

To ensure accurate diagnoses for clients, IHVN evaluates facilities to determine their suitability for patient care. Identified gaps are addressed through infrastructure improvements, provision of equipment and reagents, and capacity-building programs, including specialized training for medical laboratory scientists.

To further improve the quality of laboratory services, IHVN was the first to introduce an External Quality Assurance (EQA) program in Nigeria known as the Laboratory Assessment Program Nigeria (LAPN) for IHVN supported laboratories in 2007. This initiative was taken over by CDC to support all PEPFAR supported laboratories in Nigeria through MLSCN/AXIOS at the National External Quality Assessment Laboratory (NEQAL) Zaria. CDC handed over NEQAL to IHVN in 2015 and has since provided technical and logistics support to the National EQA laboratory. IHVN supports the National Laboratory Equipment Calibration Centre (NaLECC), MLSCN House, Durumi and the National External Quality Assessment Laboratory (NEQAL), Saye, Zaria in achieving and maintaining international accreditation for their Quality Management Systems (QMS). NaLECC obtained ISO 17025 accreditation through KENAS, while NEQAL has maintained the ISO 17043 international accreditation. IHVN also provides technical assistance to the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Training Program (NTBLCP) in providing Proficiency Testing panels for GeneXpert, TB AFB Microscopy, Lime Probe Assay (LPA), TB culture/DST, TB LAM, and Trunat.

IHVN provides technical assistance and logistics support to the National Laboratory Quality Assurance Teams (NALQAT) for sourcing and characterizing panels and conducting laboratory testing for Post-Market Verification (PMV) of HIV Rapid Test Kits (RTKs), GeneXpert cartridges, LPA, and VL/EID reagents.

The Institute has supported over 100 laboratories across Nigeria in implementing Quality Management System. Its Research Centre in Plateau State, the Plateau State Virology Research Centre (PLASVIREC), is one of the first laboratories in Nigeria to receive International Accreditation for ISO 15189. The laboratory has maintained this accreditation till date. Additionally, three molecular laboratories supported by the Institute—Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH) in Zaria, Federal Teaching Hospital (FTH) in Gombe, and Rivers State University Teaching Hospital (RSUTH) in Port Harcourt,—achieved National Accreditation for ISO 15189:2012, and Bwari General Hospital, Abuja achieved National Accreditation for ISO 15189:2022 from the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN) as well as ISO 15189:2022 International Accreditation for the three molecular laboratories by the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS).

IHVN is currently preparing Five (5) supported clinical laboratories at Asokoro District Hospital, Maitama District Hospital, Wuse General Hospital, Daughters of Charity Hospital, Abuja and Federal University Teaching Hospital, Lafia laboratories for National and International accreditation. IHVN has continued to mentor the FMOH trained SMLTAs on laboratory auditing and mentorship and supported the onboarding training for ISO 15189:2022 and ISO 17043:2023 Standards to SLMTA auditors, master trainers and implementers, ASLM auditors, and NEQAL staff.

Capacity Building:

Through the SHaRING grant, IHVN provided in service training to 2779 laboratory personnel on Basic HIV/AIDS diagnoses and monitoring, TB microscopy, Laboratory QMS, Bio-repository, Good laboratory Practices, Viral load sample collection, Basic Equipment maintenance, supply chain management, and HIV/TB

Molecular techniques. The Action Plus Up, ACHIEVE, ASPIRE grants have provided similar trainings to over 15500 laboratory personnel while the ENHANCE grant has supported the SLMTA Training of Trainers (ToT) for 24 FMOH laboratory personnel. The Global Fund grant provided training to 2326 personnel.

With support from the FLEMING Fund, IHVN provided the following:

1. Conducted Needs Assessment and Biosafety/Biosecurity Assessment of National reference laboratories and surveillance/sentinel sites for AMR
2. Developed Capacity Strengthening Plans (CSPs) for 9 Surveillance Site Laboratories supporting AMR for Human Health and submitted reports
3. Renovated Surveillance sites
4. Conducted First Biannual Equipment Maintenance and Calibration and Certification of Biosafety Cabinets at 2 NRLs and 9 Surveillance Sites supporting Human Health
5. Developed End-user equipment maintenance protocol
6. Conducted feasibility Assessment on AMR surveillance capabilities for state and local laboratories in 12 states
 - Four states assessed through physical visits to the states and LGAs
 - Eight states assessed through virtual meetings
7. Conducted virtual training on Biosafety and Biosecurity for 60 staff at laboratory facilities supporting AMR
8. Developed Draft Policy to guide operations and procedures at the biorepositories for archiving bacterial isolates for AMR
 - Freezerworks Software for the management of samples in the Biorepositories have been selected, approved and being procured
9. Identifying an appropriate External Quality Assessment provider (UK NEQAS) for NRLs and Surveillance facilities for both Human Health and Animal Health. Provided EQA for 11 Human Health sites and 8 Animal Health laboratories through OASYS

Through the Resolve to Save Lives project, IHVN supported the establishment and inauguration of State Laboratory Technical Working Group (SLTWG) in four states and is supporting the routine quarterly meetings of the SLTWG in the same states.