

WHERE ARE OUR LABS?

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Africa CDC Regional Surveillance and Laboratory
Scientific Workshop

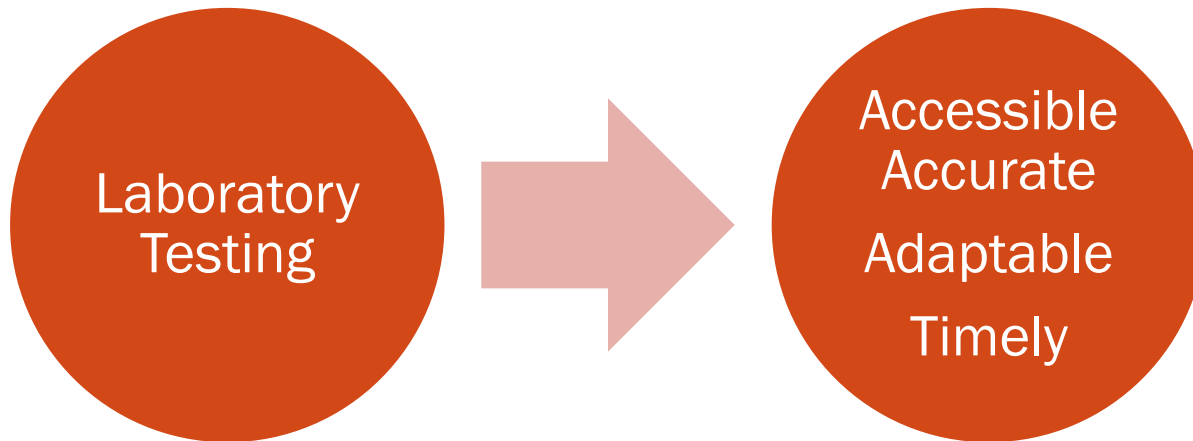
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WHERE ARE OUR LABS?

- Most of the continent's laboratory geolocations and capacities are unknown
- Few countries in Africa have conducted in-depth national laboratory mapping exercises – i.e. South Africa



WHAT CAN WE MAP?

- Geolocation and other permanent features
- Personnel (numbers, type) and equipment
- Diagnostic capacity
- Supply chain management components
- Sample referral system participation
- Quality (such as SLIPTA performance; accreditation status)
- Biosafety level
- Preparedness or linkages for outbreak response

WHO BENEFITS?

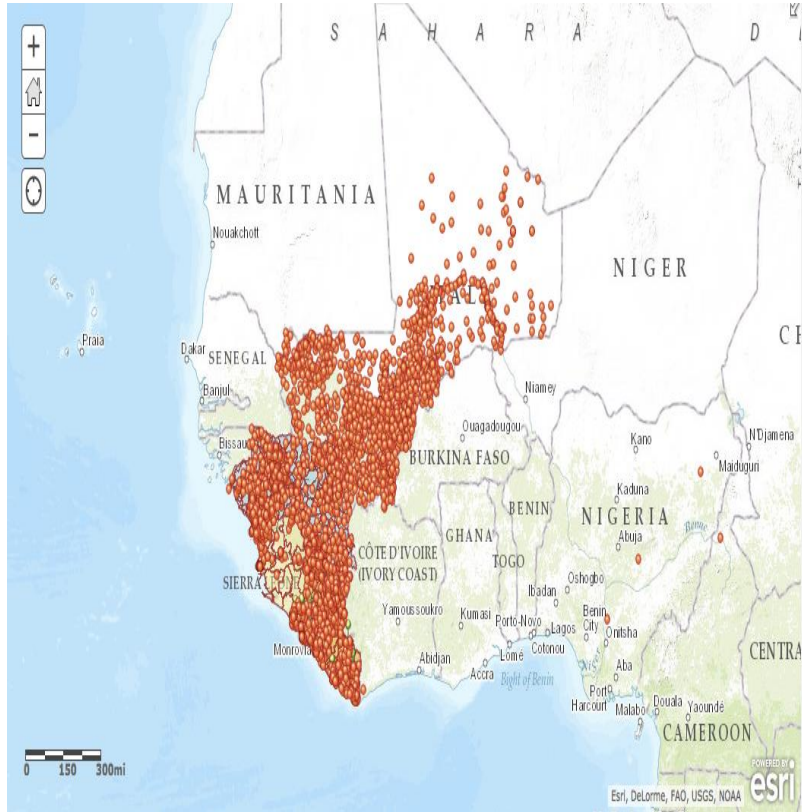
Primary users

- National laboratory system focal persons (managers, policy makers, decision makers , implementers)
- International policy and decision makers for regional laboratory capacity building – WHO, Africa CDC, ASLM, etc.

Secondary users

- National health system focal persons (managers, policy makers, decision makers, implementers)
- Diagnostic device developers, private companies, researchers

HOW DO WE MAP?



- Harmonize/develop standardized data collection tool with GIS capability
- Develop laboratory mapping software with appropriate interface to individual country information systems
- Design a country-specific approach
- Conduct field data collection for map development
- Implement systems at country level for consistent updating of new information

OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

Opportunities:

- ASLM-led Gates-funded project to develop and pilot in two countries a centralized software platform for the collection, updating and analysis of laboratory system mapping data in Africa
- Partnerships - public/private; foundations; etc.
- Improved, cheaper technology for ease of mapping & analysis

Challenges:

- Costly to map all labs on continent
- Country buy-in and willingness to share data
- Capturing private sector lab information
- Keeping data up-to-date and relevant

WHEN SHOULD WE MAP?

NOW