

Implementing Status Neutral HIV Testing Approach: Challenges and lessons learned

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CQUIN 7th Annual Meeting

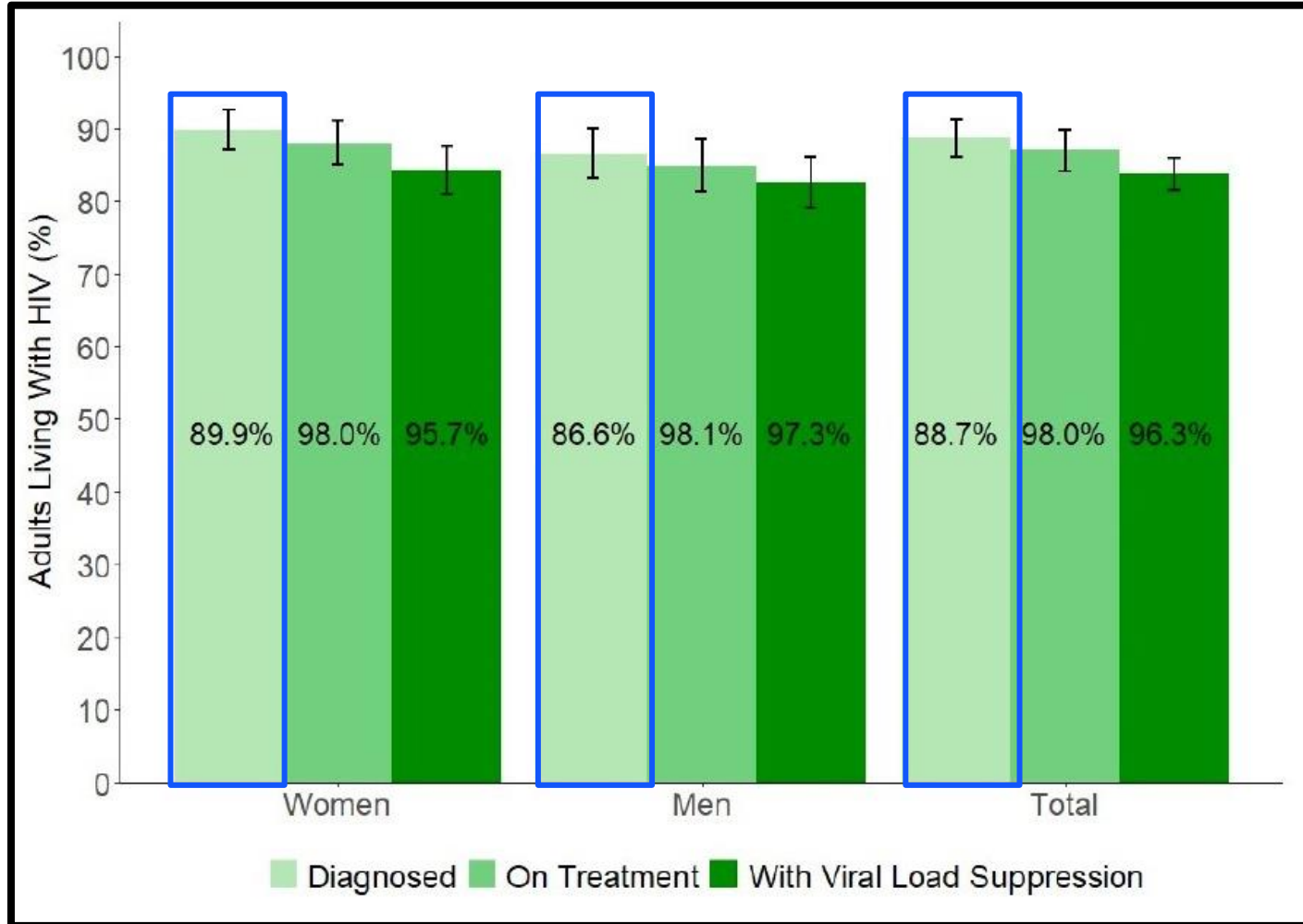
November 13 – 17, 2023 | Johannesburg, South Africa



