Friday October 26, 2018

South African HIV Clinicians Society Conference

HIV Self Testing in Taxi Ranks

University of the Witwatersrand
WITS RHI

Unitaid
Innovation in Global Health

H-STAR
HIV Self Testing Assessments & Research

Aim

- Providing a supplementary strategy towards achieving the first 90

- Reaching key and under-tested populations

- Increasing HIV testing options

- Using innovative health communication platforms

- Improving index testing

- Improve testing among discordant couples

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Target Population

- **Men**

- AGYW

- Key populations
  - Sex workers
  - MSM
  - PWID
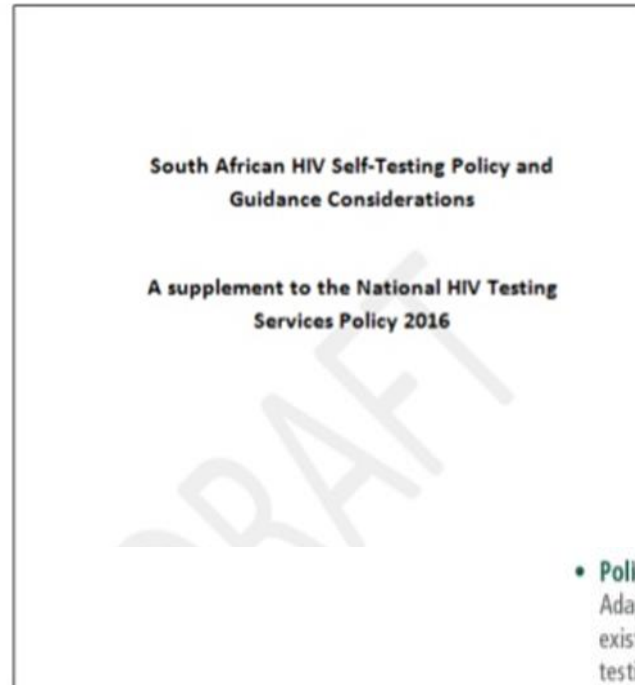 - Transgender

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Rationale
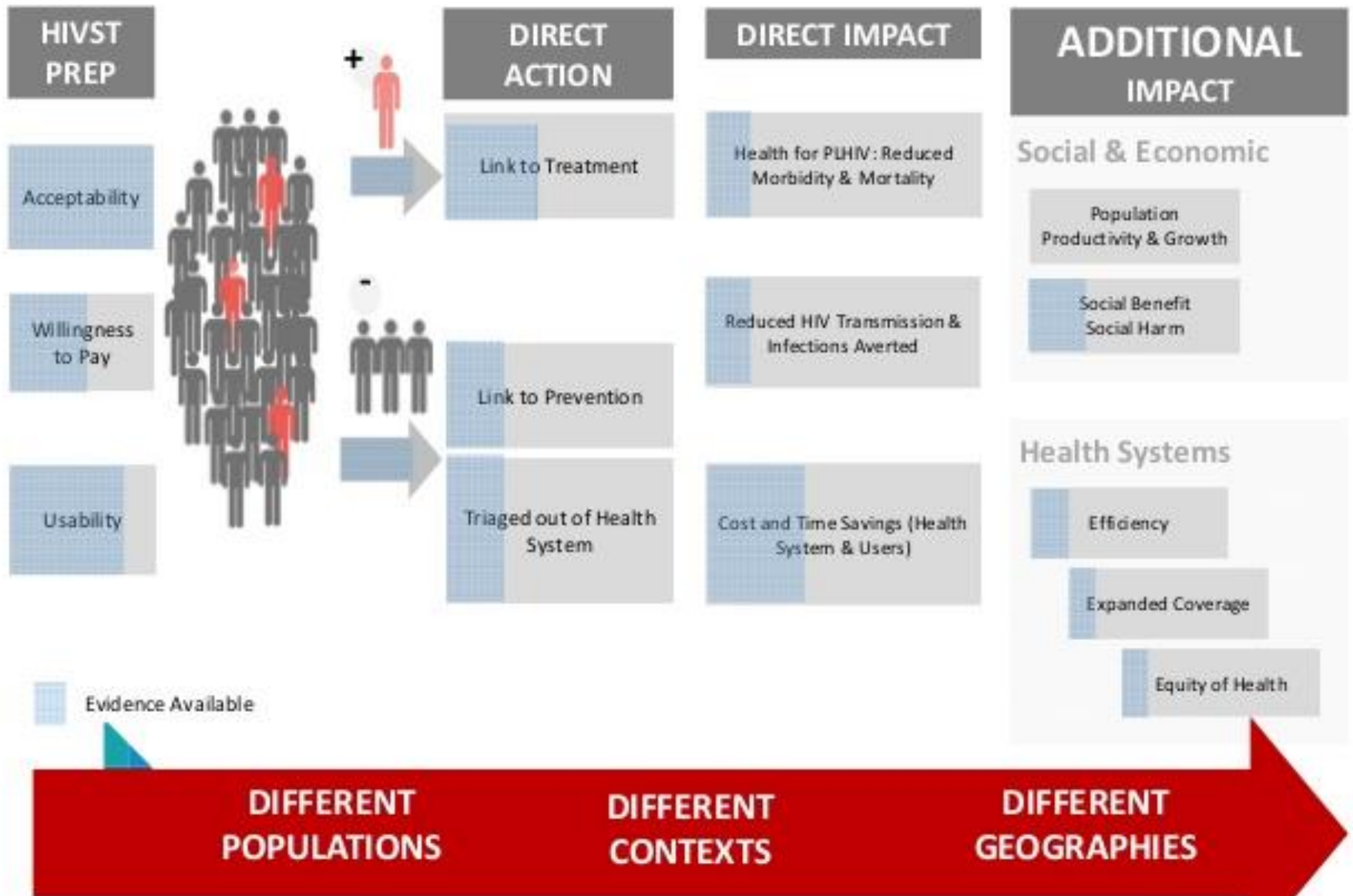
South African Self-Testing Data

