

PRECISION ADVOCACY: LEVERAGING DHIS2 TO BRIDGE HEALTH EQUITY GAPS IN HIV PREVENTION FOR MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES IN LIBERIA

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Background/Purpose:

In Liberia, key populations (KP) at the highest risk of HIV remain disproportionately affected by systemic barriers, including geographic isolation and intersectional stigma. These factors often render their healthcare needs invisible within traditional national reporting. This project implemented a digital health intervention using DHIS2 to transform data into a tool for social justice, ensuring that lifesaving prevention services—specifically HIV testing and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)—reach the most underserved and overlooked communities.

Approach:

The intervention utilized a community-led, data-driven framework where DHIS2 was deployed as a central hub to:

- **Map Hotspots:** Identify underserved geographic areas and "safe spaces" for marginalized groups.
- **Real-time Monitoring:** Track PrEP enrollment and adherence via digital dashboards to enable rapid response to service gaps.
- **Capacity Strengthening:** Provide field teams with data-driven mentoring to improve service quality and reduce barriers to care.

This model focused on "demedicalizing" data—placing actionable information directly in the hands of community outreach teams to guide daily clinical and social interventions.

Outcomes/Impact:

The results demonstrate the significant impact of digital health in promoting equity. Over 5,000 individuals from marginalized communities accessed HIV prevention services, with 85% successfully linked to clinical care. The implementation led to a 50% increase in PrEP enrollment among high-risk cohorts and a 15% reduction in service delivery gaps in identified hotspots. Beyond the metrics, the intervention increased institutional accountability by providing empirical evidence of community-level needs that were previously undocumented in national health systems.

Innovation and Significance:

This initiative proves that when technology is integrated with community engagement, it can effectively address the social and structural determinants of health. DHIS2 serves as more than a data repository; it is a catalyst for reaching the "last mile" in HIV prevention. These findings suggest that other resource-limited settings can achieve significant gains in health equity by adopting digital health innovations that prioritize community-led advocacy and real-time service optimization.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

This project was implemented as part of the official monitoring and evaluation activities of Stop AIDS in Liberia (SAIL). No pharmaceutical grants or industry funding were received in the development of this study.