TWG meetings
  - NETHIPS and all key population groups actively participated in most coordination and engagement meetings

# Activities that have been included or confirmed for funding

NSP and ART guidelines have been updated to reflect AHD interventions [training, procurement of diagnostics, AHD minimum package and targets]

## **PEPFAR agreed to fund AHD implementation and scale up**

- Procured diagnostic tools including CD4 qualitative test, CrAg rapid test
- Funding for capacity building of doctors and other health care workers on diagnostic and management of AHD

## **Global Fund has agreed to fund**

- Quality improvement collaborative
- HIV Proficiency testing
- AHD treatment commodities
- Resources to fund HIV verification testing
- Support capacity building on AHD
- Inclusion of community model funding and district level meetings

## **Partners**

- IP (JHPIEGO, Solthis, AHF, and Labyrinth Global Health, including bi-lateral donors ( WHO and UNAIDS), have funded training and addressed capacity gaps through supporting district-level training

# How the action plans were prioritized to secure future donor funding

- Active participation in the National HIV Strategic Plan Review and Review of the National Consolidated ART treatment guideline
  - Sections dedicated to DSD included in the documents
- Participation at the regional PEPFAR COP/ROP meeting, where Sierra Leone presented program priorities, including DSD
- Active participation in the GF C7 grant writing and prioritizing NSP DSD-specific interventions

# Engagement with CQUIN

## In the past year

- Sierra Leone continues to improve learning through participation in eight communities of practice including M&E, dHTS, KP, AHD, Quality etc.
- Sierra Leone participated in a Country-to-Country visit to Uganda, which reshaped our DSD implementation roll-out

## Describe key lessons learned and impact on country DSD implementation plans.

- NACP collaboration, partnership and communication with partners have accelerated DSD implementation
  - Revised tool rollout in October 2023
  - Decentralization of DSD capacity at the district level
  - Accelerated capacity building across 16 districts
  - Riding on eMTCT to integrate aspects of DSD into RMNCH, TB and Nutrition platforms

# Update on Country Action Plan from the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (2022)

Activities that have been successfully completed include:

1. Multi-source funding of tool printing now ~75% complete, distribution matrix developed, and orientation plan is underway
  - Tools roll out commenced on 1 October
2. Sensitized and included non-HIV services including FP/MCH and TB/HIV integration into DSD
3. Completed training of all Key population groups on DSD
4. Completed DSD TOT and Frontline HCW district-level training
5. Orientation of district supervisors on DSD quality standards

# Update on Country Action Plan from the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (2022)

Activities that are still underway include:

1. National M&E supportive supervision / upload of the revised tool on the DHIS2 - contract awarded for three months
2. Integration of DSD into CHW SOW and DSD quarterly meetings at the district level
3. Activation and roll out of DSD in Key population setting
4. Framework for AHD diagnosis and national AHD training

Activities that were dropped include:

1. Quality Improvement project implementation
2. Strengthen existing adolescent youth-friendly centres to promote the integration of non-HIV services including FP/MCH and TB/HIV into DSD
3. Co-creation/co-adaptation of exit interviews/satisfaction survey



# Integration of HIV and Non-HIV services into DSD

- **What integration policy(ies) did you adopt this year or working on?**
  - Elaboration of RMNCH and eTMTCT Service SoPs to include and promote DSD – The SoP has been validated
  - Advocated for the harmonization of RMNCH and HIV tools
- **What activities are being implemented to scale up the integration of FP and NCDs into DSD models?**
  - Expanded DSD TWG SOW to include other non-HIV service actors to promote service integration
- **What are the major barriers in the country against the scale-up of integrated services?**
  - Non-uniformity of tools
  - Overlapping and multiple engagements of stakeholders

# DSD Implementation Successes in 2023

- Coordinated implementation through DSD TWG
- IP leadership engagements, which facilitated organization-specific budget lines for DSD interventions
- Revised the National HIV Strategic Plan to include sections on DSD
- Revised the National Consolidated treatment guideline to address DSD-related gaps re: private sector, AHD, verification testing prevention package etcetera
- Conducted funding gap analysis and development of concept notes leading to mobilization of over USD 80,000 for DSD activities
- Engagement of CSOs, including KPs and NETHIP
- Developed capacity of 48 Master trainers across IPs, CSO, national and sub-national staff
- Built capacity of 700 frontline health care workers on DSD
- Activated the use of revised national M&E tools

# Challenges in DSD Implementation

- Multiple concurrent overlapping activities make it difficult to secure meeting dates and to carrying out planned tasks (particularly in this grant development year)
- Limited funding and delayed funding release slowed down M&E activities in the country
- DHIS2 technical partner related challenges re: contract execution slowed down M&E interventions
- Funding gap may restrict roll out of some community DSD models

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# DSD priorities for 2024

## **What are the *most important* DSD-related goals and/or projections in your country's plans for 2024?**

- Activation of all models of DSD which will vary by geography
- Comprehensive report on DSD using the revised national tools
- DSD quality and impact assessment
- Taking AHD to scale and completing AHD-specific SoPs

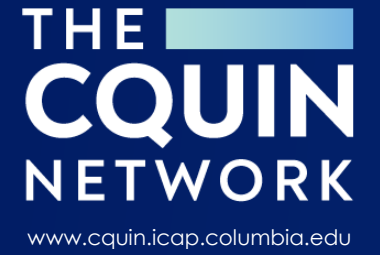
## **What do you want to learn from other countries in the CQUIN network in the coming year?**

- DSD impact assessment and tools
- AHD implementation

# Acknowledgements

## We thank

1. **IPs**
2. **CQUIN**
3. **PEPFAR**
4. **UNAIDS**
5. **WHO**
6. **UNICEF**
7. **Global Fund**
8. **MoH SL**



Thank you!

