

**AIDS
2020**



23RD INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

VIRTUAL

6 - 10 JULY 2020

Differentiated service delivery (DSD) in 2020

Responding to the needs of people living with HIV before, during and after COVID-19

Prioritized DSD implementation in Sierra Leone due to COVID-19

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HIV and DSD in Sierra Leone

- In 2017, National HIV/AIDS Control Programme developed DSD guideline; however, it was not implemented due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Ongoing fragmented unofficial DSD implementation in Sierra Leone pre COVID-19 pandemic
- In 2018, commencement of DSD guideline review and standardization
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DSD implementation was fast tracked
- Standard eligibility criteria for all models were modified to reduce clinic attendance

Implementation during COVID-19

Facility DSD models	Community / Group models
<p>All clients + newly Initiated on ART Monthly or 3MMD (depending on clinical assessment) Fast track for continuing Recipients of Care (RoC)</p> <p>Pregnant women on ART 3MMD according to ANC Visit Schedule</p> <p>Children ART 3MMD</p> <p>TB/HIV Co-infection 2 to 3MMD Synchronized drug refills for ART and TB</p>	<p>3MMD for all clients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Home delivery• Support group• Drop-in centers for key populations <p>Social distancing should be practiced</p>

Implementation during COVID-19

Multi-sectoral Collaboration

District Health Management Teams (DHMT)

Integrated community health programmes with DHMT

Outcome:
Provision of ARVs and other routine services such as malaria bed net distribution, nutrition services etc. This reduces stigma while ensuring services are confidential

Implementing Partners (IPs)

Technical, logistics and HR support from IPs.

Outcome:
Improved coverage and efficiency of teams

Guidelines and SOPs for HIV services during COVID-19 pandemic

Network of HIV Positives in Sierra Leone (NETHIPS)

Support group members, expert clients and community health workers (CHW) support home distribution of ARVs.

Outcome:
Increase HR for distribution and improved coverage.

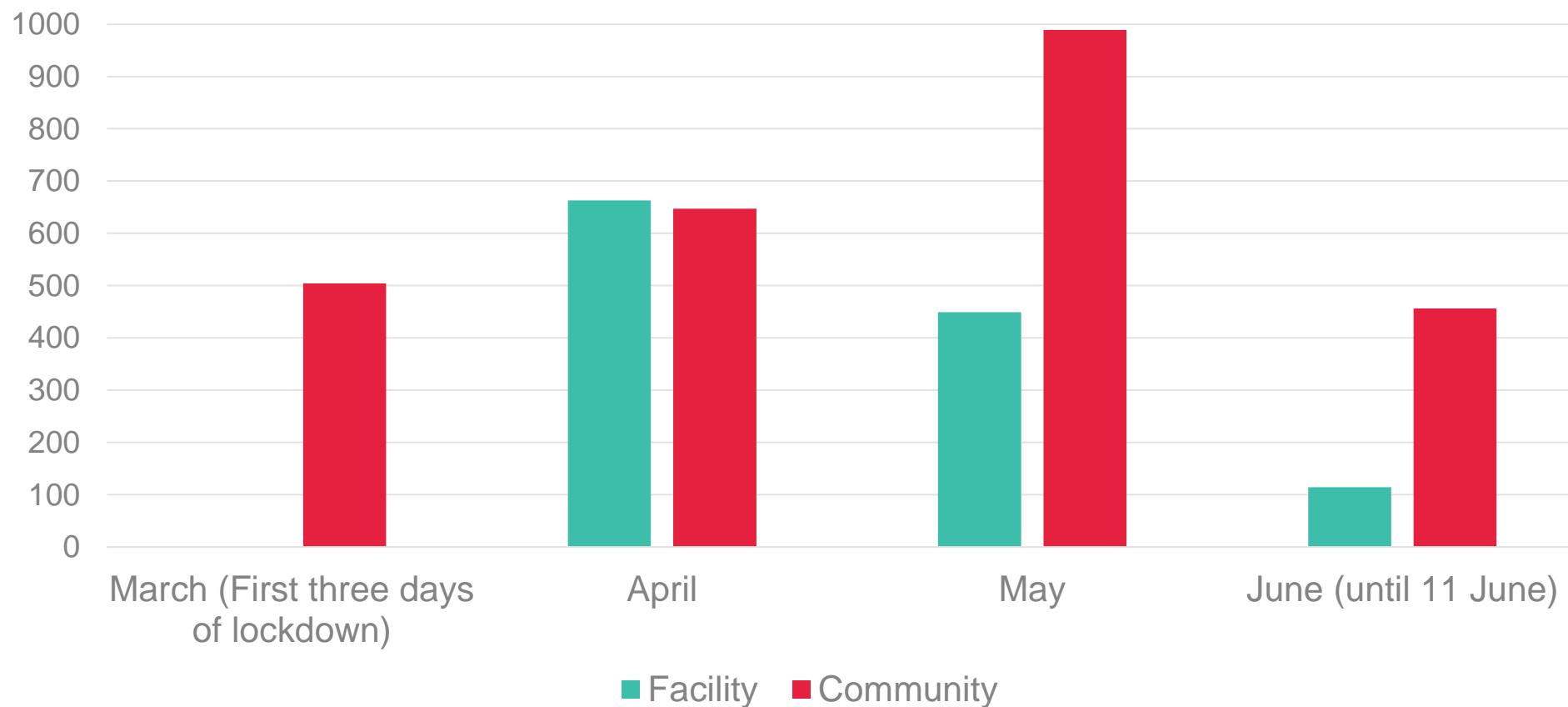
TB Programme

Integration of HIV/TB services at community level.

Outcome:
Synchronize drug refills (Anti-TB and IPT)

Location of ART refills since COVID-19

Rapid acceleration of community ART refills



Best practices

- Recording/updating contact numbers for RoC to call for ART refills during lockdown
- Support to COVID-19 national response to ensure that RoC are not neglected
- Community ART distribution with support from partners
- Use of electronic data reporting tools for community ART distribution

Challenges and priority questions

Challenges

- Intermittent stock out of ARVs and IPC Materials
- Human resources for health and logistics for community ART distribution
- Limited data for decision making

Priority questions (HIV & COVID-19)

- Prevalence of HIV and COVID-19 co-morbidities
- Management of COVID-19 confirmed cases in people living with HIV
- Effects of COVID-19 on adherence to ART

Advice to others

- Multi-sectoral collaboration is vital
- Patient-centred and context specific care is important
- Data for action
- Strengthen supply chain to prevent stock outs

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Thank You