





Test, test, test: COVID-19 and HIV testing updates



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Strategies for HIV testing and initiation of treatment during the pandemic

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Planning needed to avoid stockouts



EDUCATIONAL FUND

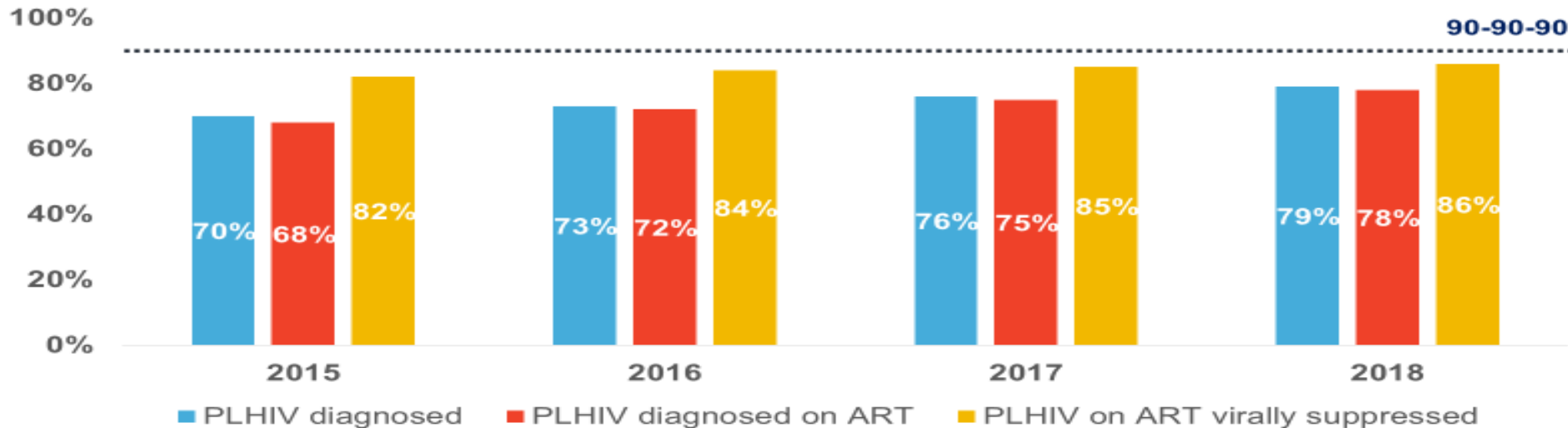


Continuation of HIV services during the COVID-19 pandemic

- **Focus on maintaining ART** – MMS, pharmacy/community pick up, home delivery, keeping PHC open, virtual and digital platforms for remote support and appropriate PPE for health workers
- **But need to also try and maintain testing services**
 - to avoid losing substantial HIV gains
 - to support people with HIV who are undiagnosed or unlinked to ART → test & link

Progress toward the 90-90-90, 2015-2018

8.1 million PLHIV remain undiagnosed, globally





How can HIV testing services (HTS) be modified in COVID-19 Context

- Important to **support undiagnosed PLHIV to get tested → linked to ART**
 - PLHIV, who do not know their status & not ART inc those with risk factors (e.g. diabetes ↑ BMI), who acquire a COVID-19 *may* be at risk of COVID-19 complications
- **Safety of HTS providers needs to be ensured** during testing procedures
 - practices including PPE, hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, and physical distancing measures.
 - adaptations such as increased use of phone calls, digital tools (e.g. videos, websites, social media, text messages) and use of **HIV self-testing (HIVST)**
- **Considerations for prioritizing and adapting HTS programmes**
 - **continuing ongoing critical clinical services** (e.g. ANC (inc dual HIV/syphilis), individuals with symptoms/conditions indicative of HIV or co-infections or other co-morbidities (e.g. TB , STIs, malnutrition), and EID of HIV-exposed children).
 - **partner/index/family testing** to reach the partners of PLHIV presenting at facilities, and ongoing key populations programmes; increasingly using phone calls; partner delivered HIVST
 - **key populations** who need HTS, sexual health services, and social protection
 - restricting/pausing community outreach – focus on HIVST and virtual support
 - **maintain linkage and referrals to ART**, and supply of **condoms, contraception**
 - **monitor supply chain management** - may be increased HIVST demand & risks of disruptions



