



Technical Brief on Paediatric HIV Case-Finding: Beyond Infant Testing

Goals and objectives of the technical brief

The specific objectives are twofold:

1. To describe the current challenges to scaling-up HIV testing among children (<15 years)
2. To provide a set of priority actions and context-specific strategies to accelerate HIV case identification among children.

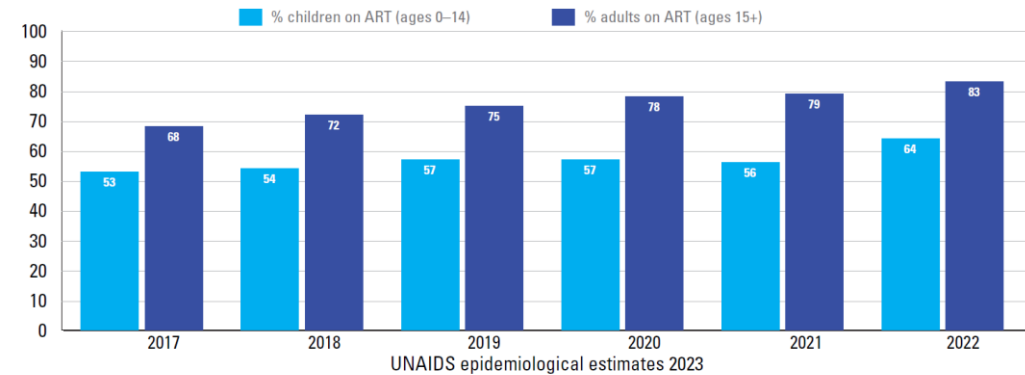
The goal of this technical brief is to address the first of the Global Alliance pillars through a focus on HIV case-finding to identify and treat undiagnosed CLHIV.

The aim is to provide strategic technical and implementation guidance to countries – especially those with substantial gaps in paediatric treatment, to improve paediatric HIV testing coverage with an expanded array of interventions that go beyond infant testing programmes.

Why is this brief needed?

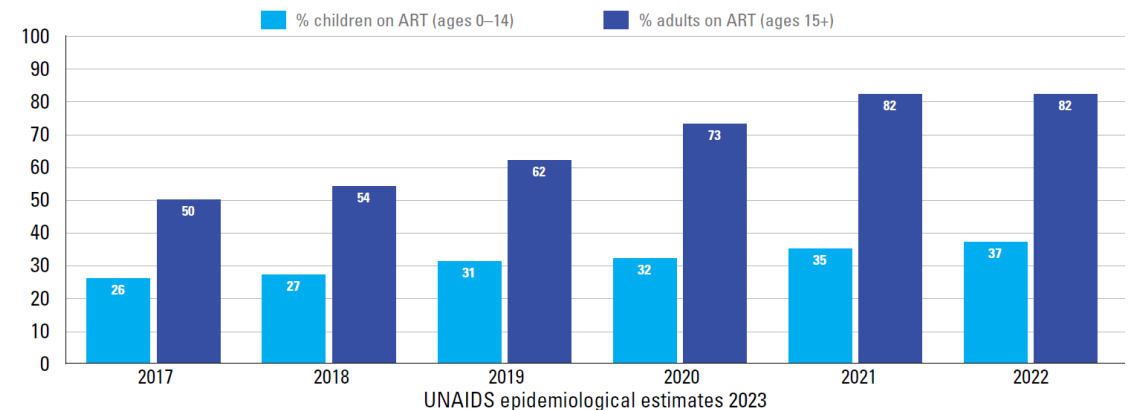
- **Persistent inequities in treatment coverage for CLHIV**
- **Pediatric case finding is the gateway to effective care and treatment**

FIGURE 1: Trends in treatment coverage among children and adults in Eastern and Southern African Countries*



* Countries <https://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/easternandsouthernafrika>

FIGURE 2: Trends in treatment coverage among children and adults in Western and Central African Countries*



* Countries: <https://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/westandcentralafrika>, 2022 estimates don't include data from Nigeria

Challenges to HIV testing and case finding among children (<15)

Disparities in progress towards HIV case finding between children and adults and between regions, with inadequate testing volumes to reach targets.

Globally, most new vertical HIV infections among children are diagnosed late (beyond 2 years of age).

Data on the status of prevention of vertical transmission and the paediatric HIV epidemic by age group is not well utilized to target the right case-finding strategies.

Stigma and misconceptions persist as a major driver of poor HIV testing uptake and there are gaps in systematic approaches to reduce structural barriers to testing access for children.

HIV testing for children has not received adequate resources to identify CLHIV not yet on treatment.