Outline

- **Background and context**
- **A highlight of Zambia's dHTS Capability Maturity Model (CMM)**
- **Implementing Status Neutral Testing Approach in Zambia : *(Process and proposed interventions)***
- **Lessons learned**
- **Challenges**
- **What is being done to mitigate challenges**

Background 1- Progress Towards 95:95:95 Targets; by Sex



- **88.7%** of adults (15+ years) living with HIV were aware of their HIV status:
 - 89.9% of women
 - 86.6% men
- **98.0%** were on ART:
 - 98.0% of women
 - 98.1% of men
- **96.3%** had VLS:
 - 95.7% of women
 - 97.3% of men

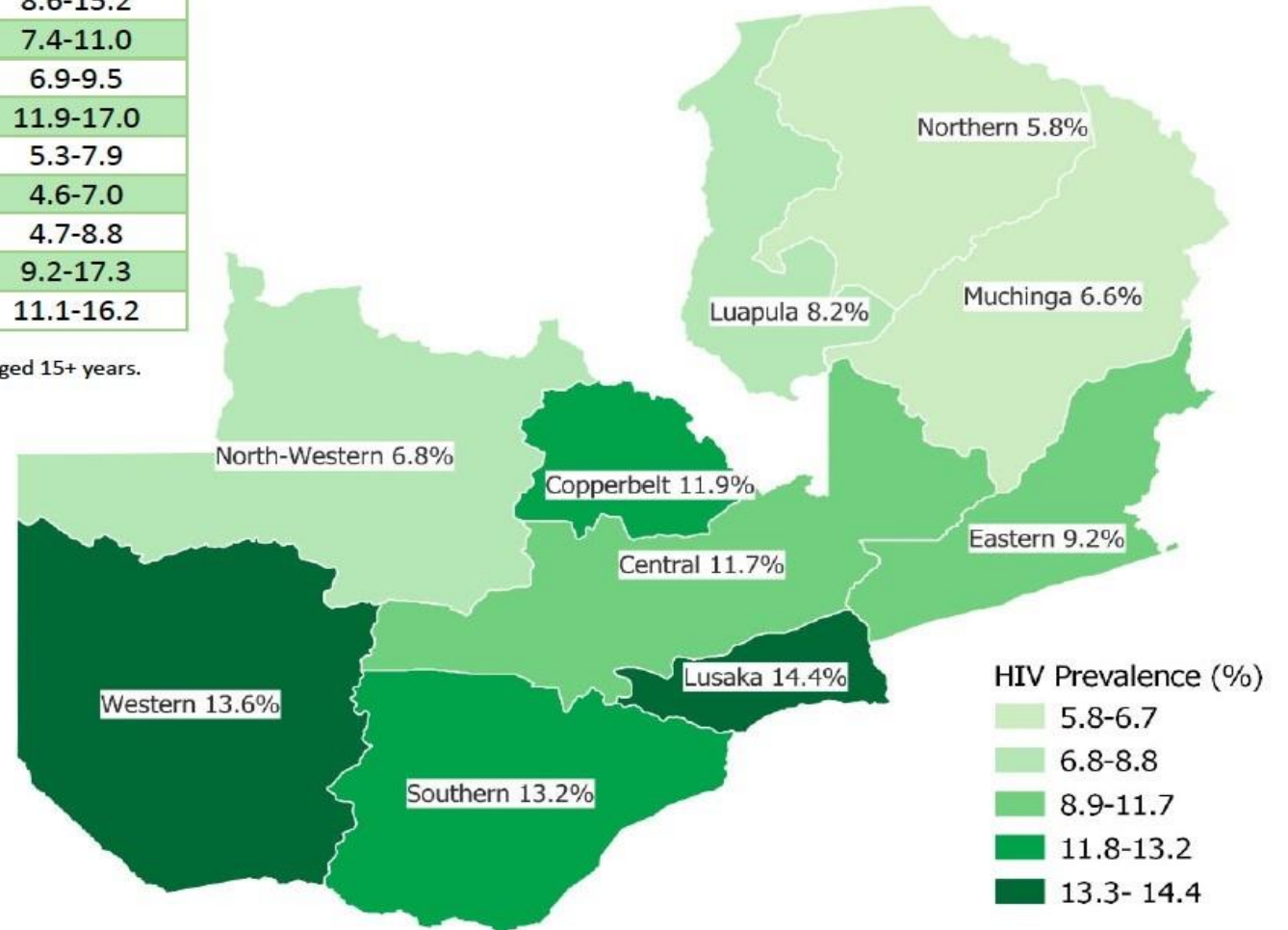
Background 2- HIV Prevalence by Province

