Supporting scale up of quality assured COVID-19 tests in Africa

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Overview: COVID-19 testing scale up in Africa

Test, Trace and Treat: Partnership to Accelerate COVID-19 Testing (PACT) in Africa

January, 2020

No diagnostic capability

February, 2020

2 countries with diagnostic capability

+1000 Lab personnel trained

+5M test kits and supplies distributed

+15M tests conducted

August, 2020

All countries with diagnostic capability
External quality assessment

Why?
To evaluates testing competency, COVID-19 laboratories performance, reliability of testing methods, and accuracy of the results reports.

How?
Proficiency testing / retesting / onsite evaluation

Reliable testing data to monitor virus transmission
And guide evidence based interventions for pandemic response
Surge and Step up COVID-19 testing projects

Country engagement by Africa CDC
Engagement of in-country coordinator
Introduction to MoH Lab Director & National TWG
Rapid situational analysis
Country-specific work plan
Synergy with other stakeholders

Note verbale

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Subject: Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and RESOLVE to save lives Surge and COVID-19 Testing Project.
Guidance development and dissemination

- 35 COVID-19 ECHO LabCoP sessions gathering >20,000 participants

- A project WhatsApp® forum 122 members from 10 countries in ENG, FR and POR
Support for External Quality Assessment: synergies

WHO EQAP
178 labs in 45 countries

ASLM
355 labs in 23 countries

• In synergy with WHO:
  • WHO EQAP: reference level laboratories
  • ASLM EQAP: extension (lower lab tiers, private sector etc..)
Support for international EQA: specific areas of support

1-Provider selection
Thistle (Southern Africa) & One World Accuracy (Francophone countries)

2-Coordination
Shipments to central national coordinating unit

EQA provider

Prepare samples for PT panels
Statistical analysis of results
Prepare and send reports with recommendations

Participating laboratory

Examine samples
Report results
Address non-conformities

3-Logistical support
Reception (clearance)
Distribution (transportation)

4-Training
Orientation webinar

5-Site supervision
Support for international EQA: scale up

2 rounds
- September 2020
- February 2021
National EQA programs for COVID-19 testing labs based on:

- sample re-testing
- sample exchange
- national PT schemes
Monitoring and Evaluation: project and country level

Performance

Coverage

Integration (country level)
Thank You!

www.aslm.org
Nb of labs enrolled in EQA

WHO EQAP

99

79

ASLM EQAP

276