

CQUIN Differentiated HIV Testing Services (dHTS) Community of Practice: Terms of Reference

I) Background

As countries work to achieve HIV epidemic control, the scale-up of differentiated service delivery (DSD) is a promising approach to delivering high-quality HIV services at scale. Since 2017, [ICAP at Columbia University](#) with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has led the HIV Coverage, Quality, and Impact Network ([CQUIN](#)), designed to accelerate DSD scale-up by fostering joint learning through meetings, country-to-country exchange visits, webinars, communities of practice (CoP) and targeted technical assistance for its 22 member countries.¹

Recognizing the importance of differentiated HIV testing services (dHTS) for both HIV prevention and HIV treatment, ICAP partnered with a wide range of stakeholders, including WHO, PEPFAR, CHAI, ITPC, and Ministries of Health (MOH) from network countries to develop a capability maturity model (CMM) to describe the steps needed for countries to develop mature national HTS programs. In 2023, CQUIN supported 21 countries to conduct systematic self-assessments using the dHTS CMM, identifying areas of high performance and shared challenges. The [results](#) identified several cross-cutting challenges, including development of HTS and implementation and scale-up plans, linkage to prevention services, quality, and impact of HTS. At an all-country [CQUIN network meeting](#) in March 2023, network country teams identified shared barriers as well as multiple opportunities for country-to-country learning.

In response, CQUIN, has launched a **dHTS community of practice** (CoP), to enable network countries to discuss shared challenges, exchange best practices, co-create and share tools and frameworks, and work together to improve the coverage, quality and impact of dHTS.

II) Goals and Objectives

The overall goal of the dHTS CoP is to contribute towards the scale up of high-quality dHTS programs by exchanging best practices related to dHTS; identifying opportunities to co-create resources; and working to strengthen networks of practitioners and policy makers to promote ongoing cross-country learning. The primary objectives of the group include:

- Identifying priority gaps and common challenges related to dHTS at the national level
- Exchanging best practices and resources for dHTS across the HIV cascade (mobilizing, testing, linking)
- Contributing to the design and implementation of HIV testing and linkage strategies for different population groups
- Providing ongoing feedback and technical support for dHTS to DSD programs
- Promote cross-learning among CQUIN member countries.

III) Membership

- MoH in CQUIN partner countries may opt into the CoP by formally indicating interest and nominating at least one HTS representative from the MOH to participate. Ideally, the national DSD coordinator will also participate.
- The ICAP CQUIN team will work with MoH to identify additional country-level stakeholders, including representatives from in-country development partners, implementing partners, and recipients of testing services/civil society.

¹ Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

- A maximum of 5 representatives per country may join the CoP as standing members, although additional *ad hoc* participants may be invited to join specific calls and/or projects.

IV) Roles and Responsibilities of CoP members

Members of the dHTS CoP will:

- Participate in dHTS CoP quarterly and *ad hoc* calls as needed
- Contribute expertise and knowledge to the group, sharing best practices, tools and resources
- Contribute to the co-creation of resources and tools related to dHTS including, but not limited to, drafting and/or reviewing documents
- Disseminate best practices, lessons learned, and CoP resources in their respective countries.
- Distribute dHTS related resources, updates, and relevant expertise bi-directionally, acting as liaisons between the CoP and their own organizations and institutions as appropriate
- Advocate for *quality* and *equity* of HTS service provision such as supporting country initiatives on promoting community led monitoring (CLM) of HTS and community representatives' engagement in HTS

In addition, CQUIN may support occasional country-to-country learning visits for members of the CoP and/or invite them to attend larger country-to-country learning visits organized for delegations from their respective countries.

V) Code of Conduct for CoP members

- Members agree to work in the spirit of mutual respect in support of CoP goals and objectives.
- Members agree to be ready to lead or participate in CoP meetings
- Members agree to discharge their duties responsibly, adhering to agreed processes and deadlines.

VI) Governance and Term of Membership

- The term of membership will depend on recommendations and guidance from the organizations represented and on individual interest.
- It shall be assumed that CoP members who do not participate in 4 consecutive calls or who do not participate in any of the calls organized during the year shall be considered as having left the group and the CQUIN team will request a replacement representative.

VII) Compensation

Membership in the CoP is voluntary and there will be no compensation for time spent on calls and meetings. CQUIN/ICAP will support travel costs when needed, including accommodation and per diem as appropriate.

VIII) Review

The dHTS CoP Terms of Reference will be reviewed regularly as shall be deemed necessary depending on the prevailing circumstances.