





ELIGIBILITY OF CHILDREN FOR DSD AND INCLUSION IN LESS-INTENSIVE DSD MODELS

	Excluded	Included and from what age	Included in less-intensive DSD models	Included in specific family-centred, less-intensive DSD model
Burundi		>10 years		 ¹
Cameroon		>5 years	 ²	
Eswatini		No age specified	 ³	
Ethiopia		>5 years	 ⁴	
Ghana		>5 years ⁵		Family alignment
Kenya		>2 years	 ⁶	Family alignment
Lesotho		No age specified	 ⁷	
Liberia				
Malawi		No age specified ⁸		
Mozambique		>2 years	 ⁹	
Namibia ¹⁰		>2 years		Family alignment
Nigeria		>14 years ¹¹		
Rwanda		>2 years	 ¹²	
Sierra Leone		No age specified	 (Limited) ¹³	Family alignment
South Africa		>5 years ¹⁴		Family alignment
Tanzania		>5 years ¹⁵		Family alignment
Uganda		No age specified	 ¹⁶	Family alignment
Zambia		>2 years		 ¹⁷
Zimbabwe		>2 years		 ¹⁸

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Key

 National policy

References

Click on the ovals in the table to access the referenced policy.

Acronyms:

ART – Antiretroviral therapy
DSD – Differentiated service delivery
MMD – Multi-month dispensing

Notes

Family alignment refers to aligning of visit dates for all family members, rather than a specific, family-centred, less-intensive DSD model where there is separation of clinical and ART-refill-only visits.

- Burundi:** The policy provides for the establishment of children's groups and therapeutic weekends for children and their families
- Cameroon:** Children aged two to five years require three-monthly clinical reviews and 3MMD. From the age of five, clinical consultations can be every three or six months with 3MMD, which can occur outside of the facility.
- Eswatini:** Children aged two to four years require three-monthly clinical reviews and 3MMD. Those aged five to 18 years require six-monthly clinical reviews with 3MMD. There are no age exclusions from less-intensive DSD models, but specific provision is made for a teen club model that includes community ART refill collection and virtual psychosocial support possibilities. There should be separate teen clubs for those aged five to nine years (for those who are siblings of older adolescents in teen clubs), 10-14 years, 15-19 years and 20-24 years. The policy also provides for a guardian/caregiver model to support adherence and disclosure among children on a quarterly basis and specific transition clubs for adolescents ageing into adulthood.

- Ethiopia:** Children from five years of age are eligible for all less-intensive DSD models, including those providing 6MMD.

- Ghana:** Children of five to 10 years old follow a family approach with three- to six-monthly clinical reviews and 3MMD through differentiated refill options.

- Kenya:** Children over two years of age are eligible for six-monthly clinical reviews and 3MMD through fast-track or community-based distribution models, following family-centred approaches that are aligned with parents/caregivers.

- Lesotho:** The policy says children are eligible for fast-track refills, club refills and outreach refills but not community ART groups, with three- to six-monthly clinical reviews with aligned ART refills.

- Malawi:** The policy specifies that all clients, including children, who are adherent and stable on ART can be given 3MMD or more if necessary. In addition, attention must be paid to weight bands to avoid MMD when a dose adjustment is likely at the next visit.

- Mozambique:** Children of two to five years require three-monthly clinical reviews and aligned 3MMD. Children older than five require six-monthly clinical reviews and aligned 6MMD. Children are eligible for all less-intensive DSD models, except community ART groups.

- Namibia:** Children are excluded from the fast-track facility model and community ART groups until they are 18. Children older than two years of age, who meet stability requirements and whose

parents or guardians are in a less-intensive DSD model, should be in same model.

- Nigeria:** Children younger than 14 years of age require facility-based three-monthly clinical reviews aligned with 3MMD. Provided the child meets the stability criteria, ART refills can be collected in the community between clinical reviews. The policy provides for weekend clinics, school holiday clinics, child/teen clubs and family models, and recommends that the child's DSD model should align with the model of the caregiver.

- Rwanda:** Children older than two years of age who are clinically stable are eligible for facility-based individual and group models and if unattended (orphans or neglected). They are also eligible for community models with the same eligibility criteria as adults. This includes six-monthly clinical reviews and 6MMD in the facility-based individual model. Those children who have parents/caregivers in group models will also be eligible for 6MMD (otherwise 3MMD).

- Sierra Leone:** The policy says children who meet the "stable" criteria, except age, can be considered for less-intensive DSD models following a family-centred approach, with clinical reviews aligned with 3MMD.

- South Africa:** Children over five years of age are eligible for all less-intensive DSD models with six-monthly clinical reviews and 3MMD. The policy says clinically stable family members should

be encouraged to join the same less-intensive DSD model with the same treatment supply collection location and appointment date to support family adherence. In addition, from six months of age, children are eligible for facility-based three-monthly clinical review and 3MMD; the policy recommends the child be managed together with parent/caregiver.

- Tanzania:** The policy says ART delivery should be provided outside of school hours with the caregiver getting their ART on the same day; additional support should be provided for children in boarding schools.

- Uganda:** The policy recommends expansion of DSD approaches for children and adolescents to be with their caregivers. They are eligible for community-based approaches. The policy specifies 6MMD in the same models as the parent/caregiver.

- Zambia:** Children are eligible for the family-centred care mode, scholar's model and paediatric-specific ART days, within clinical reviews and MMD options one- to six-monthly.

- Zimbabwe:** The policy includes caregiver and child clubs. Children are not eligible for community ART refill groups and fast-track models. Children aged two to 19 years require four-monthly clinical reviews and 4MMD.