Realizing the role of HIV self-testing (HIVST)

Considerations for HIVST

- HIVST may be acceptable alternative to maintain services while adhering to physical distancing guidance.
- Important to strategically implement HIVST **prioritizing areas & populations** with greatest needs and gaps in testing coverage.
- **HIVST approaches include:**
 - distribution for personal use and/or sexual and/or drug injecting partners of PLHIV and social contacts of key populations
 - in high HIV burden settings, pregnant women may also provide HIVST kits to their male partners.
- **Priority settings to consider**
 - pick up at facilities or community sites
 - online platforms (e.g. websites, social media, digital platforms) and distribution through mail
 - pharmacies, retail vendors, vending machines



Countries with HIVST programmes

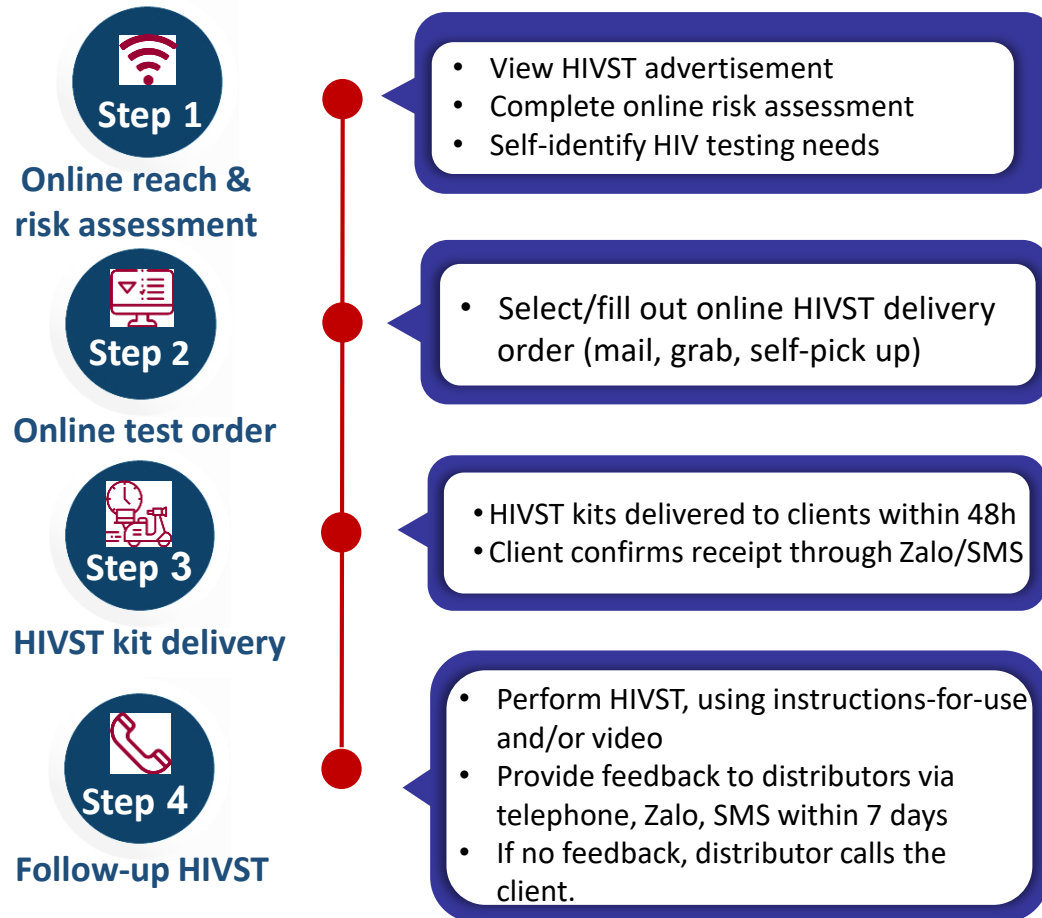
Expand and adapt HIVST

- replace facility with HIVST (to decongest health facilities)
- use HIVST for partner and social network testing

