

## **Differentiated Service Delivery Across the HIV Testing Cascade: Fronting Person-Centered Testing Approaches to Enhance Coverage and Quality of HIV Testing Services.**

SS Elangeni/Maharani Hotel, Durban, South Africa | July 9-12, 2024

**Background:** The HIV Coverage, Quality, and Impact Network (CQUIN) convenes partner countries to adopt, implement, and expand effective differentiated service delivery (DSD) for HIV. Led by ICAP at Columbia University (ICAP) with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, CQUIN facilitates experience sharing, cross-learning, and collaborative problem-solving, and provides targeted, demand-driven technical assistance and support.

Since its inception in 2017, CQUIN has been dedicated to promoting implementation of effective differentiated service delivery (DSD) for HIV at scale. Initially focused on expanding differentiated models for individuals established on treatment, CQUIN's scope has evolved significantly over time and now encompasses diverse DSD treatment strategies for various contexts, including advanced HIV disease, TB/HIV, integration of family planning and hypertension into HIV services, maternal and child health, and key populations.

In 2022, CQUIN broadened its focus to cover the entire HIV cascade, including testing, linkage, retention, and re-engagement, through the development of the [ICAP CQUIN dHTS Capability Maturity Model \(CMM\)](#). Developed collaboratively with stakeholders including the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), Ministries of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO), PEPFAR, and the South-to-South Learning Network (SSLN), the dHTS CMM provides a framework for assessing and enhancing HIV testing services.

### **Recent Developments:**

In March 2023, ICAP CQUIN hosted an all-network meeting on differentiated testing and linkage, drawing over 250 delegates from 20 countries. The meeting aimed to address key issues in the differentiated HIV testing cascade, including mobilization, testing, and linking individuals to post-test services. A significant outcome of this gathering was the formulation of country action plans for 2023, highlighting priorities to address identified gaps in their maiden dHTS CMM.

The meeting highlighted several challenges faced by most countries, such as deficiencies in documenting and reporting linkage from HIV testing to combination prevention services, a limited understanding of the status-neutral HIV testing approach, and insufficient tools for monitoring and evaluating dHTS. In response, ICAP CQUIN launched the dHTS Community of Practice (CoP) in May 2023. Following this, tailored technical assistance and support were provided to countries by ICAP-CQUIN, along with global and local partners, to address their specific needs and priorities.

### **The CQUIN dHTS Meeting:**

ICAP and the National Department of Health will co-host the second all-network dHTS meeting in July 2024. This meeting will focus on sharing progress updates from member countries using their 2024 dHTS CMM

self-assessment results. Additionally, the meeting will highlight advancements in implementing action plans based on the baseline CMM results from 2023.

The meeting agenda will include discussions on approaches implemented at scale aimed at enhancing the coverage and quality of HIV testing services. Teams will explore innovative approaches to HIV **mobilization, testing and linkage to posttest services, retention, re-engagement**, and exchange best practices to achieve equitable, high-quality, and high-impact testing services. Additionally, teams will discuss approaches that enhance the integration of non-HIV services into HTS such as TB case finding, family planning services, non-communicable diseases Optimizing HIV testing services for key populations and priority groups, including men, will be addressed.

The CQUIN dHTS meeting will bring together country teams from all 21 member countries, led by their respective Ministries of Health (MOH). These teams will include PEPFAR agencies (USAID and CDC), other development partners, implementing partners, civil society representatives, and recipients of care. Global partners of CQUIN, including WHO, the US Global Health Security Department (GHSD), UNAIDS, CDC, USAID, Global Fund, CHAI, and PSI will be invited.

Prior to the workshop, each country team is encouraged to engage in preparatory meetings. These in-country meetings will involve reviewing national guidelines, policies, and performance data related to:

- **Mobilizing for HIV Testing:** When, Where, Who, What of mobilizing for HTS
- **Testing for HIV:** HTS models and approaches, testing for special population categories, what works well (performance against testing targets)
- **Linkage to post-test services:** Linkage of HIV-positive clients to treatment services and high-risk HIV-negative clients to combination prevention services

Led by MOH, participants will identify challenges, share best practices, resources, and tools, and collectively propose their country-specific action plans for dHTS 2024/2025 to present at the meeting. CQUIN also strongly recommends conducting an in-country post-meeting review and validation of the final action plan developed at the CQUIN dHTS meeting by the attending country team members.

### Meeting Objectives:

- Facilitate the exchange of best practices and innovations in implementing dHTS to reach the last mile.
- Facilitate discussions on strategies to enhance coverage and quality of HIV testing services, focusing on mobilizing, testing, and linking people to post-test services.
- Share resources, tools, and job aids related to DSD for HTS programs.
- Identify shared gaps, challenges, and opportunities for future joint learning, co-creation of tools and resources, and country-to-country exchange visits to strengthen dHTS programs.
- Develop country specific action plans based on identified gaps on the dHTS CMM dashboard, aligning with program priorities and activities to scale up quality, equitable and person-centered services for all sub-populations.

**Agenda:**

The meeting will span three days, from Wednesday July 10 to Friday July 12, 2024. There will be an opening reception the evening of Tuesday July 9th. Activities will include plenary presentations, panel discussions, breakout sessions, and report-back sessions. The proceedings will be conducted in both English and French.

**Deliverables:**

- 2024 dHTS CMM for all 21 countries
- Country action plans
- Meeting report