HIV PREVALENCE, by PROVINCE

Among adults aged 15+ years, HIV prevalence varied geographically across Zambia, ranging from 5.8% in Northern to 14.4% in Lusaka.

Province	HIV Prevalence (%)	95% CI
Central	11.7	8.7-14.6
Copperbelt	11.9	8.6-15.2
Eastern	9.2	7.4-11.0
Luapula	8.2	6.9-9.5
Lusaka	14.4	11.9-17.0
Muchinga	6.6	5.3-7.9
Northern	5.8	4.6-7.0
North-Western	6.8	4.7-8.8
Southern	13.2	9.2-17.3
Western	13.6	11.1-16.2

Percentage and 95% CIs for HIV prevalence apply to adults aged 15+ years.



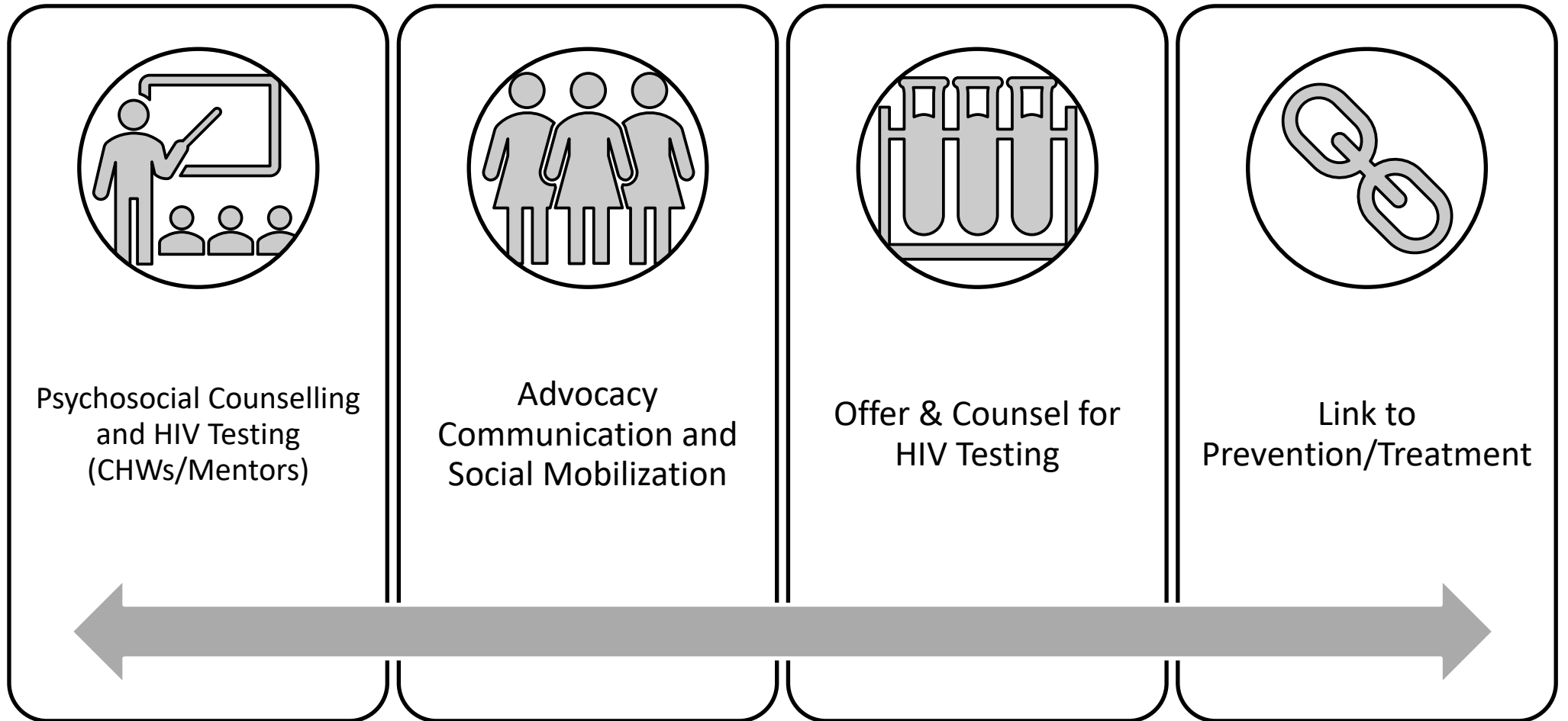
Source: ZamPHIA 2021 Preliminary Results

