

Differentiated HIV Service Delivery: Optimizing Person-Centered HIV Services in Sierra Leone

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Authors: Gerald Younge; Francis K. Tamba; Foday Kanu; Isatu Bah; Millicent Minah



BACKGROUND

Sierra Leone has a population of about 8 million people; with a HIV prevalence of 1.7%. About 77,000 people are living with HIV and 73,501 are on ART.

Sierra Leone joined the CQUIN learning network in 2019 and launched DSD in 2020. DSD priorities have evolved from policies, guideline development, and the revision of the national HIV strategic plan and data tools to reflect the country's DSD needs.

The country has scaled up DSD implementation with the appointment spacing model without fast track in 2023. In its scale-up plan, Sierra Leone has rolled out DSD models beyond the facility-based appointment spacing models to community-based models in 2024. The Sierra Leone Ministry of Health's vision is to accelerate all the DSD models at community and facility levels.

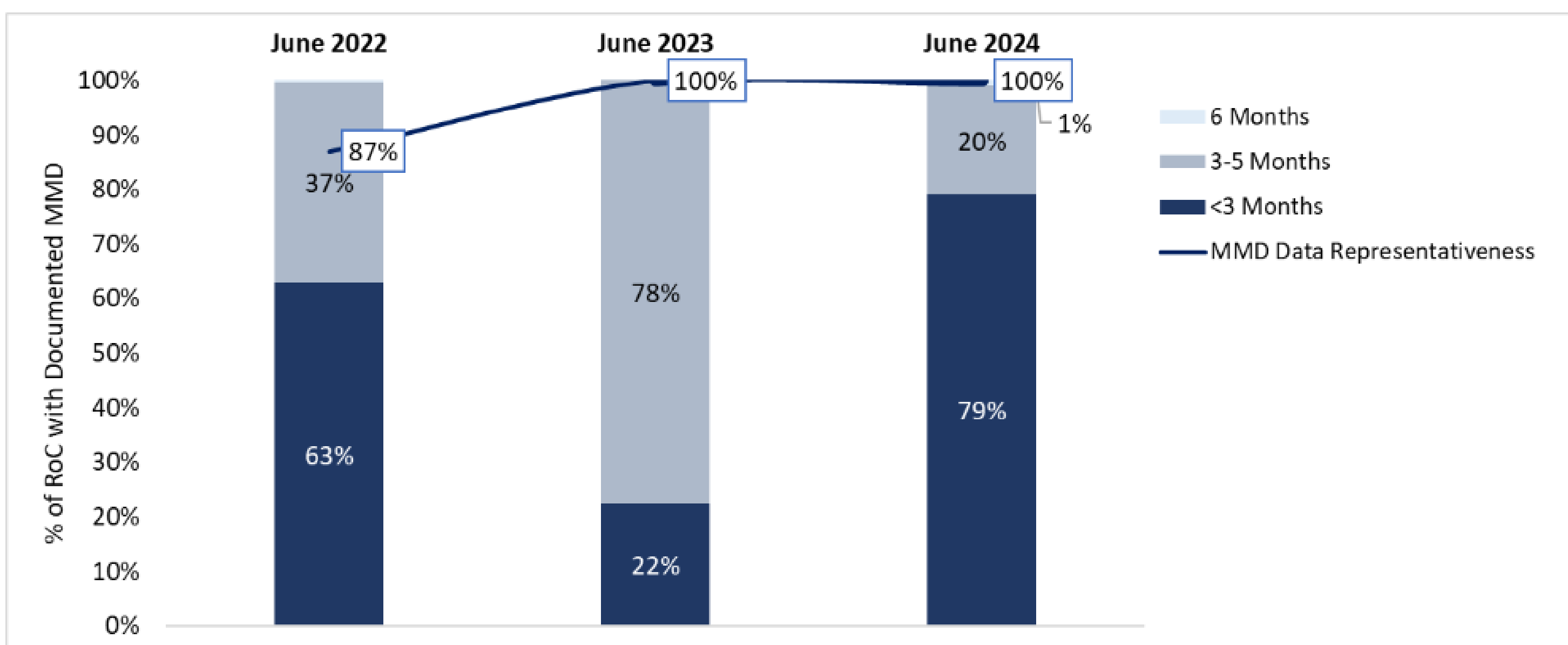
District HIV focal points have been trained on DSD quality standards. Meaningful engagement of the recipients of care (RoC) is prioritized through the technical working groups (TWG).