Countries yet to use HIVST

- Lobby for rapid HIVST approval

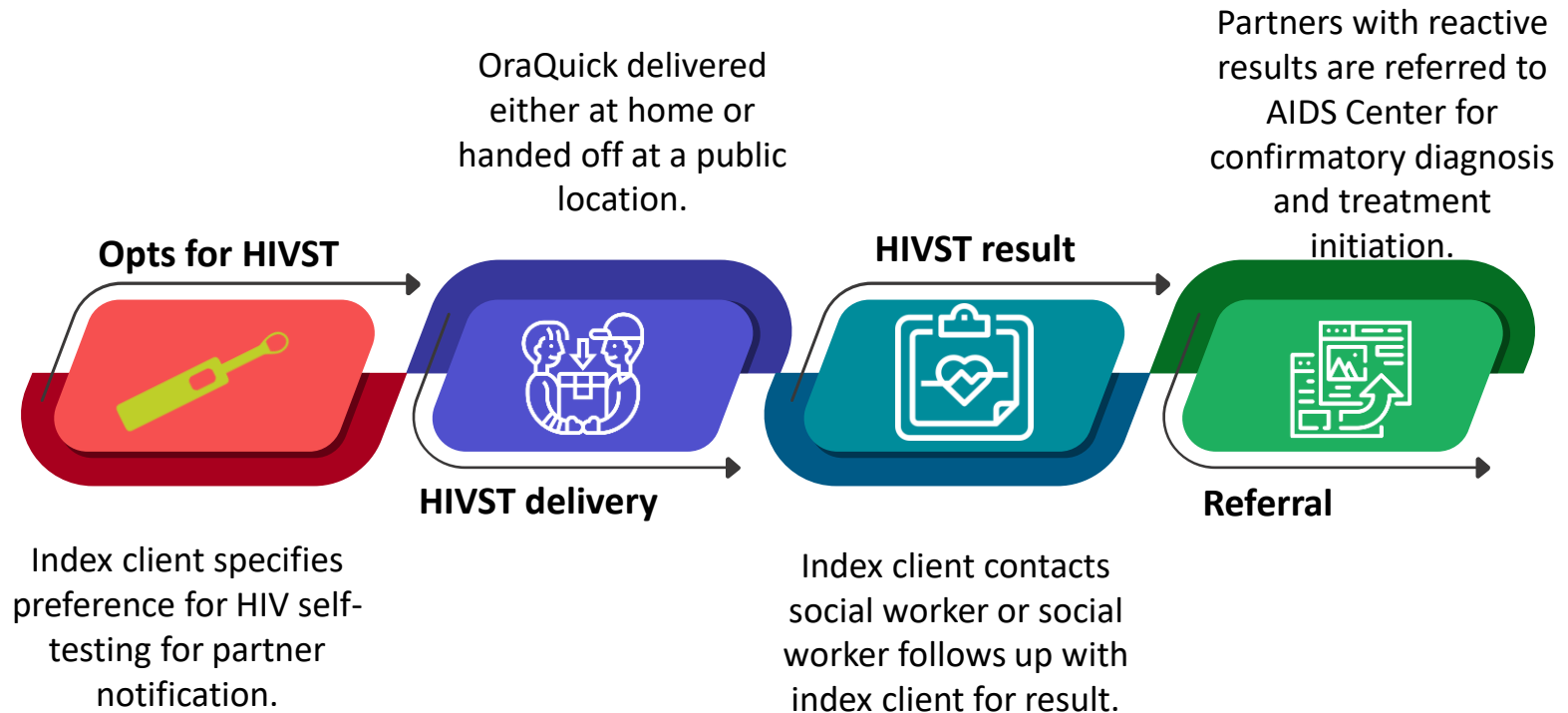
Vietnam (USAID/PATH Healthy Markets): Client-directed online HIVST