- Ndlovu Health (Limpopo)
  - High usability, concordance, Sens and Spec in rural population
- HSTAR (Gauteng)
  - High usability in Oral Fluid and Finger stick products in Inner City Johannesburg
- iTEACH (Gauteng, Mpumalanga, KZN)
  - High concordance, but low LTC in Truck Drivers
- UCT (Western Cape)
  - High acceptability in MSM, and demonstrated utility of online platforms for sale and distribution
- Anova (North West)
  - High acceptability in MSM

Policy and Advocacy

- South African National Guidelines and TWG

- WHO Guidelines

- Pharmacy Council and Pharmacy Groups

- TAC

- SANAC

- South African Stakeholder Symposium

South African HIV Self-Testing Policy and Guidance Considerations

A supplement to the National HIV Testing Services Policy 2016

SUPPLEMENT

GUIDELINES ON
HIV SELF-TESTING
AND PARTNER
NOTIFICATION

Recommendation   **NEW**

HIV self-testing should be offered as an additional approach to HIV testing services.

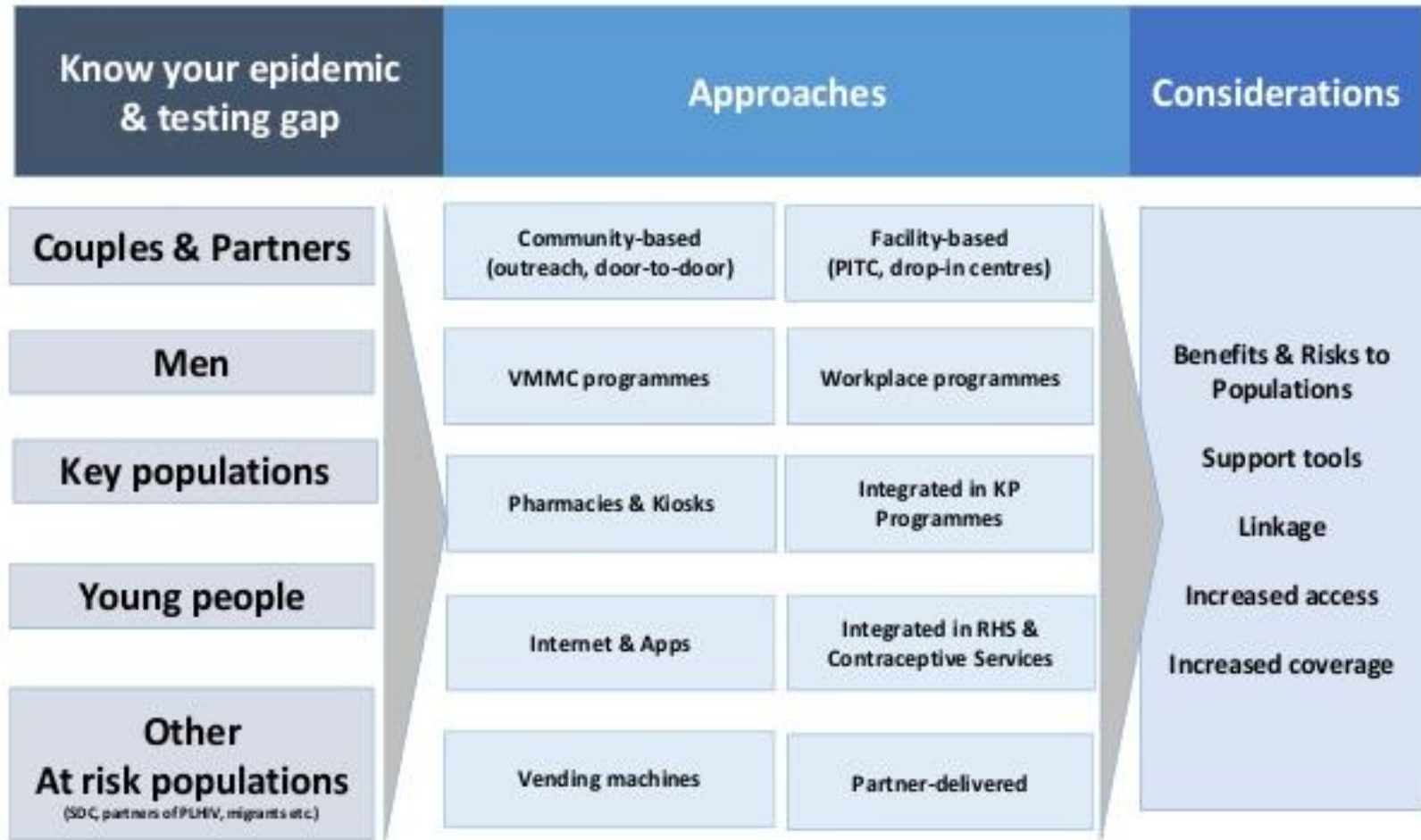[STRONG RECOMMENDATION, MODERATE QUALITY OF EVIDENCE.]

- **Policy and regulatory frameworks.** Adapt, develop and harmonize existing national policies on HIV testing to incorporate HIVST, such as:
  - Laws permitting the sale, distribution, advertisement and use of quality-assured RDTs for HIVST;
  - Age of consent to self-test;
  - Human rights laws, policies and regulations to protect individuals and address misuse of HIVST if and when it occurs;
  - National policies on how to confirm an individual's HIV status following HIVST;
  - Quality assurance and post-market surveillance systems for RDTs used for HIVST.