Action plan Framework

FIGURE 4: Process and priorities to formulate an action plan to improve HIV testing and case finding in children

PLANNING FOR IMPROVED CASE-FINDING IN CHILDREN

- Convene national partners & funders
- Gather local data to inform gaps
- Examine priority actions to develop a contextualized plan of actions
- Case-finding approaches may differ by context, prevalence and geography
- Measure and track responses and feedback for quality improvement



10 Priority Actions



Set targets for programme scale-up

1

2

Allocate adequate funding & resources for country plans



Develop a catch-up strategy to identify undiagnosed CLHIV

3

4

Develop a maintenance strategy for sustainability



Use epidemic context and data from programmes to define strategies

5

9

Improve data collection & use to inform HIV testing programmes



Identify strategies to find & link adolescents living with and/ or at risk of HIV infection to integrated health services.

10



Launch community-led demand creation strategies and monitoring.

8

7

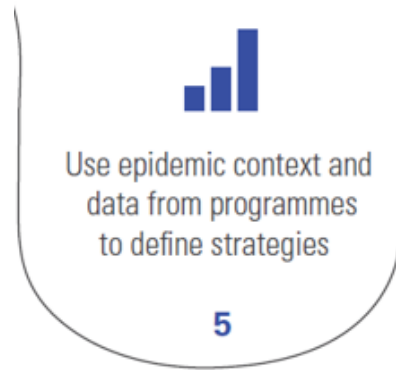
Address environmental determinants of health, stigma, discrimination, GBV, & barriers.



Expanded research for the use of assisted HIVST among children

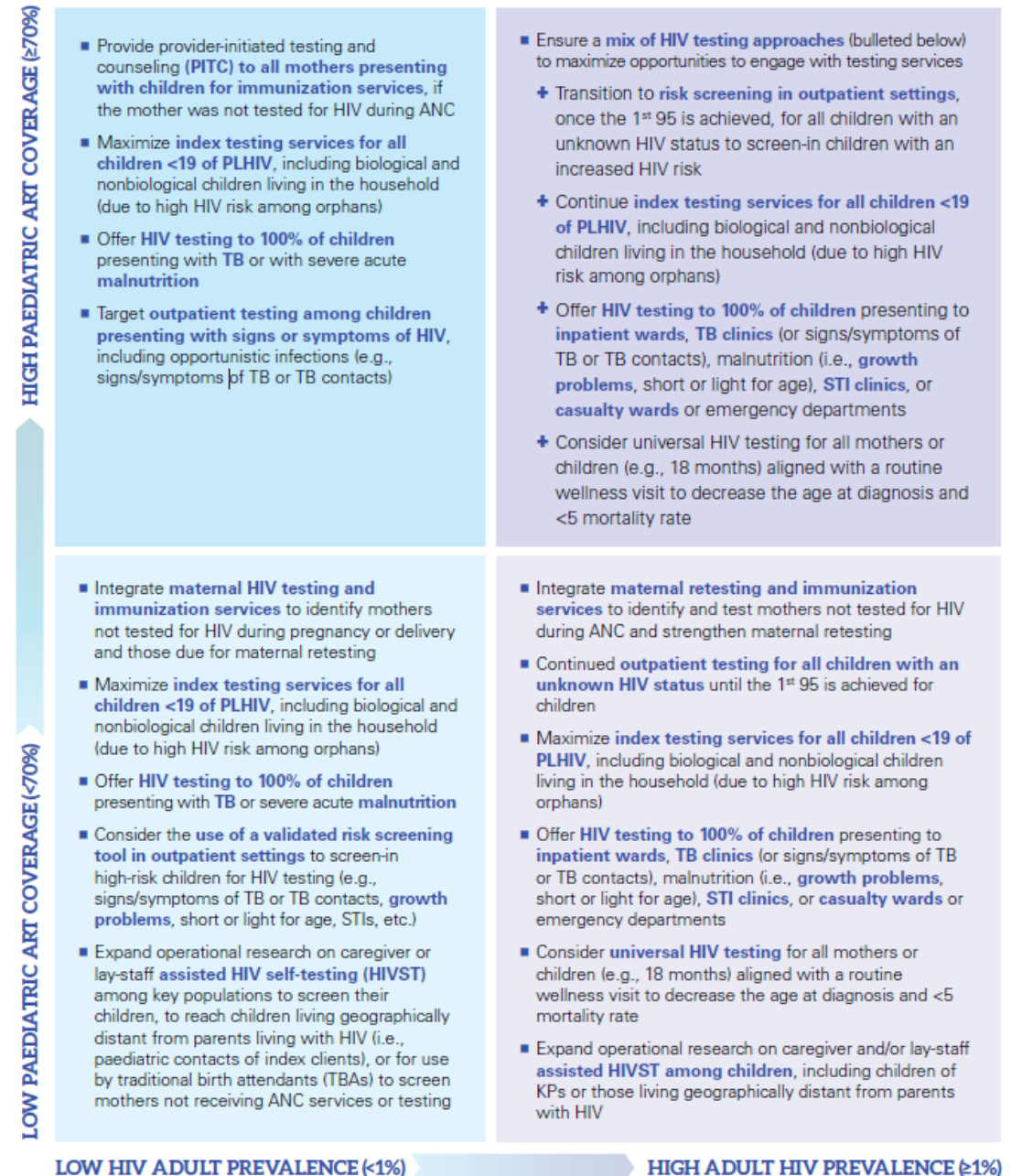
6

Deeper dive: Priority Action 5



- Infant Testing
- Testing in Well-child clinics
- Testing in Outpatient Sick-child or Acute Care settings
- Testing in inpatient, TB, and malnutrition wards
- Family index Testing
- Community-based models to expand access to HIV testing and case-finding for children under 15 years

