WHERE ARE OUR LABS?

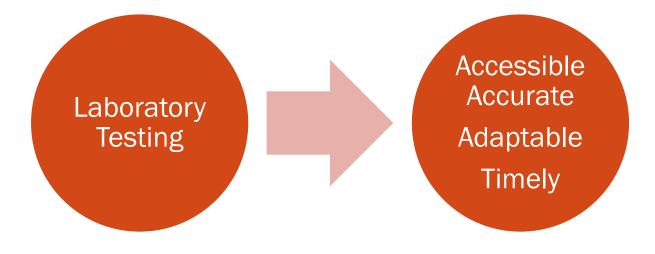
March 27, 2017 Africa CDC Regional Surveillance and Laboratory Scientific Workshop

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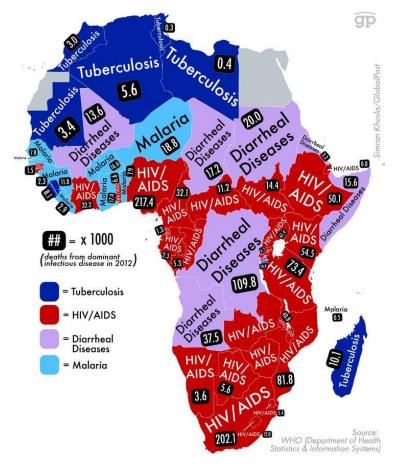
WHERE ARE OUR LABS?

- 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





WHY MAP OUR LABS?



- Improved cost-effective laboratory network planning and decision-making
- Understanding of laboratory system capabilities and gaps across the country and continent
- Better targeting of interventions, workforce development, and other efforts
- Strengthening of sample transport systems, supply chain management, and other key lab system components
- Triangulation of laboratory geolocation and capacities with other key factors (demographic, environmental, epidemiological, etc)
- Simulation exercises



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

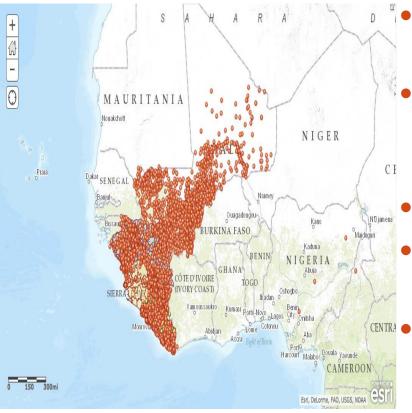
- National laboratory system focal persons (managers, policy makers, decision makers, implementers)
- International policy and decision makers for regional laboratory capacity building – WHO, Africa CDC, ASLM, etc.

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

