

# Sierra Leone Country Update

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July 10, 2024



# Outline

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- Engagement with CQUIN and other stakeholders on dHTS
- 2025 dHTS CMM priority activities and projected scores
- Cross-learning topics of interest in 2024
- Acknowledgements

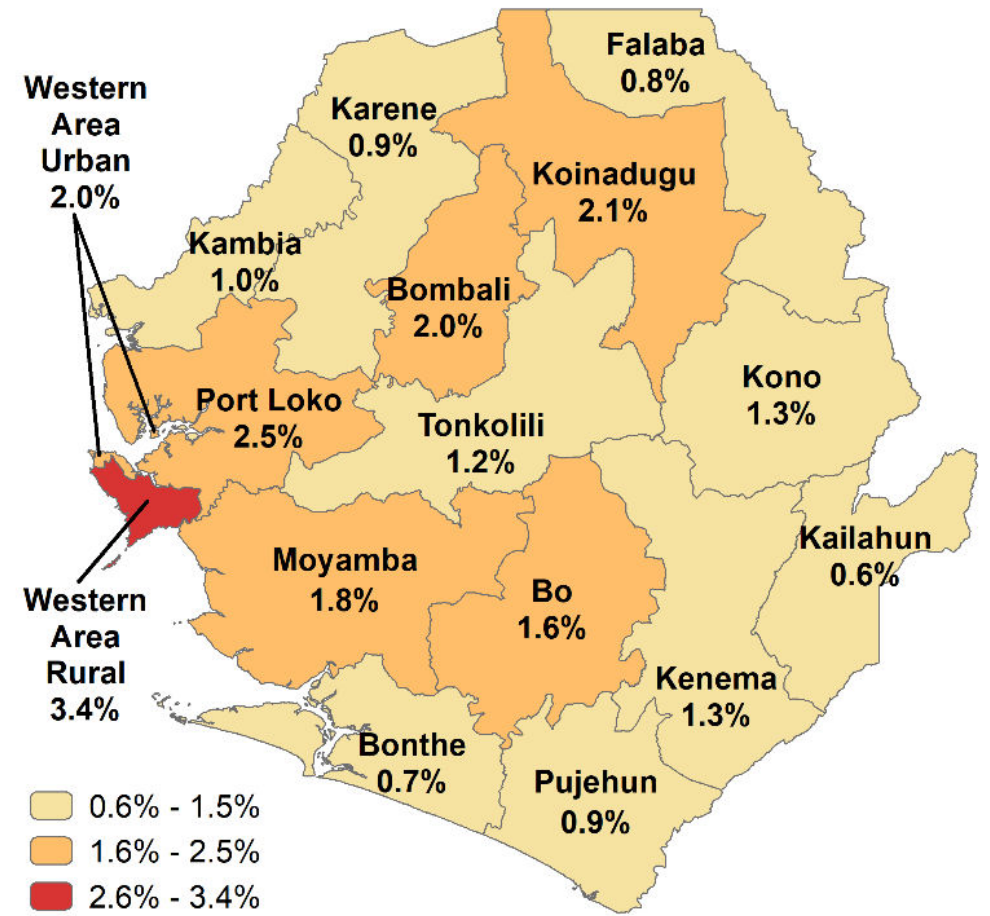
# Country Background

## HIV statistics in general population

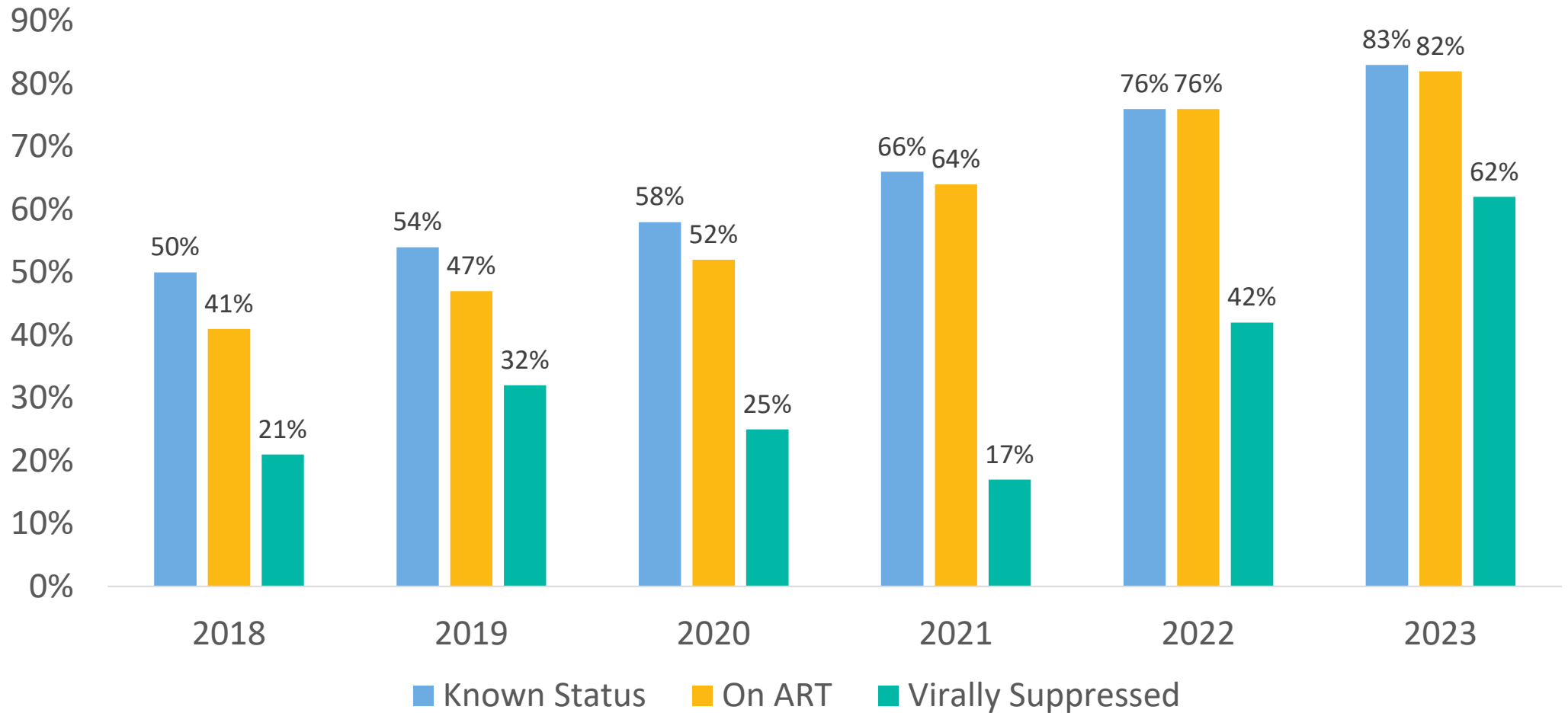
- 77,000 PLHIV- spectrum estimate 2023
- 1.7% HIV prevalence (DHS 2019)
- 0.54% HIV incidence (spectrum 2023)

The epidemic is mixed - generalized and concentration among key populations

- FSW= 11.8%
- MSM =3.2%
- PWID= 4.2%
- TG= 4.2%
- Persons in custodial Centre =3.7% (IBBS,2021)



# Sierra Leone 95-95-95 HIV Cascade (Spectrum 2023)



# Country Testing Model Mix (March 2023- March 2024 DHIS2 Program Data)

Item	All facility-level testing	PICT	ANC Testing	Index Testing
Percent testing HIV-positive	4.1%	6.2%	1.5%	12.1%
Number of HIV-positive test results <i>(% of all HIV+)</i>	20,779 <b><i>(100%)</i></b>	14,749 <b><i>(71%)</i></b>	3,861 <b><i>(19%)</i></b>	2,169 <b><i>(10%)</i></b>
Total HIV Tested <i>(% of all tests)</i>	508,814 <b><i>(100%)</i></b>	238,228 <b><i>(46.8%)</i></b>	252,692 <b><i>(49.7%)</i></b>	17,894 <b><i>(3.5%)</i></b>

