



**RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF  
RELIABLE DIAGNOSTICS  
FOR EMERGING  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

Lessons learned from COVID-19

◆ Marta Fernández Suárez & Devy Emperador



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FIND, THE GLOBAL  
ALLIANCE FOR  
DIAGNOSTICS



2020/7/8 11

# FIND, THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR DIAGNOSTICS SEEKS TO ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO RELIABLE DIAGNOSIS AROUND THE WORLD

We connect countries and communities, funders, decisionmakers, healthcare providers and developers to spur diagnostic innovation and make testing an integral part of sustainable, resilient health systems

- Established in 2003 as a product development & delivery partnership
- Co-convener of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator Diagnostic Pillar
- WHO Collaborating Centre for Laboratory Strengthening & Diagnostic Technology Evaluation
- WHO SAGE-IVD member
- ISO-certified quality management system for IVD clinical trials
- Governance: Board of Directors & Scientific Advisory Committee



## 2021 STRATEGY: EXPECTED IMPACT



**Save 1 million lives**  
through accessible,  
quality diagnosis



**Save US\$1 billion**  
in healthcare costs to  
patients and health systems

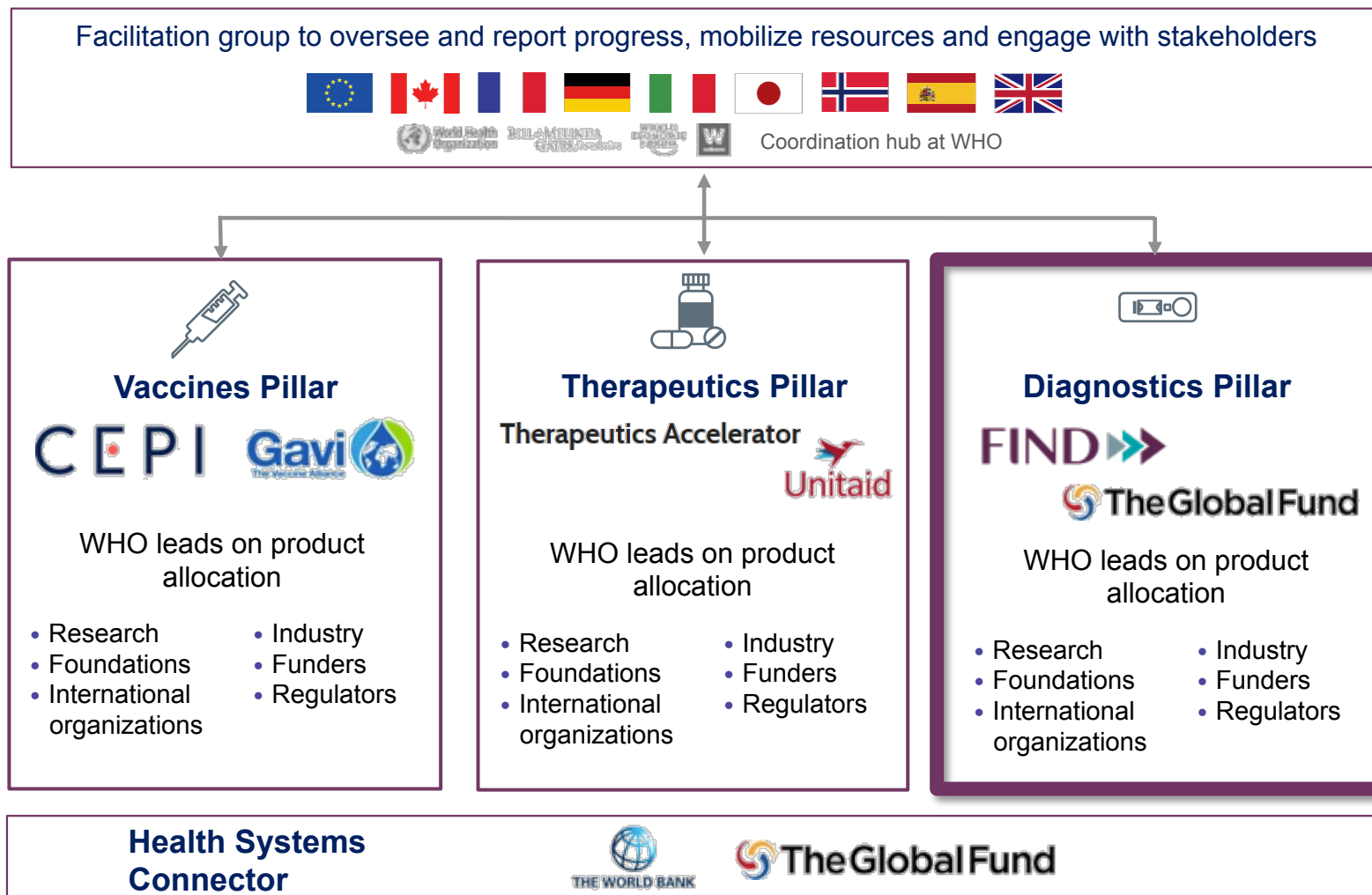


**Empower 10+ countries**  
with diagnostic data to inform  
policy and care

# THE ACCESS TO COVID-19 TOOLS (ACT) ACCELERATOR DIAGNOSTICS PILLAR WORKING TO HARNESS INNOVATION, SECURE ACCESS & DEPLOY AFFORDABLE, QUALITY POINT-OF-CARE TESTS



ACTaccelerator  
ACCESS TO COVID-19 TOOLS



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**DIAGNOSTICS FOR  
OUTBREAK-PRONE  
DISEASES**



# MANY SHARED CHALLENGES

## WHO R&D BLUEPRINT PATHOGENS

Critical/important gaps across all, except for the three pathogens with recent high-profile outbreaks (Ebola, SARS, Zika, and now COVID-19) in which international focus/funding led to prioritized development of validated diagnostics

Overall, lack of focused support for research and development (R&D) in the absence of an event, prevents rapid detection of outbreaks, leading to increased loss of life and donor expenditure and the absence of sustainable diagnostic solutions

WHO Blueprint priority disease	Fatality rate	Recent outbreaks	Diagnostic need (red = critical, amber = important; green = remaining)	Diagnostic situation overview
CCHF	10–40%	Pakistan, 2010		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No established reference test</li> <li>Very limited availability of commercial assays, with very low usage and limited performance data</li> <li>No WHO prequalified diagnostic test</li> </ul>
Filoviruses (Ebola and Marburg)	24–90%	West Africa, 2013–2016 and Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2017 & 2018 (Ebola); Uganda and Kenya, 2017 (Marburg)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recent high-profile outbreaks resulted in international focus and funding, which has enabled the development and introduction of critical diagnostics</li> <li>Additional work is needed to improve current diagnostics, develop POC tests and ensure reliable availability</li> <li>Additional work is also needed to ensure regulatory approval beyond WHO EUAL</li> </ul>
Lassa fever	1–15%	Annual recurring outbreaks in West Africa		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No WHO-approved diagnostics and limited commercially available tests, none of which are easily deployable in the settings needed</li> </ul>
MERS-CoV	~35%	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2013–2018; South Korea, 2015		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited availability of validated assays, restricted to highly complex tests</li> <li>Lack of POC diagnostics</li> </ul>
SARS	~10%	Global, 2003		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recent high-profile outbreaks resulted in international focus and funding, which has enabled the development and introduction of critical diagnostics</li> <li>Additional work is needed to improve current diagnostics, develop POC tests and ensure reliable availability</li> </ul>
Nipah and henipaviral diseases	~30%	Bangladesh, 2004		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No WHO-approved diagnostics and limited commercially available tests, none of which are easily deployable in the settings needed</li> </ul>
Rift Valley fever	<1%	Republic of Niger, 2016		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No WHO-approved diagnostics and limited commercially available tests, none of which are easily deployable in the settings needed</li> </ul>
Zika virus disease	Not fatal	South and North America, 2015–2016		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recent high-profile outbreaks resulted in international focus and funding, which has enabled the development and introduction of critical diagnostics</li> <li>Additional work is needed to improve current diagnostics, develop POC tests and ensure reliable availability</li> <li>Additional work is also needed to ensure regulatory approval beyond WHO EUAL</li> </ul>
Disease X	Not yet known			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need for diagnostic platforms that can rapidly adapt and support diagnostics for unknown pathogens</li> </ul>

