



FACT SHEET **CDC Strengthening High Quality Laboratory Services Scale-Up for HIV Diagnosis, Care, Treatment, and Monitoring in Malawi under PEPFAR**

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Malawi is a landlocked country surrounded by Tanzania, Zambia, and Mozambique with an estimated population of 17 million people. It is among the countries worst affected by the HIV and AIDS epidemic, with 10% infection rate amongst the adults aged 15 to 49. University Research Co., LLC with funding from CDC, has been working closely with Ministry of Health (MOH) Diagnostic Department and other partners from April 2015 implementing the URC-Malawi Laboratory Project whose main objective is strengthening High Quality Laboratory Care, Treatment and Monitoring in Malawi under PEPFAR.

The priority focus areas of the Malawi Lab Project are:

- Viral Load scale up
- Early Infant Diagnosis scale-up
- External Quality Assurance
- M&E and Strategic Information Systems
- Strengthening Laboratory Management Toward Accreditation
- Sample Transportation

GOAL

The project will support the MOH to strengthen the National HIV Reference Laboratory (NHRL) and its network by providing mentorship and training to facilitate the development and implementation of the National Lab Strategic Plan, quality improvement, and accreditation programs.

OBJECTIVES

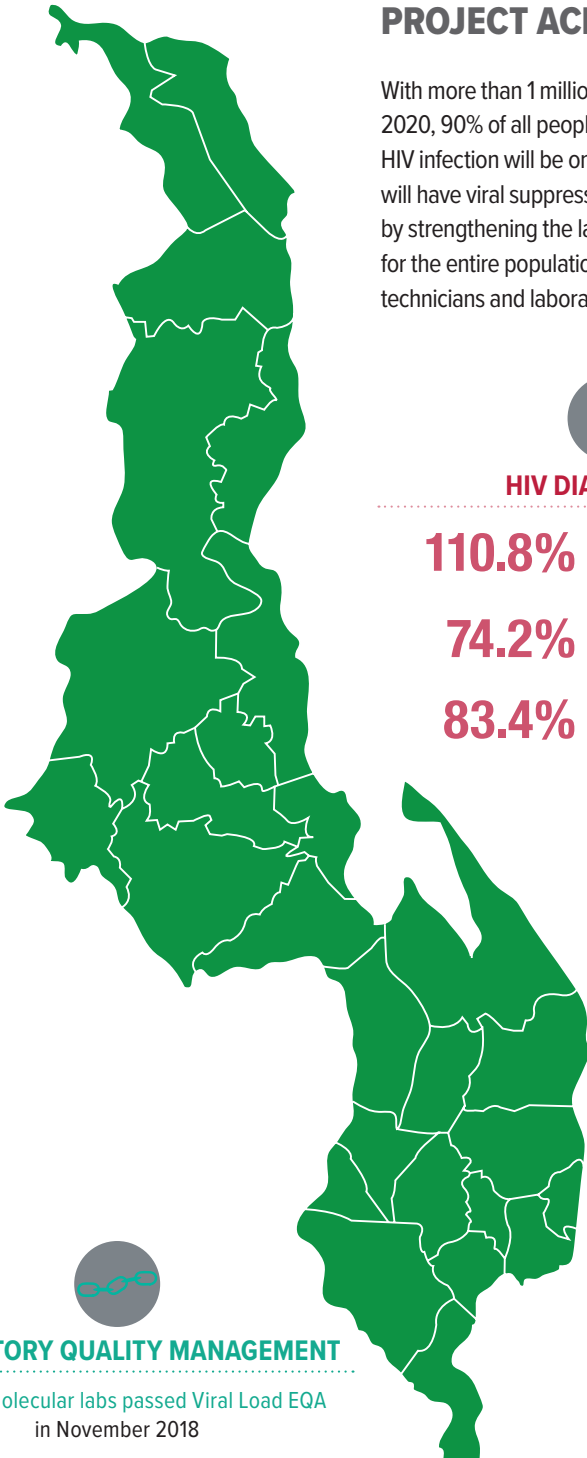
1. Increase the quality of HIV laboratory services through the strengthening of quality management, control and assurance systems.
2. Increase access to quality HIV laboratory services through improved laboratory capacities.
3. Strengthen the collection and use of laboratory strategic information to improve organizational performance
4. Strengthen the availability of trained laboratory human resources
5. Improve the national sample transportation system

