Africa Collaborative Initiative to Advance Diagnostics (AFCAD)

NDLOVU NQOBILE
Chief Executive Officer
In May 2018, conceptualisation...
Boosting quality diagnostics could give Africa better health

Africa CDC has launched a new initiative aimed at boosting access to essential diagnostics across the continent. Munyaradzi Makoni reports.

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention has launched, on Nov 16, the Africa Collaborative Initiative to Advance Diagnostics (AFCAD). AFCAD's partnerships include the African Society for Laboratory Medicine, Institut de Recherche en Santé en Afrique (IRSA), and the African Network for Diagnostics in Health Systems (ANAD). The initiative is designed to address the substantial gaps that exist in supply chain management, equipment maintenance, and funding for diagnostics. According to AFCAD, $40 billion is spent annually on diagnostic services, of which only $14 billion is recovered in the public sector. The cost of a diagnostic kit has decreased by 90% in the last decade, but this has not translated into improved access to diagnostics. The initiative is aimed at improving diagnostic capacity and ensuring that diagnostic services are affordable and accessible to all. The Africa CDC is working with the World Health Organization and other partners to support the implementation of the initiative and to ensure that diagnostic services are available to all.
AFCAD - Theory of action

**IF we...**
- Key levers
  - Harmonise diagnostic access processes through partnerships
  - Encourage local production

**THEN we will...**
- Impact on core access areas
  - Streamline registration
  - Reduce costs
  - Emergence product approval

**GOALS..**
- Access and health measures
  - 80% coverage to the WHO essential package of health that includes essential diagnostics
  - Eliminate or eradicate priority diseases
AFCAD will prioritise approaches that accelerate:

- Regulation to facilitate timely and wide access to essential diagnostics
- Market interventions to improve affordability
- Communication and dissemination of data supporting evidence-based improvement of diagnostic services
- Advocacy for appropriate investment in diagnostics
Building upon existing global initiatives....
SAVE-THE-DATE
September 24 and 25, 2019 at
Africa CDC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Theme: Consultative meeting on Africa Collaborative Initiative to Advance Diagnostics for Universal Health Coverage and Health Security

Supporting the Pillars of the Africa CDC

Surveillance & Disease Intelligence
InformatIon Systems
Laboratory Systems & Networks
Preparedness & Response
Public Health Research

Meeting Objectives:
- Develop an expedited evaluation and registration process of diagnostics
- Discuss enabling conditions for local production of diagnostics in Africa
- Discuss financial pathways to increase diagnostics uptake in Africa

Expected Outcomes of the Meeting
- Establishment of Africa CDC experts committee for expedited access to and update of diagnostics in Africa to meet it health strategy agenda.
- Development of a standardized protocol on evaluation of diagnostics, and criteria for selection and capacity building for Centers of excellence in Africa.
- Establishment of partnerships for a blueprint for a diagnostics revolving fund, designed to accelerate manufacturing of diagnostics in Africa.
- Accomplishment of a consensus on a mechanism to facilitate uptake of diagnostics in Africa.
- Launching of an HIV viral load movement, as proof of concept of the AFCAD, to increase uptake and access to meet programme targets.

For additional information, please contact:
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LAUNCH OF AFRICA HIV VIRAL LOAD MOVEMENT

Featuring

- Political and policy considerations for access to viral load
- Programmatic considerations for access to viral load
- Commodities needs for access to viral load
- Roundtable discussion on country experiences from Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda

Session Objective
Launch an HIV Viral Load Movement for Africa to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 HIV treatment Fast-Track Target.

Time: 4.30-6.30 pm
Date: 24 September 2019

Participants: High level delegation from African Union Members States and partners

Moderator: Dr John Nkengasong

Chief Launcher: Her Excellency Amira Elfadil Mohammed Elfadil, (African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs)
Thank You