FIGURE 5: Decision-making framework to guide the scale-up of paediatric HIV testing



ENSURE AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT: ADDRESS ABUSE AND HARM, COMMUNITY-FACILITY LINKAGES, AGE OF CONSENT POLICIES, AND STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

Country-specific Data Annexes



Country-specific Data Visuals

ANGOLA

Figure 1: Estimated children living with HIV by age group, 2022

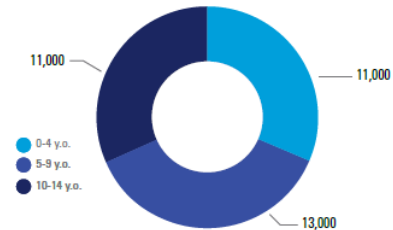


Figure 2a: FIRST 95: Estimated trends in knowledge of HIV status among adults and children, 2017-2022

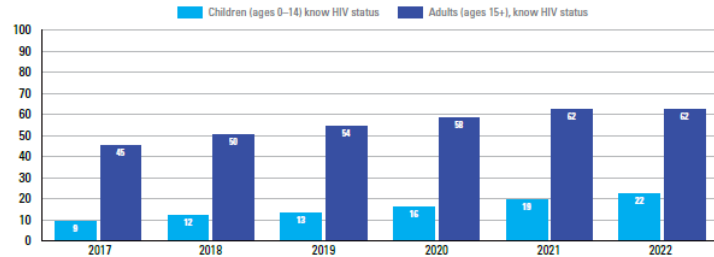


Figure 2b: SECOND 95: Estimated trends in linkage to treatment among adults and children, 2017-2022

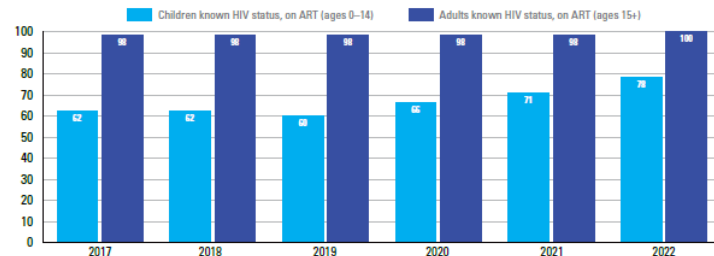


Figure 3: Estimated AIDS-related deaths among children by age group, 2022

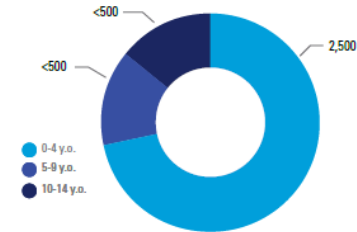


Figure 4: Trends in immunization coverage and opportunities for infant HIV testing on the MCH platform (2017-2021)

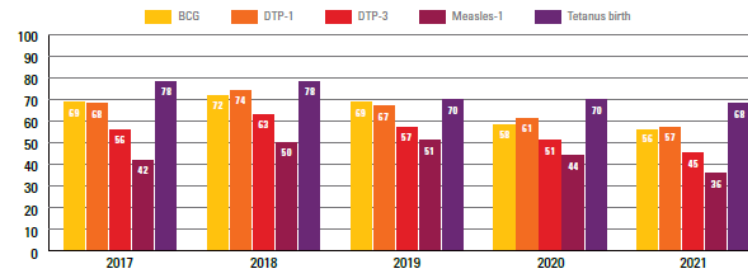
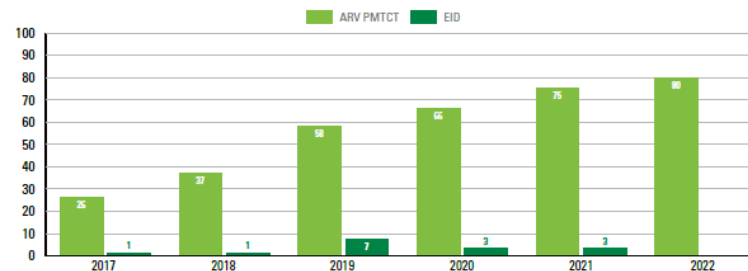


Figure 5: Trends in PMTCT and EID coverage (2017-2022)



Questions?



© UNICEF/UNIS0805/SCHERMBRUCKER