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Social Harm Risk Assessment

- Studies generally report **HIVST can be empowering**
- **Social harm due to HIVST was not identified in RCTs**
- Reports from other studies were limited and did not suggest HIVST increased risk of harm
- In Malawi, two-years of implementing HIVST found no suicides, no self-harm and no cases of IPV.
  - Reports of coercion identified were mostly among men who also reported that they would recommend HIVST
- In Kenya 4 cases of IPV identified - unclear if due to HIVST. (*41% of participants reported IPV 12 months prior to intervention*).

Implementation Strategy

| Know your epidemic & testing gap	Approaches		Considerations
Couples & Partners	Community-based (outreach, door-to-door)	Facility-based (PITC, drop-in centres)	
Men	VMMC programmes	Workplace programmes	Benefits & Risks to Populations
Key populations	Pharmacies & Kiosks	Integrated in KP Programmes	Support tools Linkage
Young people	Internet & Apps	Integrated in RHS & Contraceptive Services	Increased access
Other At risk populations (SDC, partners of PLHIV, migrants etc.)	Vending machines	Partner-delivered	Increased coverage

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Distribution Model

Test Kit

- Swab oral mucosa, HIV antibodies
- Results within 20 min
- Instructions translated in 6 languages
- Barcode for tracking and tracing
- User app questionnaire and information tool
- Emergency call line for questions and referrals
- Peer educator led telephonic follow-up and linkage
- Tailored IEC materials and male and female condoms included as part of a comprehensive preventative package

