



STAR Initiative Satellite Symposium

22nd International AIDS Conference



Monday, July 23, 2018 | 2:45 - 4:45pm

Auditorium, RAI Amsterdam Convention Centre, Amsterdam, Netherlands

TAKING HIV SELF-TESTING TO SCALE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

hosted by

Unitaid, Population Services International and the World Health Organization

Tremendous efforts have been made to close the HIV testing gap in southern Africa, with an estimated 76% of people living with HIV (PLHIV) aware of their status in 2016. Yet, it has become more challenging to reach the remaining undiagnosed PLHIV and achieve the UN 95-95-95 targets by 2030. HIV self-testing (HIVST) is a cost-effective and novel approach to help countries expand testing services beyond the traditional clinic.

The Unitaid-funded HIV Self-Testing Africa (STAR) Initiative is a five-year project to catalyze the global scale-up of HIVST. In the first two years, countries went from hosting demonstration projects to wide-scale distribution of over 1 million test kits using multiple delivery models. HIVST has transformed the testing landscape and considerably increased knowledge of HIV status among those hardest to reach. This satellite session will look at the first years of implementation and explore how STAR has shaped the market by building the public health evidence base.

