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LABO 2S

LABORATORIES FOR HEALTH IN NIGER

Improving access to care for people living with HIV and TB

CONTEXT

Niger is struggling to integrate all the components necessary for the continuous availability of laboratory services and to ensure the link with health care teams for access to better quality care for patients. This poor performance reflects failures throughout the chain of care in relation to the laboratories. In terms of HIV care, Niger is lagging far behind in achieving the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets. In December 2018, Niger had 35 300 people living with HIV (PLHIV), 72% of whom knew their status, 54% of whom were receiving antiretroviral treatment and 45% of whom had an undetectable viral load. In 2016, the coverage of viral load needs was 21%. There is also an under-utilisation of viral load results in the management of patient failure, with few virological controls and changes of ARV treatment to a second line. Early diagnosis of HIV infection in children remains a challenge in the country, with diagnostic coverage at 8%. In terms of tuberculosis, Niger is struggling to achieve the objectives of the WHO's 2035 strategy, particularly in terms of deaths reducing and on the decrease in incidence.

KEY DATA



Project duration: 3 years (2020 - 2023)



Beneficiaries: PNLISH (National Programme for the Fight against HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis), National TB/HIV Reference Laboratory (NRL), Directorate of Health Laboratories, National Directorate of Pharmacy, PNLT (National Programme for the Fight against Tuberculosis)



Source of funding: Initiatives 5% (Expertise France)



Partners: Niger Ministry of Public Health, Niger Network of People Living with HIV (RENIP+), Fondation Mérieux



Country of intervention: Niger (Niamey, Dosso)

OBJECTIVES

Contribute to improving access to quality care for people living with HIV (PLHIV) and tuberculosis (TB) in Niger

The Labo 2S project aims to strengthen the quality and integration of HIV and TB services within laboratory services in relation to the continuum of care. The activities will be carried out at the level of care centers, communities, laboratories and at the institutional level.

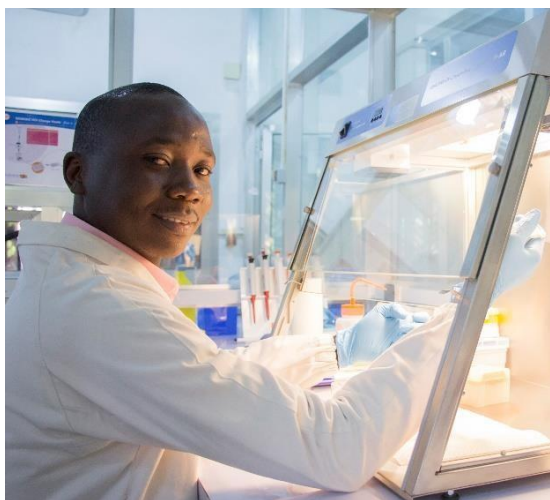




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"It is essential to create conditions in health systems that are favourable to the performance of viral load tests by working both on the supply of laboratory services and on the demand for tests by clinicians and health system users".

Sophie OUVRARD, Director of the Technical Department at Solthis

EXPECTED RESULTS & ACTIVITIES

 **The capacity of health care teams and patient communities is strengthened to enable access for PLHIV (including exposed infants) and/or people with TB to diagnostic and monitoring tests, and their use to adapt patient management:** diagnosis of the monitoring and management of HIV and/or TB patients in the supported facilities; information for users on the importance of access to viral load, early infant diagnosis of HIV infection and screening and treatment of tuberculosis; capacity building for healthcare teams; support for existing public and community-based adherence support services; support for the availability of ARV and anti-TB treatments for cases of resistance.

 **The capacities of technical platforms are strengthened to guarantee the availability and quality of laboratory services for PLHIV and/or people with TB:** strengthening of the capacities of the HIV and TB NRL and the network of associated laboratories; strengthening of biological sample collection circuits and result reporting systems; networking of laboratories that carry out viral load under the supervision of the NRL; support for the development and/or implementation of equipment monitoring plans in the laboratories

 **National capacities are strengthened for the development of an integrated HIV and TB laboratory strategy within the health system:** support for the laboratory coordination group, bringing together national actors and technical and financial partners; support for the management of supplies and stocks at central level; updating of the national strategy for HIV and TB molecular biology activities; support for the CCM (Multisectoral Coordination Committee) for the preparation of funding requests applications from the Global Fund.

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