Laboratory Improvement Partnership Supports PEPFAR Laboratory Needs

Since the 2003 launch of the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the number of people around the world receiving HIV treatment has increased by 300 times and an estimated 25 million lives have been saved. But the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted how tenuous that achievement is—and how important public health laboratories are to national and global efforts to track and slow the spread of disease. That’s why in late 2022, the US government kicked off a new five-year PEPFAR strategy. The strategy puts laboratory systems front and center, with the goals of strengthening the laboratory workforce and enhancing laboratory systems and services for more efficient and reliable testing for HIV, tuberculosis and HIV-related diseases.

In Fall 2023, APHL was awarded a new cooperative agreement (CoAg) with PEPFAR and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). To help fulfill the goals of the agreement, APHL has convened the Laboratory Improvement Partnership (LIP)—a coalition of laboratory and clinical organizations—to support your country’s efforts toward PEPFAR laboratory-improvement goals. LIP organizations understand the HIV/AIDS landscape and leverage their unique expertise to provide training and support to your laboratory personnel and systems. APHL facilitates LIP activities to achieve maximum effectiveness for national laboratory systems.

Leverage the LIP to Strengthen National Laboratory Systems

As PEPFAR renews its push to see a world free from HIV/AIDS, APHL and the LIP are powerful resources for laboratory-strengthening efforts in countries around the globe.

APHL’s PEPFAR Legacy

APHL has a track record of success with PEPFAR countries across regions, including Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and the Western Hemisphere. APHL’s accomplishments include:

- Receiving four separate five-year, multi-country PEPFAR CoAGs.
- Establishing an equipment maintenance center for Kenya and transitioning management to the Ministry of Health.
- Implementing integrated electronic system platforms with remote login to support return of results between clinics and laboratories at more than 340 sites.
- Supporting a specimen transport system in Zimbabwe and transitioning the project to a local partner.
- Running laboratory leadership and management training programs in more than 15 countries.
- Providing technical assistance for the accreditation of the Mozambique National Tuberculosis Laboratory.
- Serving as a founding partner of the Global Laboratory Leadership Programme.

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Meet the Laboratory Improvement Partners

The LIP is a coalition of five laboratory and clinical organizations with significant experience implementing PEPFAR laboratory activities globally. Together, we can find the right solutions for your laboratory needs.

**Association of Public Health Laboratories**
A recognized leader in laboratory system strengthening, APHL customizes its program engagement to each country’s diverse needs. APHL takes a systems approach and looks for solutions that are sustainable long-term and fit within national policies and strategic plans. A membership organization and network hub for US public health and diagnostic laboratories, APHL harnesses the expertise of its members to identify solutions and strategies for laboratory challenges faced by PEPFAR countries all over the world.

**Focus areas:** Informatics, laboratory accreditation, laboratory twinning, quality assurance and quality testing, sequencing, strategic plans, workforce development

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**American Society for Clinical Pathology**
The world’s largest professional membership organization for pathologists and laboratory professionals, ASCP has collaborated with the CDC in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic since 2004. Along with offering certifications and trainings to laboratory professionals and educators, ASCP has supported nearly 300 educational institutions in improving their medical laboratory training curriculum.

**Focus areas:** Certification and professional licensure, continuing education and professional development, professional society development

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**CRDF Global**
CRDF Global partners with governments, research institutions, universities, local and international organizations, and the private sector to strengthen systems for the prevention, detection and effective response to disease threats.

**Focus areas:** Emergency preparedness, laboratory data sharing, molecular epidemiology

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**US Pharmacopeia**
A leading global provider of laboratory support for medical products, USP is a trusted partner to countries seeking to improve their WHO Global Benchmarking Tool maturity level, achieve WHO prequalification designation for medical manufacturers, or attain ISO accreditation for their laboratory systems.

**Focus areas:** Diagnostic network optimization, laboratory accreditation, quality management systems

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**University of California San Francisco**
A university technical assistance partner for PEPFAR since 2003, UCSF is a global leader in novel laboratory methods and tuberculosis diagnostics. Its Institute for Global Health Sciences, Center for Global Strategic Information and Public Health Practice, and Chan Zuckerberg Biohub all provide various types of support to laboratories around the world.

**Focus areas:** Epidemiologic and case-based surveillance, education and training, health informatics and data warehousing

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**Ready to Work With Us?**
Learn more at [www.aphl.org/PEPFAR](http://www.aphl.org/PEPFAR) or reach out to APHL or any of the LIP Partners for more information about collaborating!