



Beyond DNO: The Changing Landscape of Laboratory Services

ASLM2021 Satellite Session

Sponsor

USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program-Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) project

Date and Time

17 November 2021, 7AM-8AM GMT

Summary

Laboratory networks across Africa have faced numerous challenges – from ad hoc procurement of diagnostic equipment, long procurement cycle times, lack of regular instrument maintenance, breakdown of testing equipment, inadequate inventory management and more, as the demand to scale up testing programs continued to grow.

To address these challenges over the years, the USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program-Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) project in partnership with ministries of health, clinical partners, USAID and other stakeholders began implementing the network approach to laboratory services, starting with viral load (VL) and early infant diagnosis (EID) testing instruments, shifting laboratory procurement to a service level arrangement, all-inclusive, reagent rental model. This resulted in reduced response and cycle times, lead times and transaction costs in the laboratory network; increased on-time deliveries of laboratory commodities; and balanced price, delivery and quality of laboratory commodities.

This event will provide real country experiences around diagnostics network optimization (DNO) implementation, lessons learned, challenges and next steps. The session will also introduce attendees to other essential aspects of laboratory services, specifically focused on the supply chain. This includes improving procurement and stock management of critical HIV/AIDS diagnostic commodities along with the application of global service level agreements.

Learning Objectives

- Donor-funded performance audits of DNO exercises have demonstrated that interventions have met intended expectations and outcomes.

- Digitalization of KPIs and remote monitoring of laboratory testing activities through the data and connectivity solution can positively contribute to resilience of laboratory networks, especially during pandemics.
- Demand data collected through the DNO, when aggregated, served as negotiating leverage for PEPFAR to negotiate reduced unit pricing, increased service and maintenance requirements, and established leading edge, private sector-based mechanisms for achieving programmatic targets.
- Critical to foster linkages between public and private sector for more responsive laboratory networks.
- Managing laboratories as a service through SLAs expands the partnership between PEPFAR and global suppliers while cost savings can potentially be reinvested into other country laboratory activities and needs.

Target Audience

Policy makers, Program managers, Diagnostic companies, Private laboratories, Clinicians

Presenter & Affiliation	Title
Matthew Wattleworth USAID	Introduction
Andres McAlister GHSC-PSM	The Network Approach
Muccara du Preez Ministry of Health, Supply Chain Management Directorate, Lesotho	Country Experience: Lesotho
Emmanuel Omolara National AIDS and STDs Control Programme, Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria	Country Experience: Mozambique