



Introduction

The Laboratory Systems Strengthening Community of Practice (LabCoP) of the African Society of laboratory Medicine (ASLM) is a learning network, designed to link multidisciplinary teams from member countries to share laboratory experiences and best practices.

Through the LabCoP project, ASLM is undertaking a rapid assessment of the key components of the national laboratory Systems that support the scale up of HIV viral load (VL) in countries participating in LabCoP.

This initiative complements existing tools designed:

- to assess national laboratory systems : WHO Laboratory Assessment Tool (LAT)-System assessment & ASLM LABNET scorecard
- Assess the capacity of laboratory facilities: WHO LAT-facility assessment, SLIPTA checklist.
- the viral load scale up preparedness at facility level (CDC VL scorecard)

Purpose

To identify the strengths and weaknesses of the laboratory system components underlying the viral load testing cascade in a given country.

The results of this assessment will be used to monitor the degrees of improvement or continued challenges of laboratory systems along the VL testing cascade over time.

In addition, the outcome evaluation will guide the selection of topics to be discussed during the LabCoP ECHO sessions, addressing areas of most critical needs.

Guidance

This tool is meant to be populated by a national multidisciplinary team of experts responsible for the viral testing at country level and participating to the LabCoP activities. Whenever needed, the team will ask for input from additional stakeholders. Answers to the questions will represent the consensus from the team.

The contents of the tool are tailored along the different key aspects of laboratory systems along the VL testing cascade. The sections 1 to 3 of the tool are built as a survey. Section 4 to 9 represent each thematic aspect and are built as a scorecard according to the Capability Maturation Model. Each thematic aspect or component is described through several questions. The team has the possibility to check only one response for each question.

Data analysis

Final scores will be calculated according to the CMM methodology. Each component will be assigned the lowest score given to any question, within that component, highlighting weaknesses. Fill the tool objectively, such that the outcome can give us the actual picture of the program, against which we shall gear out efforts to support the country.

Thank you very much for taking off time to participate in this country self-assessment for National laboratory systems, focusing on the viral load cascade.