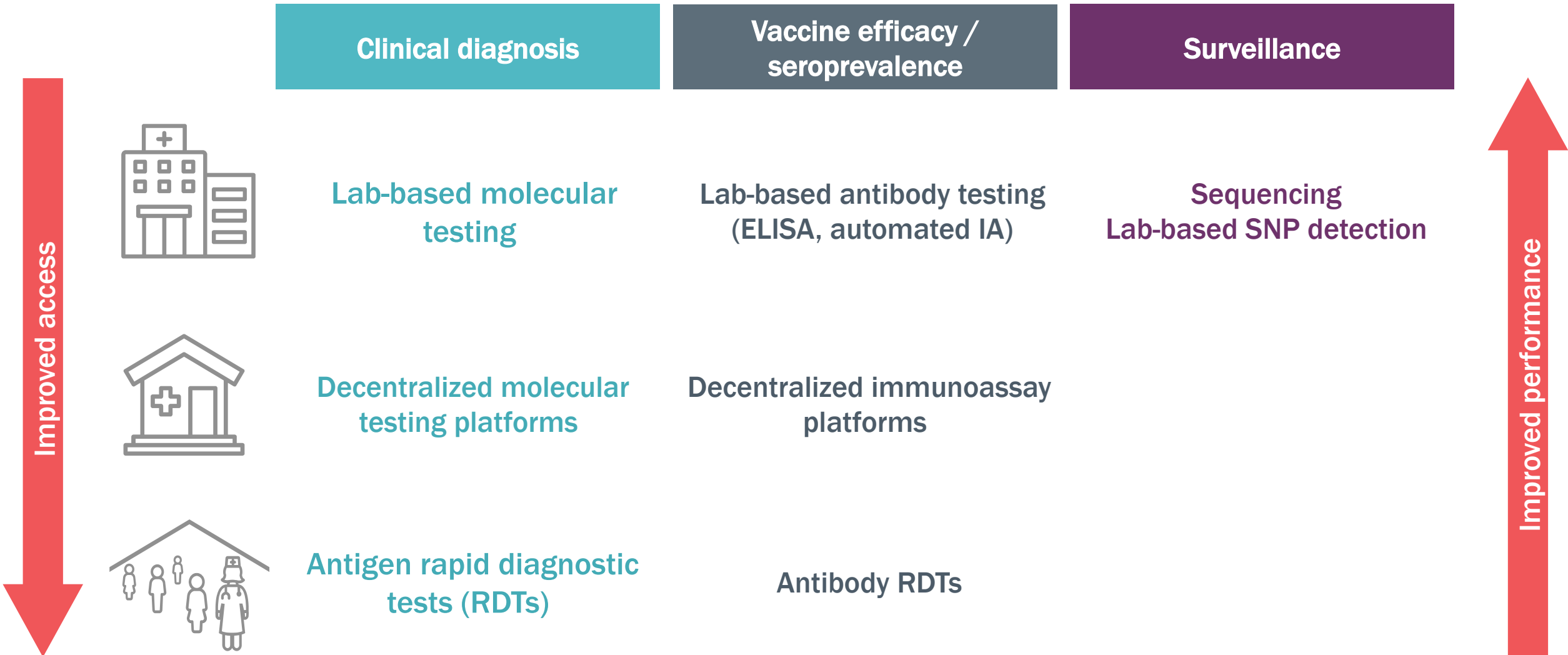
COVID-19 has placed  
**testing in the spotlight**

“ Test, test, test” -----◆ Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO

“ If we ask ourselves what has benefited us in this first phase of the spread of the virus, it is our high-test capacities, and the dense laboratory network” -----◆ Angela Merkel, Germany

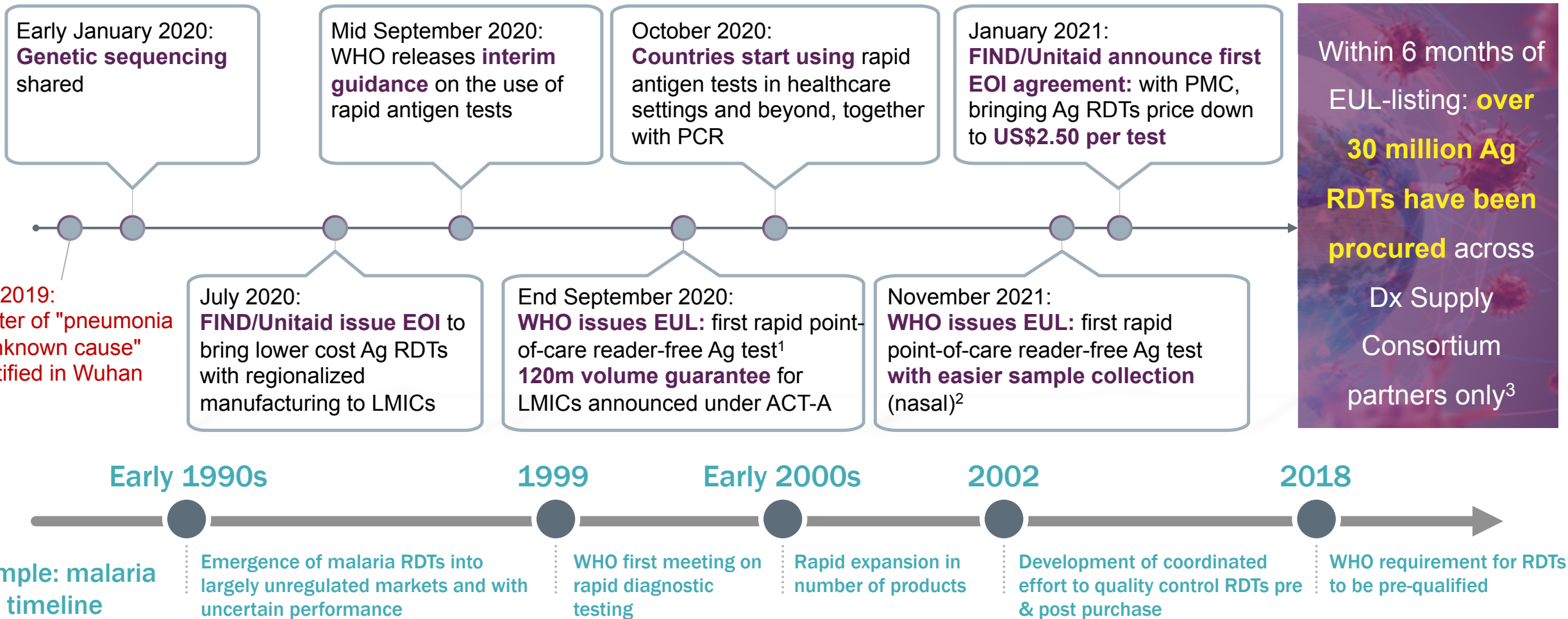
“ If you don't test, you won't find” -----◆ John Nkengasong, Africa CDC

SUPPORTING CONTAINMENT IN A PANDEMIC  
**SARS-COV-2 TESTING PORTFOLIO**





# SPEED OF COVID-19 ANTIGEN RDT INTRODUCTION HAS BEEN UNPRECEDENTED COMPARED WITH ANY OTHER RDT



1. SD Biosensor STANDARD Q COVID-19 Ag Test. 2. Abbott Panbio COVID-19 Ag Rapid Test Device (NASAL) 3. Global Fund, GDF/StopTB, PAHO, UNDP, Unicef, WHO  
 Source: [WHO EUL](#), [Malaria Journal](#) (all accessed 15 March 2021)

## COMPRESSED TIMELINES FOR FOR ALL TEST TYPES



### PCR kits (lab-developed and commercial)

- **February 2020:** LDTs available
- **29 February:** first IVD test (CDC) obtained FDA EUA; 9 total with FDA EUA by end of April 2020
- **3 April 2020:** first WHO EUL test listed (Roche); 12 total by end of June 2020