# Country dHTS Improvement 2023 to 2024

- Scaled up index testing from 79 health facilities in 2022 to 141 HF in 2023; an additional 75 health facilities were trained in June 2024.
- Integrated dHTS into all RMNCCAHA platforms in 2023
- Launched the new care and treatment guidelines, with the introduction of social network testing and private-sector HIV coordination.
- Compiled and analyzed linkage approaches during DSD TWG, leading to the harmonization of best practices for country adoption
- Harmonized approaches for optimal RoC linkage will be disseminated for scale-up.
- A record increase of 21,000 new PLHIV was reported in the past 12 months( March 2023 and March 2024, DHIS2 Program Data.

# Progress on Implementing 2023 Action Plans: 3-4 Activities Where Progress Was Achieved

Domain	Activity	Progress made by March 31, 2024
National dHTS implementation and scale-up plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop a national HTS implementation and scale-up plan - Review program data to understand the epidemic, identify missing populations and implement appropriate dHTS model mix</li> <li>○ Develop/adapt dHTS quality standards</li> </ul>	Completed
Linkage to treatment	Link 95% of newly diagnosed PLHIV to ART - Define, harmonize, and implement a standardized linkage package across the 16 districts	Completed

# Progress on Implementing 2023 Action Plans: 2-3 Activities Where Progress/Implementation Has Delayed

Domain	Activities Prioritized	Reasons for implementation delay	Plans for remediation
Procurement and supply chain management (PSM)	Collaborate with the PSM team to review existing HIV commodity guidelines.	Because of competing activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Prioritize this activity during the next quantification TWG meeting</li> <li>○ Set up a team and a timeline to complete this activity</li> </ul>
Community engagement	Improve demand creation for dHTS. Introduce non-traditional platforms for dHTS mobilization engagement/strategy	Funding for this activity is included in GC7	Advocate for support to other funders to increase coverage whilst awaiting GC7 budget allocation



# Progress on Implementing 2023 Action Plans: 2-3 Activities De-Prioritized/Dropped

Domain	Activities Initially Prioritized	Reasons for de-prioritization
<p><b>Linkage to prevention</b></p>	<p>Link 95% of high-risk HIV-negative clients to prevention and other services - Adapt and implement (printing and distribution) risk assessment tool to determine high-risk clients requiring prevention services</p>	<p>We may drop this activity after the next technical working group meeting because we could not conclude on incorporating it into the guidelines- It will be discussed in the next TWG</p>

# 2024 dHTS CMM Self Staging Results.

	Finance/Resource Allocation			
	Community Engagement		Scale-up Plan	
	Private Sector Engagement	SOPs	Linkage to Tx: Verification	dHTS Training
Policy: Strategic Model Mix	M&E	Coordination	Linkage to Prevention	Clinical Services
Policy: Optimizing HIV Testing	Procurement/Supply Chain	Population Coverage	EQA/IQC	Impact: Knowledge of Status
Policy: Linkage	Linkage to Tx: Timely Linkage	Proficiency Testing	Impact: Linkage to Tx	Impact: Linkage to Prevention

Most mature domains

Least mature domains

# DHTS CMM Results- 2023 vs 2024

Sierra Leone		
	2023	2024
Policy: Strategic Model Mix	Dark Green	Dark Green
Policy: Optimizing HIV Testing	Light Green	Dark Green
Policy: Linkage	Light Green	Dark Green
Finance/Resource Allocation	Red	Light Green
SOPs	Yellow	Yellow
Scale-up Plan	Orange	Orange
Community Engagement	Light Green	Light Green
Private Sector Engagement	Red	Light Green
Coordination	Orange	Yellow
dHTS Training	Orange	Red
M&E	Orange	Light Green
Procurement/Supply Chain	Red	Light Green
Population Coverage	Light Green	Yellow
Linkage to Tx: Timely Linkage	Orange	Light Green
Linkage to Tx: Verification	Red	Orange
Linkage to Prevention	Orange	Orange
EQA/IQC	Orange	Orange
Proficiency Testing	Yellow	Yellow
Clinical Services	Red	Red
Impact: Knowledge of Status	Red	Red
Impact: Linkage to Tx	Light Green	Orange
Impact: Linkage to Prevention	Red	Red