DSD IMPLEMENTATION

DSD Model Mix in Sierra Leone

- Currently, DSD model mix data is unavailable. Model Mix data was still being uploaded into the DHIS2 to ensure that the national TX_CURR is fully accounted for.
- There is continuous engagement with all district pharmacists and M&E focal persons to support multi-month dispensing (MMD) implementation and to guarantee quality reporting.
- Shifting the last mile commodity distribution to Principal Recipient 2 (World Vision Sierra Leone) will provide a significant reduction in commodity stockout.

Figure 1: Multi-Month Dispensing (MMD): Trend over Time, 2022-2024



- Significant reduction in the roll-out of MMD was recorded in June 2024 (20% in 2024 as compared to 78% in June 2023). This is attributable to the delays in the last mile supply chain challenges which necessitated frequent ART pick-ups.
- Only 1% of RoCs received 6+MMD due to the late arrival of the 60 to 90 pack size ART.

CQUIN ENGAGEMENT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Sierra Leone belongs to eight communities of practice and has actively participated in those with a focus on advanced HIV disease (AHD), quality, M&E, dHTS, KP and migrant populations
- Sierra Leone has actively participated in the CQUIN learning network meetings including:
 - Integrating non-HIV services into the HIV program held in July 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya
 - The dHTS meeting held in July 2024 in Durban, South Africa

DART CAPABILITY MATURITY MODEL TRENDS (2022-2024)

Figure 2: DART CMM Trends (2022-2024)

Domains	2022	2023	2024
Policies	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green
Guidelines	Yellow	Dark Green	Dark Green
Diversity	Red	Light Green	Dark Green
Scale Up Plan	Red	Dark Green	Dark Green
Coordination	Light Green	Light Green	Dark Green
Community	Red	Yellow	Light Green
Training	Red	Light Green	Dark Green
M&E System	Red	Orange	Orange
Procurement	Red	Orange	Orange
Facility Coverage	Red	Orange	Orange
Client Coverage	Red	Dark Green	Yellow
AHD	Red	Orange	Orange
Key Populations	Red	Orange	Orange
TB/HIV	Red	Yellow	Yellow
MCH	Red	Orange	Orange
NCD/HIV	Red	Yellow	Orange
Family Planning	Red	Orange	Orange
Quality	Red	Orange	Orange
Impact	Red	Orange	Orange

Figure 2 shows the recent self-assessment findings using the CQUIN DART capability maturity model for years 2022, 2023 and 2024. In 2024, Sierra Leone achieved the most mature (dark green) staging in six domains, while the impact domain stagnated in the least mature (red) staging.

Challenge:

- Sub-optimal laboratory operations for VL/EID testing due to prolonged VL machine downtime

Actions:

- Installation and operationalization of the C5800 VL testing equipment
- NACP developed VL/EID accelerated response plan to reach 58,000 PLHIV within 1 month of equipment operationalization

AHD CAPABILITY MATURITY MODEL SELF-STAGING

Figure 3: AHD CMM Results, 2024

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

Most mature (left) | Least mature (right)

Figure 3 shows the recent self-assessment findings using the CQUIN AHD capability maturity model. In 2024, Sierra Leone achieved the most mature (dark green) staging in four domains and three domains were staged in the least mature (red) staging.

dHTS CAPABILITY MATURITY MODEL SELF-STAGING

Figure 4: dHTS CMM Results, 2024

	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 (left) | Least mature domains (right)

Figure 4 shows the recent self-assessment findings using the CQUIN dHTS capability maturity model. In 2024, Sierra Leone achieved the most mature (dark green) staging in three domains with four domains being in the least mature (red) staging.

NEXT STEPS / WAY FORWARD

- Finalize national DHIS2 reporting on DSD model mix
- Expand the DSD TWG to include and strengthen non-HIV services integration
- Activate all DSD models
- Complete AHD-specific standard operating procedures and roll out AHD
- Conduct DSD quality and impact assessments
- Scale-up linkage to prevention services

