

## Concept Note

### Roll-out of the WHO Guidelines on HIV Self-Testing and Partner Notification 27-28 March 2017 - Nairobi, Kenya

#### 1.0 Background

Globally, more than 14 million people with HIV (*40% of all people with HIV*) do not know their HIV status. In order to increase HIV testing among those at greatest risk of HIV and to support earlier diagnosis and access to treatment and prevention, WHO launched new guidelines on HIV self-testing and partner notification services on World AIDS Day in 2016. The key recommendations of the guidelines are:

- i) HIV self-testing should be offered as an additional approach to HIV testing services; and
- ii) Voluntary assisted partner notification services should be offered as part of a comprehensive package of testing and care to people with HIV and their partners.

These new recommendations provide two new important approaches to the range of HIV testing services (HTS) as outlined in the WHO 2015 consolidated HTS guidelines.

While there is a strong evidence-base, assessment of global policy suggests that these new HIV testing approaches have yet to be taken up and are not widely implemented. In order to support the development of country-level policy and scale-up implementation of both HIV self-testing and partner notification, WHO will host a regional meeting to disseminate these guidelines in the Africa Region. Other important issues that are highlighted in the Consolidated HTS Guidelines continue to require attention. These include quality-assurance of HIV testing, strengthening the timely linkage of people who test HIV positive to antiretroviral treatment and focusing services on those currently underserved, particularly men and key populations, through community-based approaches as well as HIV self-testing and partner notification.

A dissemination meeting for the HIV self-testing and partner notification guidelines will be held in Nairobi, Kenya from 27 to 28 March 2017 to support the uptake of the guidelines. The participating countries are: Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. This meeting will precede the 29 to 31 March meeting of the UNITAID-funded HIV Self-Testing Africa (STAR) Project where WHO has a key technical support and coordination role. The STAR workshop will be focused on HIV self-testing and include representatives from the three countries that are currently implementing HIV self-testing under Phase I of the programme (Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe) as well as some additional countries which will begin implementing HIV self-testing as part of Phase II.

## 2.0 Goal

The goal of the meeting is to contribute to scaling up of the HIV testing services in the African Region through introduction of additional HIV testing approaches.

The specific objectives of the meeting are:

1. To provide an update on the WHO 2015 Consolidated Guidelines on HIV Testing Services and their implementation including among key populations.
2. To introduce the new WHO guidelines on HIV self-testing and partner notification.
3. To identify the priority actions for country adaptation, implementation and technical assistance needs.

The expected outcomes of the meeting are:

1. Participants updated on the implementation of the WHO 2015 Consolidated HIV testing and Counselling Guidelines
2. Dissemination of WHO guidelines on HIV self-testing and partner notification
3. Key actions and technical assistance needs identified for implementation of HIV self-testing and partner notification

## 3.0 Participants

Eighty nine (89) participants will attend the meeting as detailed below:

- **Participants funded by WHO (72):** (*WHO will cost share with UNITAID STAR Project*)
  - **MoH from eighteen countries (29):** Botswana (1); Cameroon (1); Côte d'Ivoire (1); Ethiopia (1); Ghana (1); Kenya (5); Lesotho (2); Malawi (2); Mozambique (1); Namibia(1); Nigeria (1); Rwanda (1); South Africa (2); Swaziland (2); Tanzania (1); Uganda (1); Zambia (2); Zimbabwe (3).
  - **WHO country office HTS focal points (18)** from eighteen countries listed above
  - **WHO Regional Advisors/Technical Leads on HTS (5):** EMRO (1), WPRO (1), SEARO (1), EURO (1), AMRO (1)
  - **WHO AFRO and IST (5)**
  - **WHO HQ (5)**
  - **CBOs and Civil Society (10):** Uganda prison Service (1; International Community of Women living with HIV (1); Sex work association AFAZ (1); African Community Advisory Board (AFROCAB (1); Center for the Development of People (1); Centre for Sexual Health and HIV AIDS Research Zimbabwe (1); ANOVA (1); Tanzania Network of People Using Drugs (TanPUD) (1); Kenya network of people who use drugs KENPUD (1); and Kenya Sex Work Alliance (1).

- **Participants not funded by WHO (17)**
  - **Donors (10):** BMGF (2); CDC/PEPFAR (3); GF (1); UNITAID (3), USAID (1)
  - **Implementers (7):** JHPIEGO (1), PSI/STAR (1), LINKAGES/FHI 360 (2), LVCT (3)

#### **4.0 Meeting format**

- **Duration:** 2 days (27 to 28 March 2017)
- **Format:** Plenary, discussions and Group Work
- **Language:** English