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Malawi has 28 administrative districts and PEPFAR targets 10 scale up districts out of which 5 are acceleration districts. These include Blantyre, Chikwawa, Machinga, Mangochi and Zomba. The project targets these 10 PEPFAR scale-up districts and supports the remaining sustained districts with activities including sample transportation in 27/28 districts (except Likoma), quality control, supportive supervision, and proficiency testing, among others.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & TARGETS

- Number of PEPFAR-supported testing facilities with capacity to perform clinical laboratory tests (57 currently)
- Number of PEPFAR-supported testing facilities (laboratories) that are recognized by national, regional or international standards for accreditation or have achieved a minimal acceptable level towards attainment of such accreditation (4 currently)
- Percentage of PEPFAR-supported laboratories and testing sites that participate and successfully pass in a proficiency testing program (currently 100% [57] of sites)
- Number of individuals who successfully completed a competency-based, certificate, or higher-level training to:
 - Conduct or support HIV and opportunistic infection testing and/or
 - Audit the quality of PEPFAR-supported laboratories—24 ASLM trained auditors and 5 certified ASLM auditors
- Percentage of individuals who received competency-based, certificate, or higher-level training to conduct or support supply chain, inventory management, supportive supervision or distribution activities (currently 100% [57] of individuals)
- Percentage of PEPFAR-supported clinical service sites with quality improvement activities implemented that address clinical HIV program processes or outcomes and have documented process results in the last 6 months (currently 100% [57] of sites)
- Number of PEPFAR-supported DSD and TA sites (currently 57)



PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS IN YEAR 4

With more than 1 million people living with HIV, Malawi has adopted the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets: by 2020, 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status, 90% of all people diagnosed with HIV infection will be on antiretroviral therapy, and 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression. URC is working with the Malawi Ministry of Health to achieve these goals by strengthening the laboratory system to ensure rapid, accurate diagnostic services are available for the entire population. URC is focusing on diagnostic services, sample transportation, training lab technicians and laboratory capacity building for Malawi to achieve its UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets.



HIV DIAGNOSTICS

- 110.8%** 414,622 /374,357 Viral load samples tested (2018 annual target)
- 74.2%** 44,544/60,000 EID tests done (2018 annual target)
- 83.4%** Suppression rate



TB DIAGNOSTICS

Supporting TB culture lab at [Mzuzu Laboratory](#) to perform TB cultures, drug susceptibility testing and media preparation



HUMAN CAPACITY BUILDING

- 37** laboratory technicians trained in internal audits
- 22** laboratory personnel trained in Quality Control Methods Validations
- 83** lab technicians trained in EID and VL testing
- 24** ASLM SLIPTA trained Auditors
- 29** diploma students supported for Medical Laboratory Technician program at Malamulo College of Health Sciences graduated
- 95%** 73 out of 77 students supported for Medical Laboratory Assistant Program at Malawi College of Health Sciences employed by Malawi MOH and Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM)



LABORATORY QUALITY MANAGEMENT

100% of molecular labs passed Viral Load EQA in November 2018

Technical support for [National Laboratory Strategic Plan](#)

Technical support for [National Lab Information Management Systems \(LIMS\) development taskforce](#)

Technical Support for [National Laboratory policy](#)

Technical Support for [National Laboratory Mentorship Guidelines](#)



SAMPLE TRANSPORTATION

- 662** health care centers out of 977 in 27 of 28 districts covered for sample transportation
- 382,081** Viral Load samples and **351,355** Viral Load results transported
- 49,688** EID samples and **46,406** EID results transported

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