

# Briefing on Provider -Initiated HIV Testing and Counselling

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# The need to scaling up HIV testing and counselling



Approximately 80% of people living with HIV in low- and middle-income countries do not know they are infected.

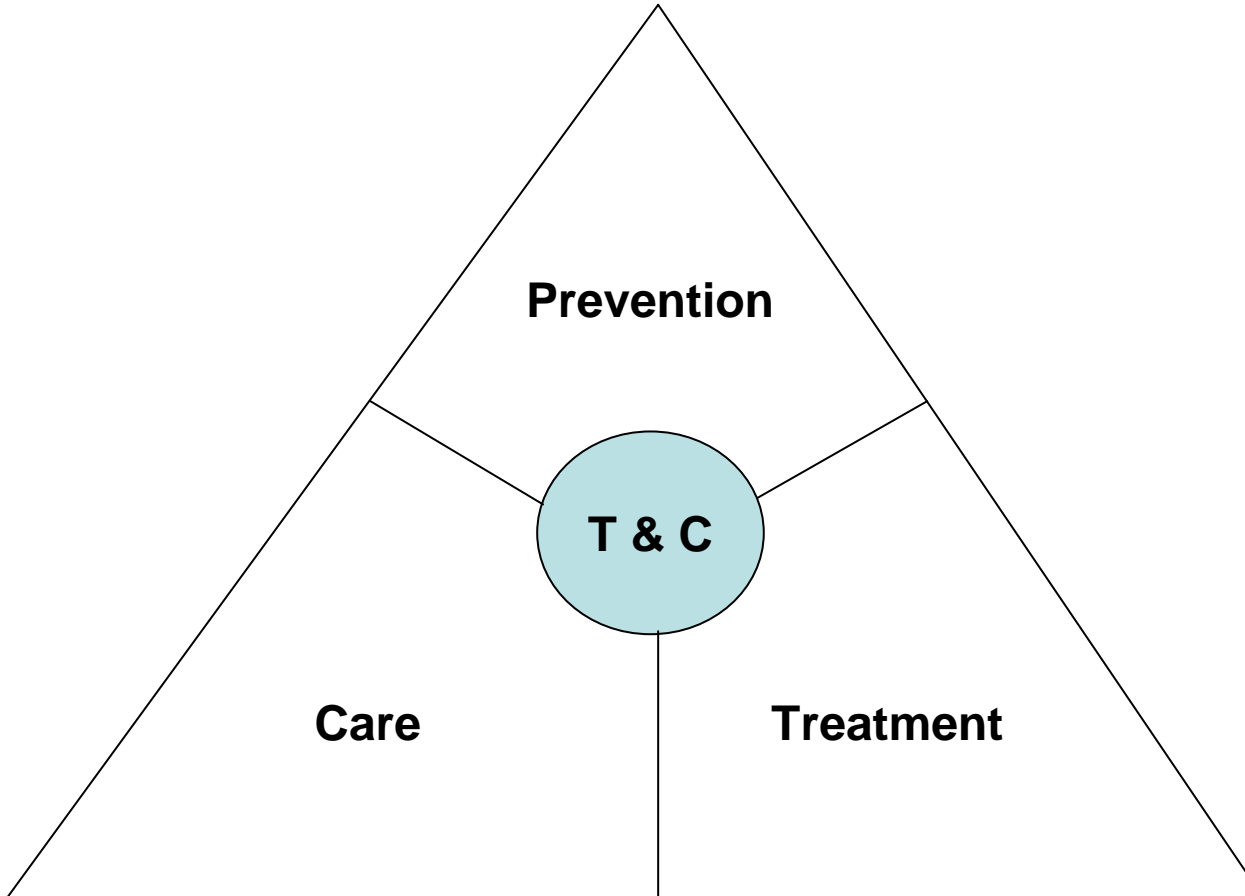
A median of 12% of men and 10% of women in the general population were tested for HIV and received results in 12 severely affected countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

# Scaling up HIV testing and counselling



- Greater knowledge of HIV status is critical to:
  - expand access to HIV treatment, care, and support
    - Including early diagnosis to maximize treatment and care benefits
  - provide prevention information and tools.

# HIV Testing and Counselling is the Centre Point for HIV Prevention, Treatment, and Care



# Scaling up HIV Testing and Counselling



- Diverse models of HIV testing and counselling should be implemented, followed by referrals to required services
  - WHO/UNAIDS encourages the continued expansion of client initiated HIV counselling and testing services a.k.a. voluntary counselling and testing (VCT)
  - WHO/UNAIDS also promotes scaling-up of provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling

# Provider-Initiated Testing and Counselling (PITC) in Health Facilities



- PITC is an approach to HIV testing and counselling where the health care provider makes the recommendation to a person based on:
  - Symptoms or signs of illness that could be attributable to HIV, or
  - Settings (e.g., type of epidemic and type of health facility), even if the person does not have obvious HIV-related symptoms or signs.
- WHO and UNAIDS Guidance on Provider-Initiated HIV Testing and Counselling in Health Facilities to be launched May 30

HIV testing and counselling should always be informed and voluntary

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WHO and UNAIDS do not support coercive or mandatory testing of individuals on public health grounds.

# WHO Support for Scale-up of HIV Testing and Counselling 2007



- Launch PITC Guidance – 30 May, 2007
- Facilitate integration of PITC in healthcare delivery
- Regional and country consultations to discuss PITC recommendations
- Presentations at International Conferences
- Guidance on increasing access to HIV TC for adolescents
- Guidance on HIV TC in children
- Updated TC Toolkit
- Revise IMAI materials
- National Indicators for Monitoring and Evaluating HIV TC Programs
- Training packages for PITC and TC with couples
- Report on international meeting addressing violence against women in HIV TC
- Review of existing quality assurance guidance for VCT and draft QA guidelines for VCT programs

# Strive for Quality



WHO seeks to support countries in not only helping more people know their HIV status, but also to *ensure the quality* of the counselling, the testing, and referrals to subsequent prevention, treatment, and care services.