



MISSION

To deliver an AIDS-free generation with accountability, transparency, and impact.

Partnerships are the cornerstone of achieving sustainable control of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Public-private partnerships promote innovation, sustainability, and scalability to tackle major health challenges.

RESULTS

Ethiopia

➤ Improved laboratory testing turnaround time

Kenya

➤ Health worker training and knowledge increase

Mozambique

➤ Quality control and management checklists

Uganda

➤ GIS mapped healthcare systems for efficiency

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INFORMATION

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PEPFAR

U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

Labs for Life Public-Private Partnership

From its launch in 2003, PEPFAR has been committed to enhancing laboratory systems and service to improve HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care. Strong national public health laboratories are critical in the global response to the HIV epidemic: from accurate diagnosis and testing, to effective treatment and monitoring of the disease, to preventing new HIV infections.

In 2007, PEPFAR entered into a public-private partnership with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD), specifically BD's Global Health function, to improve laboratory skills and systems in partnership with the Ministries of Health in four African countries with high HIV burdens – Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, and Uganda. From 2007 to 2012, this \$18 million "Labs for Life" partnership enhanced technical skills, streamlined testing and treatment for HIV and other diseases, increased diagnostic accuracy, and improved lab safety and quality. Building on this Phase I, the partnership launched Phase II (2012-2017) with continued work in Africa and an expansion to India.

Ethiopia: Through the Labs for Life partnership, for the first time, a standardized network through the Ethiopian postal service was created to transport and track lab specimens from clinics to labs via GPS. This resulted in significant reductions in turnaround time for lab results and the growth of new lab providers across the country that now have an essential role in protecting the nation's health.

- Reduced average turnaround time from seven days to two days in Addis Ababa (71 percent), and from 10 days to five days in the Amhara region (50 percent)
- Trained 586 laboratory personnel and 81 postal workers

Kenya: Approximately 100 healthcare workers were trained to safely draw blood – a common procedure – but one that if not done properly can lead to misdiagnosis or the spread of diseases. The phlebotomy partnership equipped frontline healthcare workers with skills to protect themselves and their patients from injury and disease, resulting in significant improvement across eight healthcare facilities in four regions of Kenya.

- Trained 91 healthcare workers how to draw blood safely and accurately
- Increased knowledge by 41 percent among healthcare workers

Mozambique: Mozambique's Ministry of Health (MOH) recognized the need for a quality assurance program to improve the accuracy of laboratory testing. The partnership standardized and improved the accuracy of labs across the country. MOH teams were trained to audit and manage lab quality on a national scale to sustain the World Health Organization's (WHO) laboratory quality standards.

- Launched checklists to meet WHO quality standards in six MOH laboratories
- Showed improvements across 13 quality system essentials, up to three-fold increase
- Trained 18 auditors and 28 quality officers to manage laboratory improvement

Uganda: Because HIV and TB often go hand in hand, the partnership responded to these dual epidemics together. The partnership mapped health facilities, and trained healthcare and postal staff to more accurately diagnose TB and get patients into treatment faster. Through geographic information system (GIS) technology, the partnership facilitated delivery of specimen to the nearest post office or tiered TB unit.

- Increased referrals of patients with presumptive multi-drug resistant TB 10-fold
- Increased proportion of specimens delivered to the National TB Reference Laboratory within three-day time period from 9 percent to 94 percent in three years
- Mapped 93 percent of health facilities and trained 724 health and postal workers