### Antibody tests

- **16 March 2020:** FDA published guidance permitting developers to market their tests without an EUA provided the test was validated, FDA was notified, and test reports included information about limitations; policy reversed on 4 May 2020
- **15 April 2020:** first lab-based test (ELISA) obtained FDA EUA
- **1 April 2020:** first RDT obtained FDA EUA

### Point-of-care molecular tests

- **20 March 2020:** first test obtained FDA EUA (Cepheid Xpert), followed by 27 March 2020 (Abbott ID Now)
- **23 June 2020:** first WHO EUL test listed (Cepheid Xpert)

# MOLECULAR TESTS FOR SARS-COV-2

Three main categories of molecular test for SARS-CoV-2; all are performed in labs and rely on sample collection/transport/result return systems to ensure decentralized access to testing

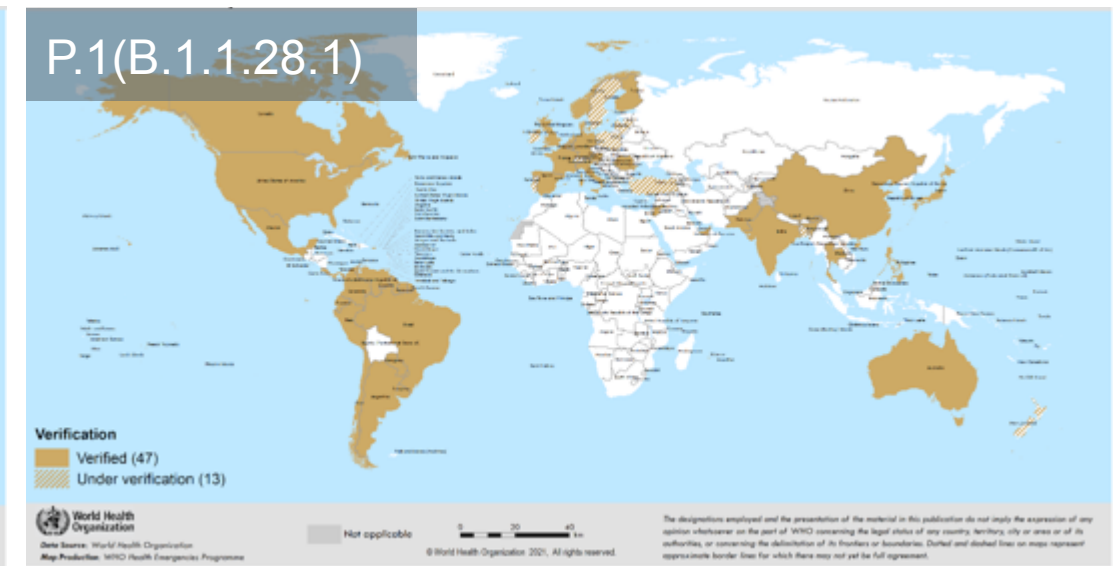
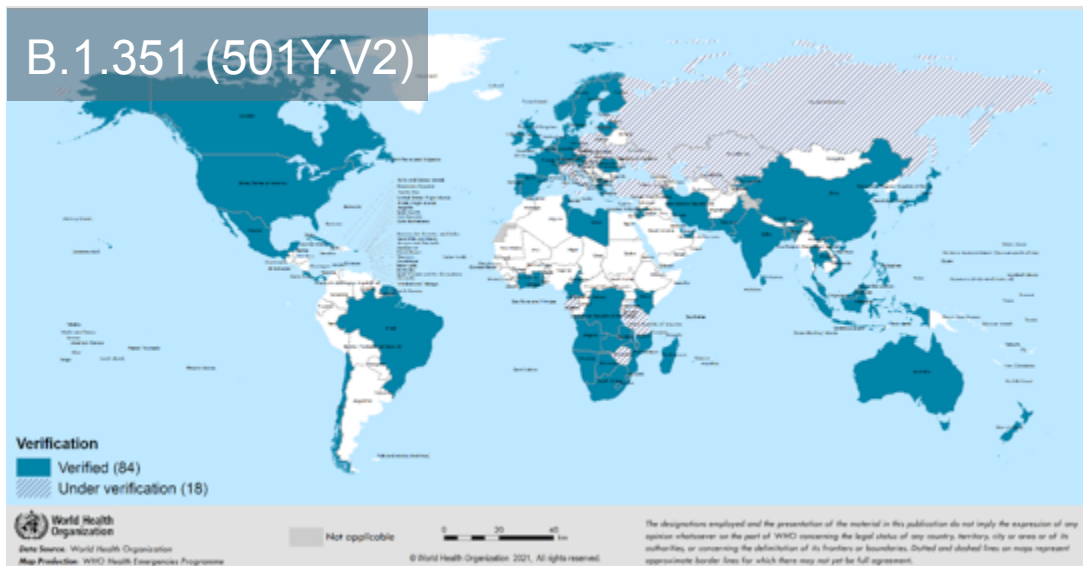
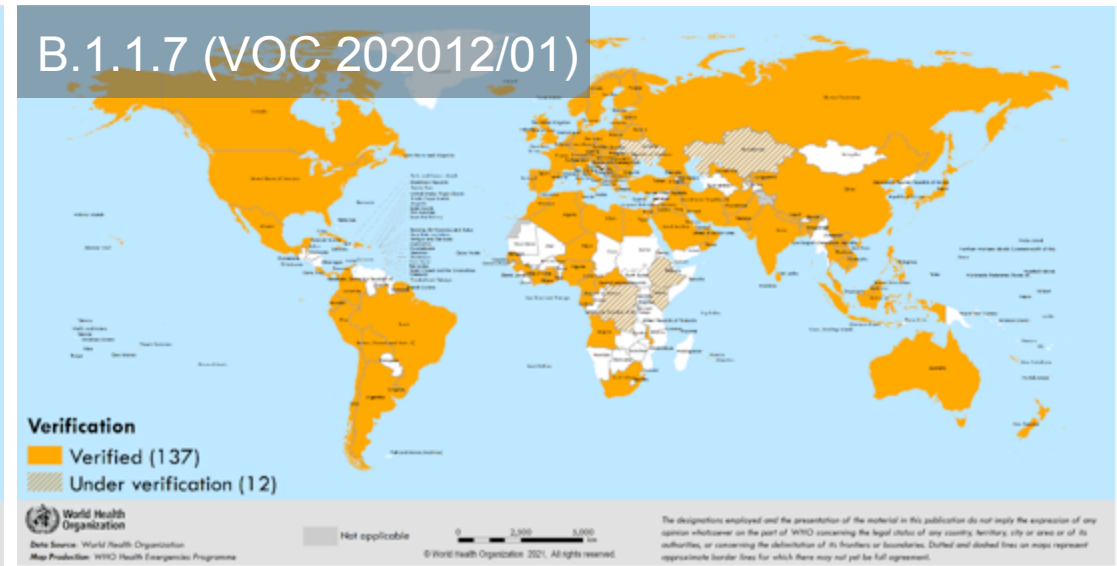
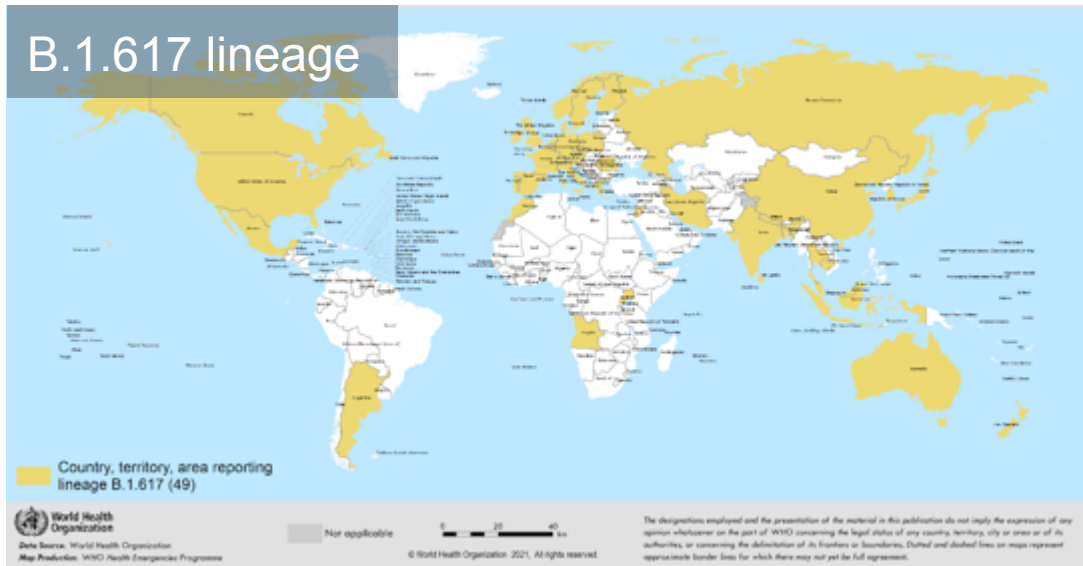
	Lab-developed tests (LDT)	Open, manual kits	Closed, proprietary tests & platforms
Test format and quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab develops their own testing protocol sourcing basic ingredients separately</li> <li>• Lab is responsible for verifying the accuracy of the test and ensuring consistent quality of testing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial company supplies a kit with all the basic ingredients and is responsible for ensuring their quality</li> <li>• Lab is responsible for ensuring consistent testing quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial company supplies a test where all the basic ingredients are already combined, ensures accuracy and quality of the test and has built-in QC to enable monitoring of consistent test quality</li> </ul>
Sample type & extraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Viral RNA has to be extracted separately then added to PCR test</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Viral RNA has to be extracted separately then added to PCR test</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usually, extraction and PCR reaction are all integrated</li> </ul>
Time to result	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 3–5 hours</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 3–5 hours</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum 1 hour</li> </ul>
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usually the fastest to develop in a more experienced lab</li> <li>• Not reliant on a particular test supplier</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compatible with a range of lab equipment</li> <li>• Can leverage existing personnel and infrastructure familiar with PCR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enables more automation ranging from high-throughput centralized testing to lower-throughput more decentralized testing; can leverage existing install-base and trained personnel, if available</li> <li>• More built-in QC, therefore higher confidence in quality of results</li> </ul>
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires separate nucleic acid extraction</li> <li>• More prone to variability and requires QC and QA of test reagents and end-users</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires separate nucleic acid extraction</li> <li>• Requires well-trained staff and frequent proficiency testing to ensure quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires procurement of new machinery if no existing install-base or new space capacity</li> </ul>
Example	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charité protocol, CDC protocol</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TIB Molbio, Altona</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GeneXpert, Abbott ID Now, Molbio</li> </ul>