- SL recorded an improvement in 9 domains, reflecting a 40% improvement; with three dark and six light green scoring
- Most domains that are still least mature were because of the delays in rolling out the new reporting tools
  - New service tools with dHTS data elements are being distributed currently
  - Backlog data entry is ongoing in readiness for reporting in March 2025
- Budgetary constraints impacted the implementation of EQA/activities
- Partners conducted EQA/IQC however not country-wide
- Delay in the hire of lab personnel resulted in reprogramming of EQA/IQC funds.
- SL developed the dHTS training curriculum, TOT was conducted, and the national training was completed
- National dHTS conducted in June 2024 for 75 high-volume HF.

# Engagement With CQUIN and Other Stakeholders on dHTS

## Country-to-country learning visits undertaken

- Visit to Uganda- DSD on the supply chain

## Technical assistance received

- Supported the hire of a DSD Advisor

## Meetings attended (virtual and physical)

- CQUIN meeting on dHTS (March 2023)
- 7th annual CQUIN meeting (November 2023)
- CQUIN meeting on non-HIV services integration into HIV program (April 2024)
- dHTS community of practice

## Tools (shared/received)

- AHD toolkit from Ethiopia
- SL plan to contextualize with Solthis partner, who won an AHD grant

# Key Lessons Learned Over the Past Year – Barriers and Facilitators

## Barriers/Challenges

- Limited private sector engagement in dHTS demand creation
- Supply chain challenges - stock-out of HIV commodities
- Slow-pace of integrating HIV services into other programs
- Limited funding to scale up interventions

## Facilitators

- Revised the consolidated HIV guidelines
- Developed population-specific dHTS model mix with targets
- Revised the M&E tools to capture dHTS indicators for effective monitoring
- Meaningful community engagement:
  - In the revision of reporting tools.
  - expert clients engage in sensitization and demand generation

# 2025 dHTS CMM Priority Activities and Projected Scores

Domain	2024 score	2025 Aspirational score	Planned actions
Clinical services	RED	YELLOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Validate the national HIV quality standards document</li> <li>○ Develop, validate and adapt a quality service assessment tool</li> <li>○ Assess selected facilities for quality standards</li> </ul>
dHTS Training	RED	LIGHT GREEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Developed a comprehensive HIV training curriculum (including dHTS) aligned with the revised guidelines</li> <li>○ Develop a dHTS implementation plan</li> <li>○ Set targets for dHTS cascade training</li> <li>○ Scale-up dHTS training</li> </ul>
Knowledge on HIV status	RED	YELLOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Utilize traditional and non-traditional platforms to increase demand for dHTS among key and priority populations</li> <li>○ Scale-up and integrate dHTS services for key and priority populations with clear targets</li> <li>○ Conduct targeted outreach campaigns for key and priority populations</li> </ul>

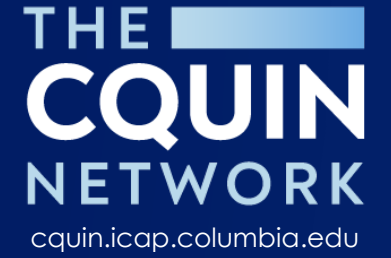
# Cross-Learning Topics of Interest in 2024

1. dHTS M&E
2. M&E of HIV prevention
3. dHTS for pediatrics

# Acknowledgments

- Ministry of Health (MoH)
- NACP
- AHF
- JHPIEGO
- SOLTHIS
- PIH
- LABYRINTH GLOBAL HEALTH
- AMREF
- ICAP/CQUIN





Thank You!