Zambia's dHTS CMM dashboard – 2023

			Policy: Optimizing HIV Testing	
			Clinical Services	
	Financing and Resource Allocation		Coordination	Impact: Knowledge of HIV Status
	Linkage To Tx 1: Timely Linkage	Proficiency Testing	EQA/IQC	Impact: Linkage to Prevention
	Meaningful Community Engagement	dHTS Training	Scale Up Plan	Impact: Linkage to Treatment
	Policy 3: Linkage	Linkage To Prevention and Other Services	M&E	Linkage Tx: Confirm/ Verification Testing
Policy: Strategic Model Mix and	Procurement & Supply Chain Management	Sops	Population Coverage	Private Sector Engagement
Most mature domains			Least mature domains	

- **6 domains** are mature on the dHTS CMM dashboard
- More efforts are being made to attain maturity for most domains
- National guidelines to include linkage to prevention

Implementing of Status Neutral-1: The process



Implementing of Status Neutral-2: CMM gaps related to Status Neutral

No	Domain gap	Proposed Intervention
1.	Linkage to prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Revision of the guidelines to include linkage of high-risk HIV negative people to prevention
2.	Monitoring and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enhance data collecting tools to track high risk negative people and demonstrate prevention of services offered
3.	Knolwde of HIV status	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Country still below the first 95%, scale up testing approaches that promote identifying hard to reach populations
4.	Clinical services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Advocate for increased commodity allocation and train health care workers in status neutral approach
5.	Private sector engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stregthen collaboration with the private sector via inclusion in the TWG

Lessons learned

- **Prevention services** need to be readily available to prompt uptake
- **Commodities** to support the approach should be accessible
- **Trained HCWs** to provide services without stigma
- **Support RoC** who want to re-engage into care via HIV testing

Challenges

- Limited commodities to scale up status neutral approach
- Weak linkage systems between HTS and prevention services
- HTS Data collecting tools do not include information on prevention services
- Inadequate knowledge among HCW on status neutral approach

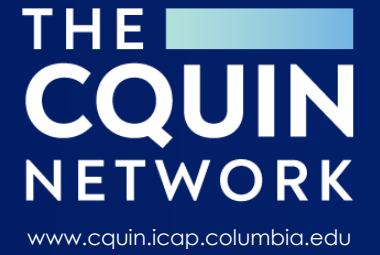
What has been done to mitigate challenges

■ Activities Conducted

- Conducted visits to implementing sites to appreciate how services are offered
- Stakeholder engagement to exchange and learn on implementation
- Held a review meeting to include status neutral approach in the HTS implementation plan

■ Next steps

- Desk review to look at what data collection tools are available, and work towards harmonizing all the tools.
- Plan to review and harmonize the training materials
- Develop policy guidelines and standardized SoPs



Thank you!