# ANTIGEN AND ANTIBODY TESTS FOR SARS-COV-2

	Antigen (Ag)	Antibody (Ab) IgM or IgG; preferentially IgM & IgG
How does it work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Directly detects the presence of the virus, indicating <b>ACTIVE</b> infection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detects the body's immune response to the virus, in the form of antibodies, which are present during <b>ACTIVE</b> infection and persist to indicate <b>PREVIOUS</b> infection</li> </ul>
Most common uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Screen/triage patients who have <b>ACTIVE</b> infection and exclude individuals who are uninfected</li> <li>May be considered to monitor active infection and recovery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify people who have been exposed to the virus and have immunity*</li> <li>Insufficient data on whether can be used to rule in or rule out <b>ACTIVE</b> infection               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A positive test in the presence of symptoms is likely consistent with <b>COVID-19</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Sample type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nasopharyngeal, nasal, or oropharyngeal swab; potentially, oral fluid and stool</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finger stick blood, venous blood; potentially, oral fluid</li> </ul>
Where & who performs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trained healthcare workers, wearing appropriate PPE in decentralized points of need</li> </ul>	
Test formats and examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lab-based: manual ELISA, automated immunoassay platforms</li> <li>Decentralized: rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lab-based: manual ELISA, automated immunoassay platforms</li> <li>Decentralized: rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs)</li> </ul>

\* Insufficient data on the duration/level of protection conferred by immunity

# SEQUENCING – VARIANTS OF CONCERN REPORTED GLOBALLY



# WHO GUIDE ON GENOMIC SURVEILLANCE HIGHLIGHTS FIVE PRIORITY AREAS FOR SARS-COV-2

## Sequencing programme framework

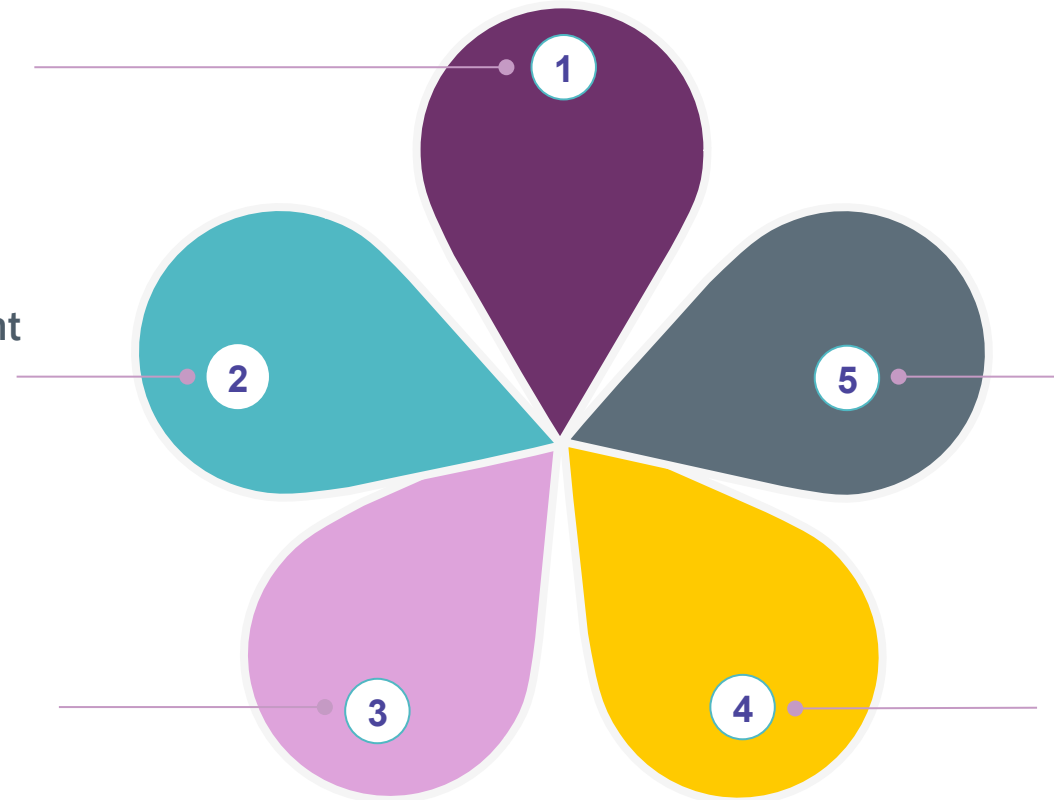
e.g. stakeholder engagement, resource mapping, technical and operational considerations

## Sequencing capacity building

e.g. validate and compare different sequencing & data analysis strategies, training and technical support

## Technology assessment / R&D

e.g. identify optimal NGS workflows to facilitate adoption in LMICs, improve and validate tools for rapid NGS data analysis