'Grab' delivery

Slide curtesy Dr. Kimberly Green, Global Director
– HIV & TB, PATH

Ukraine (Serving Life): HIVST to continue index testing during COVID-19



Slide curtesy Dr. Kimberly Green, Global Director
– HIV & TB, PATH

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Exploring opportunities for HIV testing in the COVID-19 response

In high HIV burden settings ... could consider

- **Community contact tracing key element of the COVID-19 response**
 - Provide HIVST or offer HTS when screening for COVID-19 in homes (for those who have not have a recent HIV test) – potentially an opportunity to reach men offer testing & link to ART
- Offer HIV testing/HIVST for people presenting with COVID-19 symptoms in facilities

In high TB burden settings

- **? TB screening**
https://www.who.int/tb/COVID_19considerations_tuberculosis_services.pdf

COVID-19 has and will continue to change many aspects of health care delivery. Some learning and approaches may endure in the longer term



Step 5: Screening questions

Also ask each person if they are on chronic medications, if they are taking their medicines as prescribed and if they need help identifying a place to pick-up their medications if they are running short.

- Make sure they know how important it is to stay on their medicines in order to stay healthy and
- Provide them with the information sheet entitled. **“Knowledge is Power” on COVID, HIV, and TB.**

CHW household screening tool South Africa NDoH



Resources

All WHO HTS info available on 'WHO HTS Info' app and website

<https://www.who.int/publications-detail/consolidated-guidelines-on-hiv-testing-services-for-a-changing-epidemic>

- Please contact baggaley@who.int or johnsonc@who.int for any questions

Thanks to the WHO testing team - Cheryl Johnson, Muhammad Shahid Jamil, Maggie Barr-DiChiara and Carey Farquhar and Vindi Singh WHO HIV-TB lead

WHO HTS INFO
HIV Testing Services (HTS)

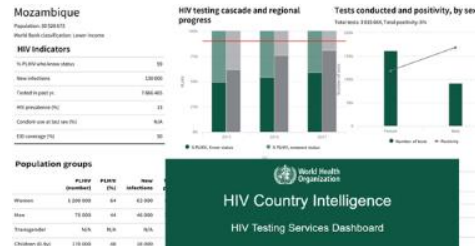
World Health Organization

WHO HTS Info makes it easy to view WHO guidance on HIV testing on smartphones and tablets, online or off, everywhere.

Global partners commit to expand access to HIV testing

- Key Populations
- HIV Self-testing
- Testing Strategies
- Pregnant and Postpartum Women
- HIV Partner Notification

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HIVST links

- Latest COVID-19 updates: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- HIV-COVID-19 Q&A: <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-on-covid-19-hiv-and-antiretrovirals>
- WHO HTS guidelines for a changing epidemic: <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/consolidated-guidelines-on-hiv-testing-services-for-a-changing-epidemic>
- WHO Guidelines on HTS Info: [App Store](#) / [Google Play](#)
- HIVST Strategic Framework: <http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/self-testing/strategic-framework/en/>
- Workplace policy brief <https://www.who.int/hiv/pub/vct/hiv-self-testing-workplace/en/>
- Community Q&A <http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/self-testing/hst-questions-answer/en/>
- WHO-Unitaid landscape on HIVST technologies and market: <http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/self-testing/hiv-self-testing-2018-edition4/en/>
- WHO PQ product list: http://www.who.int/diagnostics_laboratory/evaluations/pq-list/self-testing_public-report/en/
- Global Fund ERPD list: https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/5878/psm_productshiv-who_list_en.pdf
- Latest HIVST Information: <http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/self-testing/en/>
- HIVST.org <http://www.hivst.org/>
- Video documentary “In our hands”: <https://youtu.be/2jKVTXXSAhY>
- HIVST Q&A: <https://youtu.be/BA5E9wsEbPw>