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There are a total of 124 health facilities (out of 717 ART sites) which offer POC CD4 testing and 850 HTC sites across the country. Community Health Sciences Unit (CHSU) receives QA panels from QASI – Canada for POC CD4 EQA and prepares HIV PT – DTS panels for HTC sites and coordinates distribution to zonal supervisors. Zonal and Lab Supervisors distribute the panels and follow HIV PT and QA issues including corrective actions (mentorship, supervision).

Point-of-Care (POC) – Malawi Present Context

National QA System: Centralized Model

*POC Task Force and Diagnostic TWG are support structure for policy development and implementation*
Present QA Mechanisms in Place for POC CD4 Testing

1. Trainings: Master Trainers and End-users
2. Internal Quality Controls & Daily QC runs
3. Mentorship Program Bi-Annually
4. 57% of 124 Sites Enrolled in QASI EQA Scheme
5. Pima Service and Maintenance Scheme
6. POC Connectivity
Some Insights on EQA and POC CD4 Mentorship

External Quality Assurance Program

- 69 of 122 Pima sites enrolled in QASI EQA scheme
- EQA scheme coordinated by CHSU (the Malawi National Reference Lab)

EQA performance over the last 4 cycles

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NOTE: All failures have been followed up by CHSU for corrective action.

Mentorship Program

Existing pool of 70 POC CD4 Master Trainers (trained lab techs and ART clinicians)

Supported centrally biannually—visiting all 122 sites each round.

Focus: service delivery, device operation, patient impact, on-job training,

MOH now fully in-charge of planning, coordination, management, and oversight of the activity.
Challenges for POC EQA Implementation

1. Getting proficiency testing samples to sites and getting reports back

2. Low EQA coverage for POC sites

3. Lack of coordination among partners in implementation of POC EQA

4. EQA for POC has no dedicated funding
Considerations for QA model for quality assured POC testing across the country

- Identify source of PT panels for EID & Viral Load POC and decide on frequency of QA exercise
- Coordinate panel delivery system between programs
- mHealth solutions for reporting
- Ensure a well coordinated implementation with partners
- Timely monitoring of testing performance and for corrective actions through connectivity
- Costing the QA program

1. Implement Training and certification scheme
2. Internal Quality Controls run
3. Mentorship program targeted/bi-annually.
4. Connectivity for timely monitoring of testing events
5. Service and Maintenance scheme in place
6. All POC sites to be enrolled in EQA
Planned POC Testing Moving Forward in Malawi

- Planning TB, EID & VL integration pilot using GeneXpert - September 2016
- Planning on evaluating Samba II for EID (Samba I already in use for VL in one district) - Q4’2016
- Planning national POC mapping in preparation for EID and VL POC scale up - Q4’2016
- Evaluating pilot results for Alere Q – July 2016
- Scaling down CD4 testing due to Test and Start - September 2016
- Enrollment of all POC devices into the National EQA System - Q2’2017
Zikomo!

Thank You!