## Advocacy & education

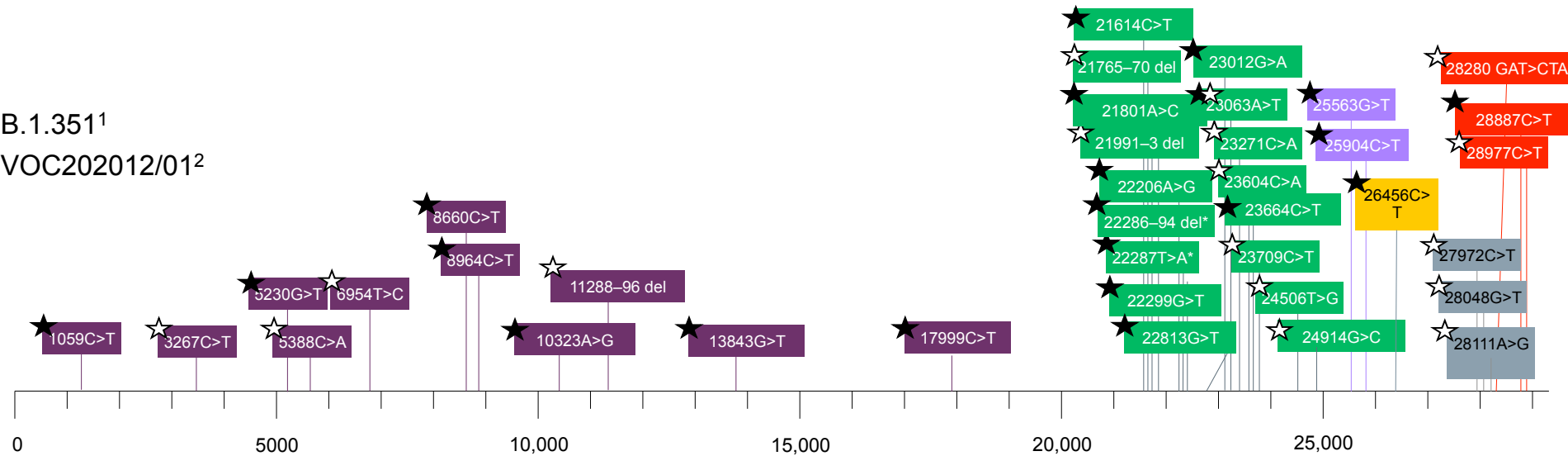
e.g. raise public awareness on value of sequencing, training and support for scientists to communicate findings effectively

## Bioinformatics & data sharing

e.g. improve practices to facilitate rapid data sharing and set up data accreditation standards

# IMPACT OF VOC MUTATIONS ON DIAGNOSTIC TARGETS

★ Mutations in B.1.351<sup>1</sup>  
 ☆ Mutations in VOC202012/01<sup>2</sup>



- Assays targeting ORF1a gene:**
- Atila iAMP® COVID
  - Wantai SARS-CoV-2
  - BGI 2019-nCoV
  - SARS-COV-2 R-GENE®
  - AccuPower® SARS-CoV-2
  - ExAmplar COVID-19
  - VIASURE SARS-CoV-2
  - DAAN 2019-nCoV
  - EURORealTime SARS-CoV-2
  - GeneFirst 2019-nCoV
  - RADi COVID-19
  - PerkinElmer® SARS-CoV-2
  - Primerdesign Ltd. COVID-19
  - Sansure 2019nCoV
  - STANDARD M nCoV
  - Allplex 2019-nCoV
  - Kehua SARS-CoV-2
  - TaqPath COVID-19
  - ViroKey SARS-CoV-2
  - Roche cobas® SARS-CoV-2
  - Abbott RealTime SARS-CoV-2
  - Hologic Aptima® SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-Cov-2 (Panther Fusion)
  - TrueNat SARS-CoV-2

- Assays targeting S gene:**
- RealStar® SARS-CoV2
  - RADi COVID-19
  - TaqPath COVID-19
- Assays targeting E gene:**
- RealStar® SARS-CoV2
  - AccuPower® SARS-CoV-2
  - ExAmplar COVID-19
  - RIDA GENE SARS-CoV-2
  - STANDARD M nCoV
  - Alllex 2019-nCoV
  - Kehua SARS-CoV-2
  - ModularDx SARS-CoV (COVID-19)
  - Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2
  - Roche cobas® SARS-CoV-2
  - TrueNat SARS-CoV-2

- Assays targeting N gene:**
- Atila iAMP® COVID
  - Wantai SARS-CoV-2
  - SARS-CoV-2
  - SARS-COV-2 R-GENE®
  - VIASURE SARS-CoV-2
  - DAAN 2019-nCoV
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  - GeneFirst 2019-nCoV
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  - Sansure 2019nCoV
  - Allplex 2019-nCoV
  - Kehua SARS-CoV-2
  - Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2
  - TaqPath COVID-19
  - Abbott RealTime SARS-CoV-2
  - **Rapid antigen RDTs**

\* Mutation and deletion at same site disputed. 1. Tegally H et al. medRxiv 2020. doi: 10.1101/2020.12.21.20248640; 2. Public Health England. [www.gov.uk/government/publications/investigation-of-novel-sars-cov-2-variant-variant-of-concern-20201201](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/investigation-of-novel-sars-cov-2-variant-variant-of-concern-20201201) (Accessed 4 January 2021)

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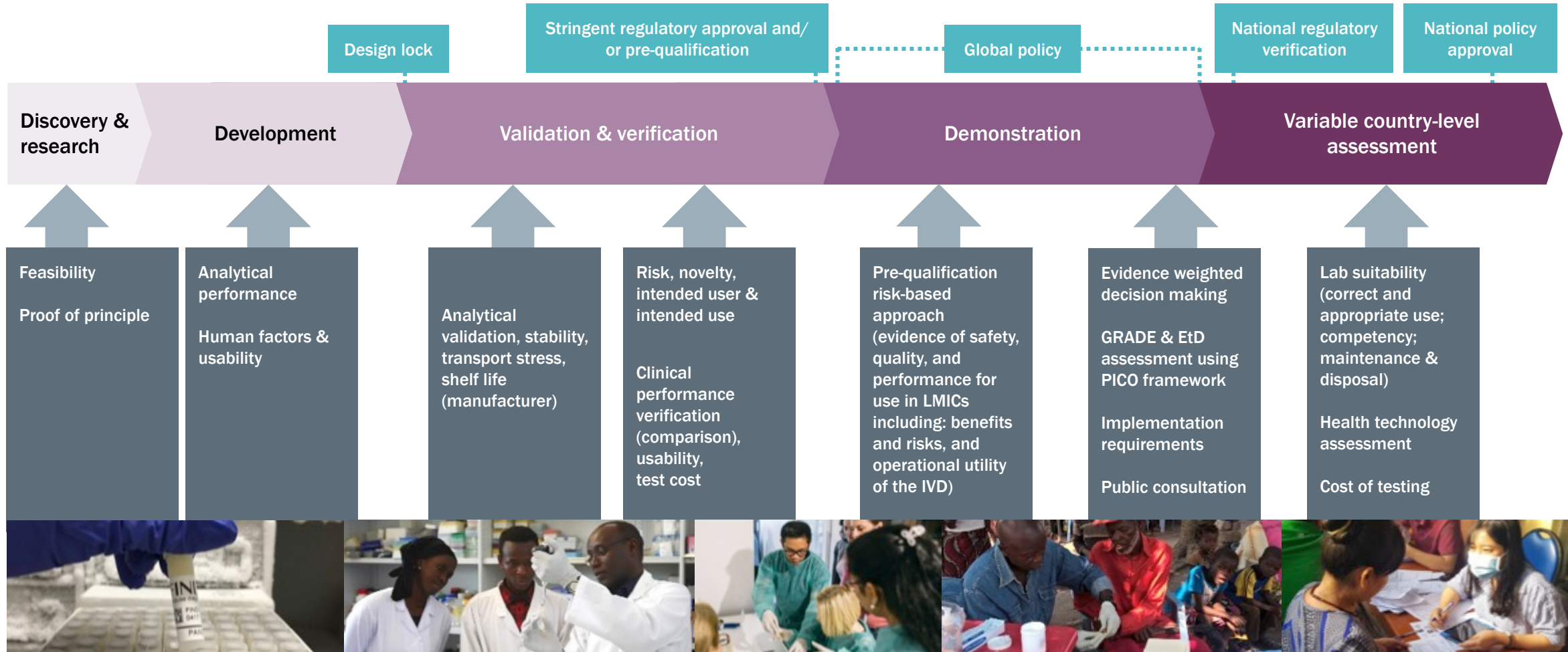
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**FIND  
INDEPENDENT  
EVALUATIONS**



