

Health Providers

Labs and Diagnostic Centers



Introduction

Private laboratories and diagnostic centers are an important aspect of the private health sector and are typically included in an assessment. Given the importance of testing and determining viral load for HIV, labs are particularly relevant for an HIV-focused assessment. Teams will want to identify existing labs and diagnostic centers and ascertain what services they offer, as well as understand their relationship with health providers (private and public), in terms of referrals and reporting requirements.

Questions

- What tests or diagnostics do you perform?
- What diseases are reportable? To which entity do you report results, and with what frequency?
- What other information do you share with the Ministry of Health? With referring doctors?
- Where do you source your various diagnostic kits/materials?

Test-Specific Questions (e.g., HIV Test)

- What do you do in-house and what do you outsource?
- How long do results take?
- What do you charge?
- How are tests paid for?
- Do patients walk in, or are they referred?
- Do you serve as a referral lab for the government?

Observations

- Is there a separate room for blood draw?
- How are medical wastes disposed of?
- Evidence of a cold chain?