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Outcomes
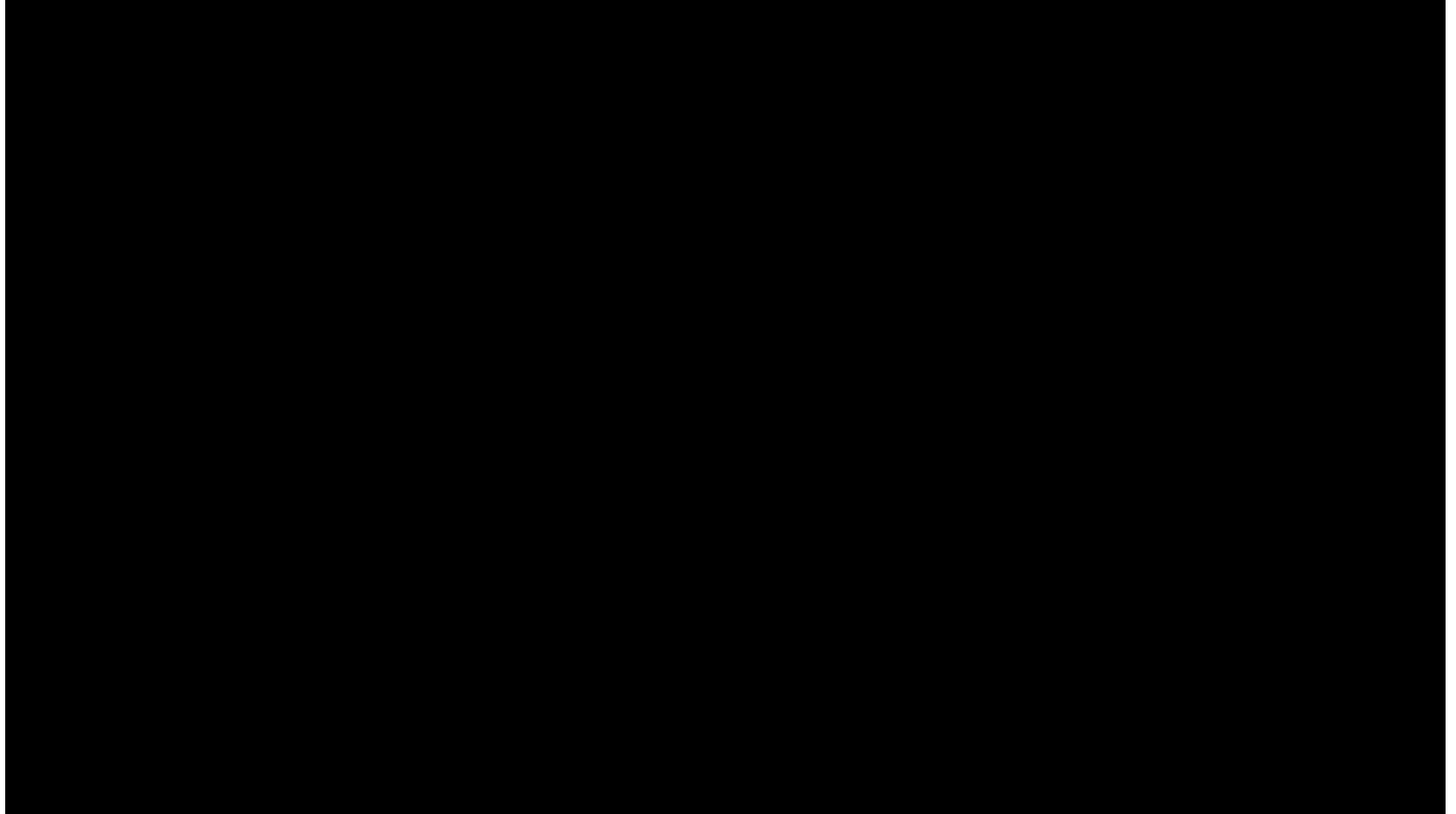
Going forward – What we still need to know

- Learn which distribution models work best in which populations

- Linkage to care – how best to achieve it

- How do we measure Impact against National targets

- The cost effectiveness of this modality

- How best to address social harm concerns

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Going Forward – Ultimate Goals

- Distribute 2.2 million HIVST Kits over 2 years
- Test and research different distribution models in order to ascertain which is most effective and has most impact
- Make investment, operational and implementation recommendations to NDOH
- Improve HIV testing, link people to treatment and reduce new HIV infections

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Thank You

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