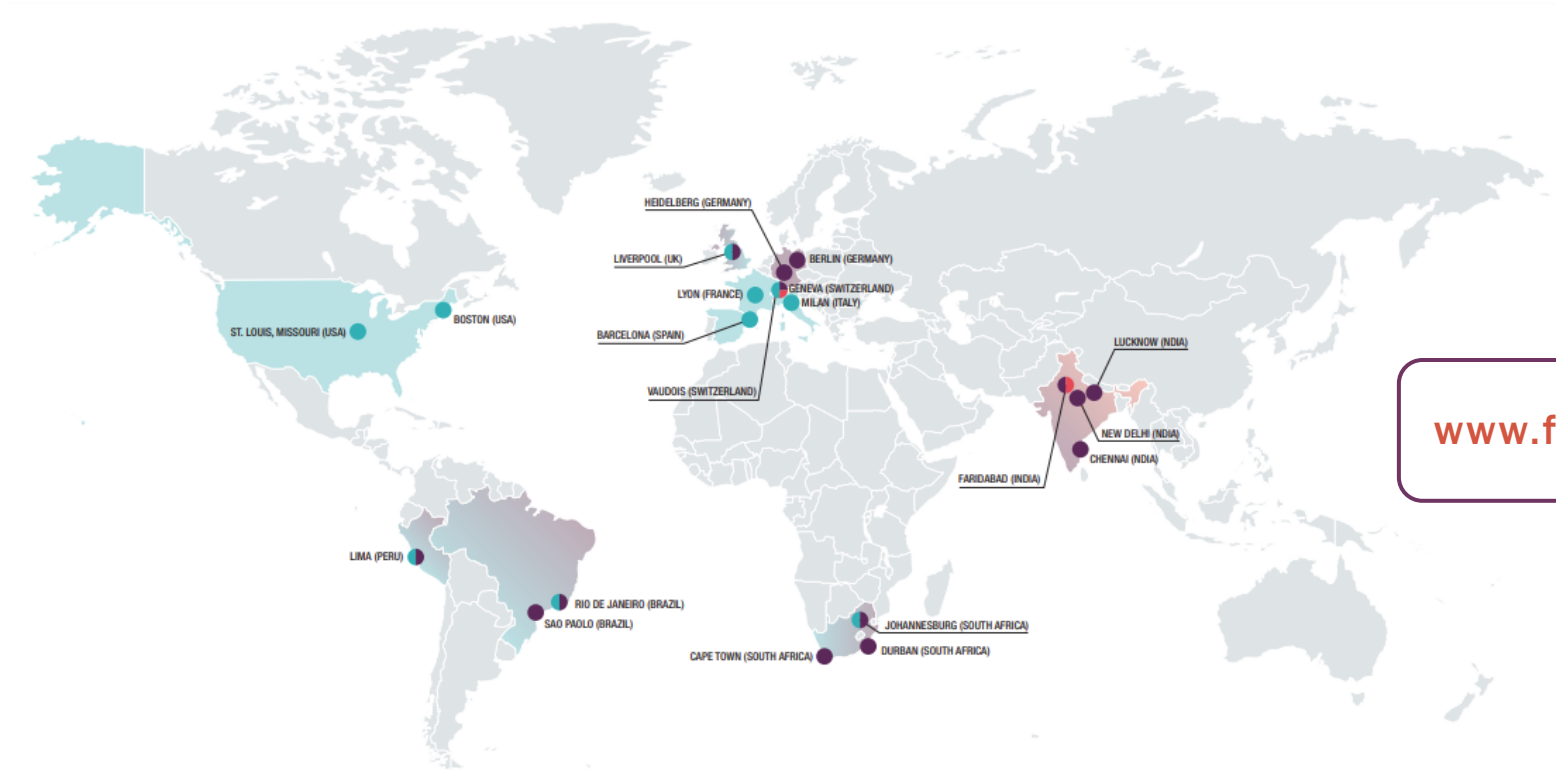


# HIGH-QUALITY STUDIES THROUGHOUT THE DIAGNOSTICS LIFECYCLE, FROM DISCOVERY TO IMPLEMENTATION



Quality assurance – GXP; FIND is ISO 13485 certified

# FIND INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS TO SUPPORT USE OF COVID-19 TESTS



[www.finddx.org/covid-19/sarscov2-eval](http://www.finddx.org/covid-19/sarscov2-eval)

- Antibody rapid test study sites:**
  - Barcelona Institute for Global Health (IS Global) (Spain)
  - BIOASTER Technology Research Institute (BIOASTER) (France)
  - Boston Children's Hospital (BCH) (USA)
  - Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois (CHUV) (Switzerland) – manual ELISA only
  - Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) (UK)
  - Ospedale San Raffaele (OSR) (Italy)
  - Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH) (Peru)
  - Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) (Brazil)
  - University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) (South Africa)
  - Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL) (USA)
- Antigen rapid test study sites:**
  - Apollo Hospitals Chennai and New Delhi (India)
  - Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) (South Africa)
  - Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin (Germany)
  - Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) (UK)
  - King George's Medical University (KGMU) (India)
  - Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) (India)
  - Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH) (Peru)
  - Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) (Brazil)
  - University of Cape Town (UCT) (South Africa)
  - University Hospital Heidelberg (UKHD) (Germany)
  - University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG) (Switzerland)
  - University of Sao Paulo (USP) (Brazil)
  - University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) (South Africa)
- Molecular test study sites:**
  - Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) (India)
  - University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG) (Switzerland)

# FIND INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS MOLECULAR TESTS

## EXAMPLE DATA COLLECTED

	Company	Product name	Product number	Gene target	Verified LOD (copies / reaction)	Avg Ct (lowest dilution 10/10)	Clinical sensitivity (50 positives)	Clinical specificity* (100 negatives)	Lot No.	PCR platform**	Supplier recommended Ct cut-off
1.	altona Diagnostics	RealStar® SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR Kit 1.0	821003/821005	E	1-10	35.45	92% (95%CI: 81, 97)	100% (95%CI: 96, 100)	023567	BioRad CFX96 deep well	None; any signal can be considered positive
				S	1-10	35.99	92% (95%CI: 81, 97)	100% (95%CI: 96, 100)			
2.	Atila BioSystems Inc.	Atila iAMP COVID-19 Detection (isothermal detection)	iAMP-COVID-100-RUO	ORF1ab	50-100	N/A	100% (95%CI: 93, 100)	99%* (95%CI: 95, 100)	COVID20200320	BioRad CFX96 deep well	Any signal is considered positive (isothermal)
				N	1-10	N/A	100% (95%CI: 93, 100)	100% (95%CI: 96, 100)			
3.	Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy Enterprise Co. Ltd	Wantai SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR Kit	WS-1248	ORF1ab	1-10	36.20	100% (95%CI: 93, 100)	100% (95%CI: 96, 100)	nCoV20200305	BioRad CFX96 deep well	≤40
				N	1-10	37.12	100% (95%CI: 93, 100)	100% (95%CI: 96, 100)			
4.	BGI Health (HK) Co. Ltd	Real-time Fluorescent RT-PCR kit for detection 2019-nCoV (CE-IVD)	MFG030010	ORF1	1-10	32.43	100% (95%CI: 93, 100)	99%* (95%CI: 95, 100)	6220200305	Roche LightCycler 480	≤38
5.	bioMérieux SA	ARGENE® SARS-COV-2 R-GENE®[b]	423720 (CE-IVD) 423717	N	10-50	36.44	100% (95%CI: 93, 100)	100% (95%CI: 96, 100)	1007989610 1007947520	BioRad CFX96 deep well	Any signal considered as positive

### Objectives

- Verify analytical sensitivity
- Determine clinical performance

### Study design

- Retrospective study using remnant, clinical samples

### Status

- Conducted between Feb and Aug 2020 (Europe, Asia)
- Total # tests included: N = 22 manual PCR, N = 2 platform-based tests
- Ongoing work to assess performance against new VOCs

# FIND INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS ANTIBODY TESTS

## SENSITIVITY & SPECIFICITY ESTIMATES OBTAINED



[www.finddx.org/covid-19/sarscov2-eval](http://www.finddx.org/covid-19/sarscov2-eval)

### Objective

- Determine clinical performance

### Study design

- Retrospective study using remnant, clinical samples

### Status

- Conducted from Q2 2020 to Q1–2021 in 10 sites (Europe, N America, S America, Africa)
- Total # tests included: N = 35 RDTs, N = 16 ELISAs

