



Building Laboratory Capacity

The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief is the largest commitment ever by any nation for an international health initiative dedicated to a single disease.

U.S. Department of State

U.S. Agency for International Development

U.S. Department of Defense

U.S. Department of Commerce

U.S. Department of Labor

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Peace Corps

**Mailing address:
SA-29, 2nd Floor
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20522-2920
www.PEPFAR.gov**

A good public health laboratory network is a cornerstone of a strong response to expansion of HIV treatment in resource-poor countries, and the accompanying need for HIV diagnostic services.

Building Laboratory Capacity and Supporting Quality Testing

Key strategies for building laboratory capacity.

Laboratory quality assurance is critical for making an accurate diagnosis of HIV infection and for monitoring to support laboratories in smaller facilities.

The use of rapid HIV tests – those far from fully equipped laboratories.

Incidence testing for measuring the success of programs.

Tests for early infant diagnosis of HIV infection are technically complicated and costly. They are easy to transport and store, and the test can determine the HIV status of infants as early as 14 days of age.

CD4 testing is a key indicator of HIV disease progression and response to treatment.

Detection of resistance to ARVs is important for ensuring that patients are receiving effective treatment.

Diagnosing opportunistic infections, including sexually transmitted infections, and referring patients for HIV counseling and testing is important not only for the treatment and prevention of these infections.

Tuberculosis (TB) diagnosis and TB drug resistance testing are critical to reducing the spread of TB to others.