# FIND INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS

## ANTIGEN RDTs

### EXAMPLE RESULTS: STANDARD Q COVID-19 AG TESTS (SD BIOSENSOR)

#### Clinical performance

Country	Brazil	Germany	Switzerland
Clinical Sensitivity (95% CI); N	88.7% (81.3, 93.4); 106	76.6% (62.8, 86.4); 47*	89% (83.8, 92.7); 191
Sensitivity days $\leq 7$ , N	90.7% (83.3, 95.0); 97	80% (64.1, 90.1); 35	89.8% (84.4, 93.4); 176
Sensitivity Ct $\leq 33$ , N	91.9% (84.9, 95.9); 99	87.8% (74.5, 94.7); 41	91.8% (86.9, 95); 183
Sensitivity Ct $\leq 25$ , N	95.9% (86.3, 98.9); 49	100% (84.5, 100); 21	97.2% (92.9, 98.9); 141
Clinical Specificity (95% CI), N	97.6% (95.2, 98.8); 294	99.3% (98.6, 99.6); 1216	99.7% (98.3, 99.9); 338
Invalid rate (%; n/N)	0%, 0/400	0%, 0/1263	0%, 0/529

*\*Note: 40/47 positives were tested using Roche, 5/47 positives were tested using Seegene and 2/47 were tested using TibMolbiol.*

#### Analytical performance

	Lowest dilution detected	Corrected concentration	Viral Copy equivalence	Supplier-reported LOD
Analytical Sensitivity	$5.0 \times 10^3$ pfu/ml ~ $7.14 \times 10^3$ TCID <sub>50</sub> /ml	$7.58 \times 10^2$ pfu/ml	$1.15 \times 10^6$ copies/ml applied to test	$1.25 \times 10^{3.2}$ TCID <sub>50</sub> /ml ~ $1.39 \times 10^3$ pfu/ml

*Note: corrected concentration accounts for volume of dilution that is absorbed onto the swab and then diluted into the proprietary extraction buffer.*

#### Objectives

- Verify analytical sensitivity
- Determine clinical performance

#### Study design

- Prospective study

#### Status

- Ongoing in 9 sites (Europe, South America, Africa, Asia)
- Total # tests included: N = 23

**FIND** 



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## THE ANTIGEN RDT SUCCESS STORY

# ANTIGEN RDTs ARE AN EASY-TO-USE, AFFORDABLE COMPLEMENT TO MOLECULAR TESTING

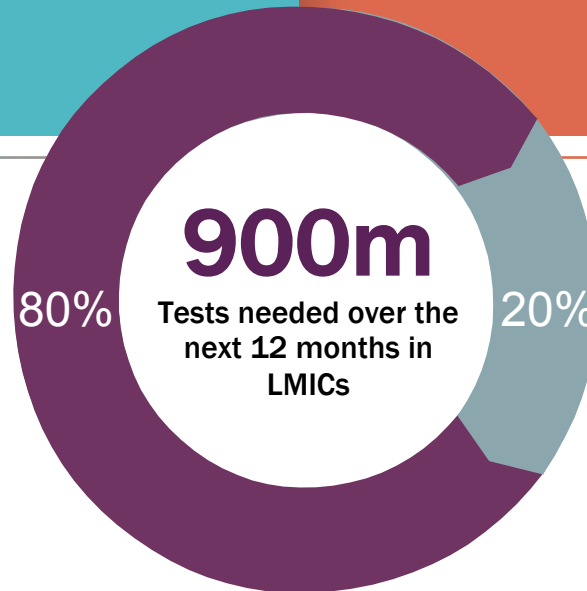
## Antigen RDTs

Used for early detection, patient management and surveillance

## Molecular tests (PCR)

Used for patient management

- + Rapid turnaround: under 30 min
- Lower accuracy
- + Administered at point-of-care or home settings
- + Can be scaled with appropriate funding
- + More affordable



- Slow turnaround: often 48h+
- + High accuracy
- Require labs & trained health workers
- Challenging to rapidly scale in LMICs
- More expensive

*Note: The estimated test split was informed by the necessary trade-off between testing accuracy, speed to result, ease of use and affordability and was calculated based on four use cases (triage and confirmation of symptomatic severe cases, triage and confirmation of symptomatic mild cases, triage of asymptomatic at-risk cases and surveillance of asymptomatic cases). For patient triage, it is assumed that a split of 85% RDT (preferably Ag) and 15% molecular will be used; for surveillance, it is assumed that only antibody RDTs are used; antibody RDTs can be substituted with ELISA.*

# WHO TARGET PRODUCT PROFILE (TPP) FOR ANTIGEN RDTS

KEY FEATURE	ACCEPTABLE	DESIRABLE
Target use setting	Outside laboratories	Self-administered, or by trained lay workers
Clinical sensitivity	≥80% (initially >70%)	≥90% (initially >80%)
Clinical specificity	≥97%	≥99%
Specimen type	NP, OP, nasal (mid-turbinate), sputum	Nasal (anterior nares), saliva/oral
Time to result	≤40 mins	≤20 mins
Test kit stability	12 mos at 4–30 °C	18–24 mos at 4–40 °C
Need for equipment	Handheld or benchtop	Not required

For a point-of-care test for suspected COVID-19 cases and their close contacts, to diagnose acute SARS-CoV-2 infection in areas where reference assay testing is unavailable, or turnaround times obviate its clinical utility

*Source: WHO Target product profiles for priority diagnostics to support response to the COVID-19 pandemic v.1.0. First published 31 July 2021; revised 28 September 2021*



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Target use setting	Outside laboratories	Self-administered, or by trained lay workers
Clinical sensitivity	≥80% (initially >70%)	≥90% (initially >80%)
Clinical specificity	≥97%	≥99%
Specimen type	NP, OP, nasal (mid-turbinate), sputum	Nasal (anterior nares), saliva/oral
Time to result	≤40 mins	≤20 mins
Test kit stability	12 mos at 4–30 °C	18–24 mos at 4–40 °C
Need for equipment	Handheld or benchtop	Not required



## FIND independent evaluation of products that have received WHO EUL

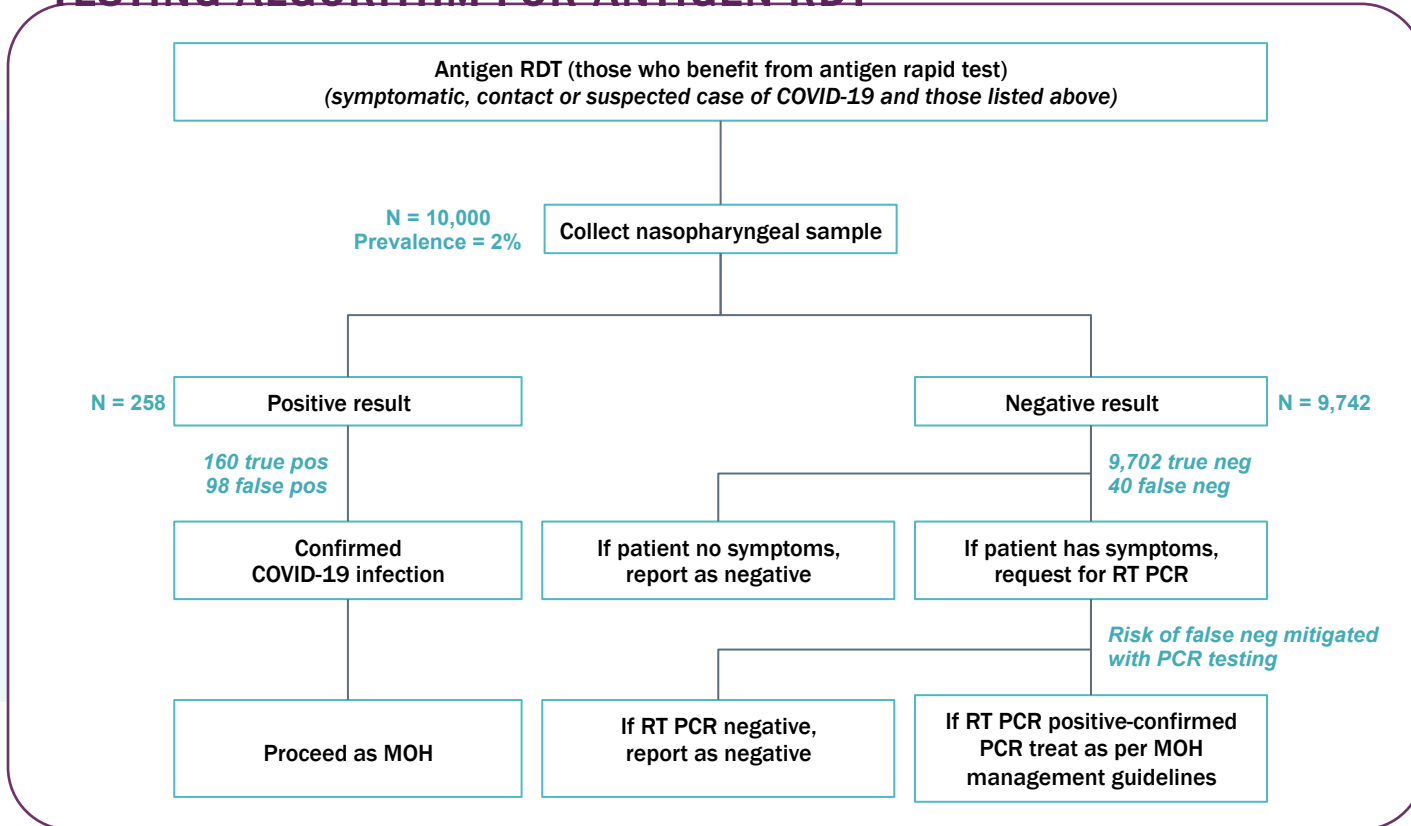
TEST	CLIN. SENS. %	CLIN. SPEC %
Abbott (Panbio)	85-91 [88-93]	>99
SD Biosensor (STANDARD Q)	77-89 [88-92]	>99
PMC (Sure Status)	91 [94]	>97

Only studies from same sites included (CH, DE). Range provided for various sites. [#] denotes sensitivity for Ct<33. Only specimens under EUL included. Detailed reports can be found at: [www.finddx.org/sarscov2-eval-antigen/](http://www.finddx.org/sarscov2-eval-antigen/)

Source: WHO Target product profiles for priority diagnostics to support response to the COVID-19 pandemic v.1.0. First published 31 July 2021; revised 28 September 2021

# ANTIGEN RDTs AS SCREENING TOOLS IN DIAGNOSTIC ALGORITHMS

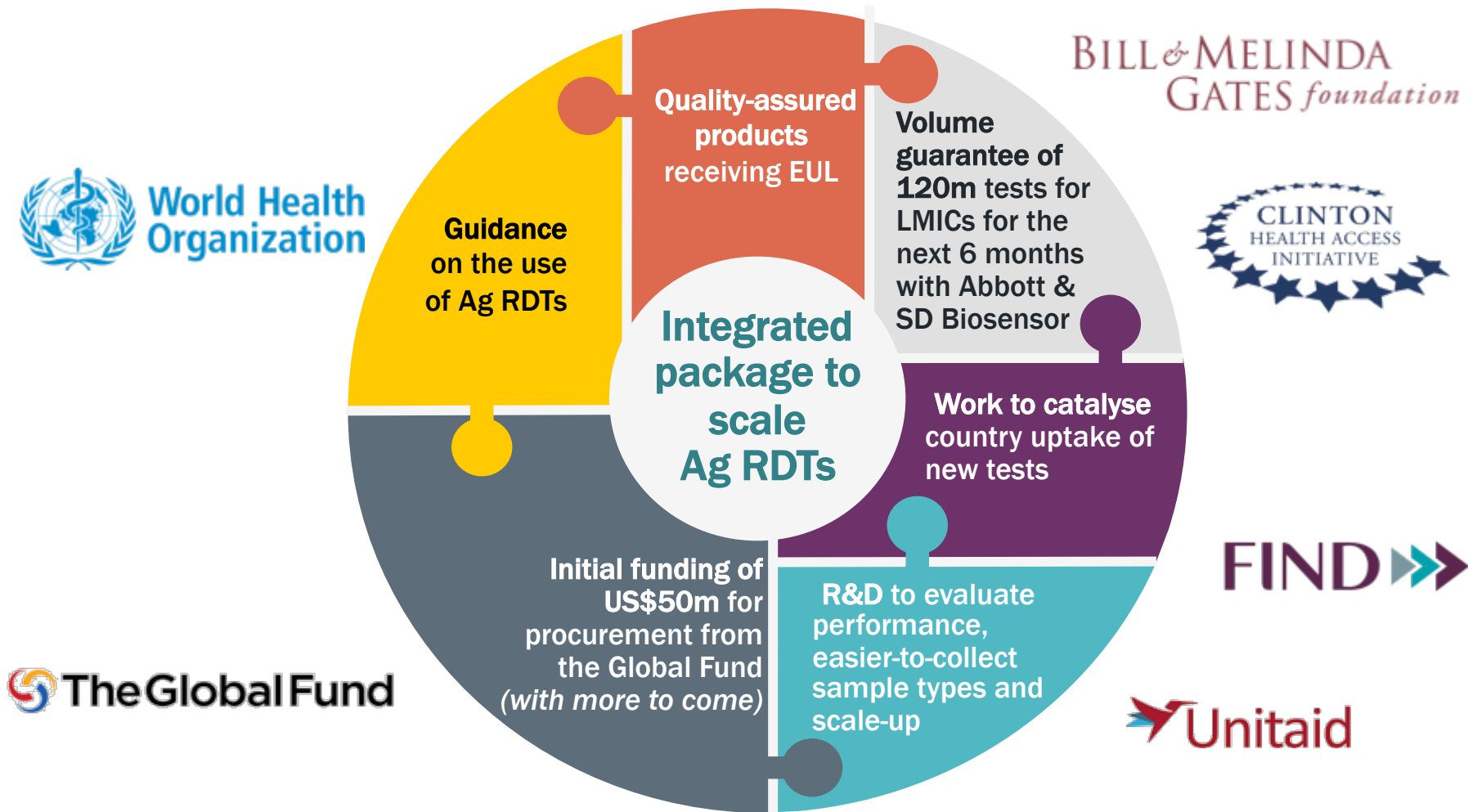
## TESTING ALGORITHM FOR ANTIGEN RDT



- With Ag RDT screening and PCR confirmation, most of the positives (2%) can be identified early, isolated, and treated
- 97% of the population can resume economic activity
- Serial testing could mitigate false positivity challenge
- Alternate testing strategies entail a long time to result leading to ineffective follow-up action and high costs<sup>1</sup>

Source: Country MOH guidelines, representative of most national guidelines for COVID-19 testing;  
1. Further evidence generation is required for data-driven advocacy

# ACT-ACCELERATOR ENABLED ACCESS PACKAGE OF TWO WHO-APPROVED ANTIGEN RDTs BY SEPTEMBER 2020



ACT-ACCELERATOR EO1  
**IMPROVE ACCESS TO ANTIGEN RDTs  
 FOR LMICS**



Accelerating development and market entry of improved, quality-assured SARS-CoV-2 antigen RDTs for expanded use in LMICs

Rapidly creating the supply conditions (manufacturing capacity, diversity of supplier base, affordability) to meet the needs of LMICs

# EOI FOLLOWED A COMPRESSED TIMELINE

## FIRST CONTRACTS FINALIZED IN DECEMBER 2020



**100+ applications received**

1. 30+ reviewed by independent panel of external experts
2. 5–7 discussed in detail by Investment Committee
3. 4 finalists with signed contracts

# INVESTMENTS REFLECTED TWO EOI GOALS

Initial investments finalized: US\$2.50/test including price matching agreement and larger supplier base in Q1 2021

**Short-term:** investments in R&D and tech transfer agreements for lower-cost tests; continued utility improvements with shift to nasal & clearer temperature stability

Global supply of \$2.50/test starting Q1 2021, with volumes available of 20M tests/month by Q3 2021

**Long-term:** strengthening local manufacturing capacity & support for product transfer

Capacity expansion to 80M tests/year (LMICs)



**Premier Medical Corporation (PMC)**  
Investment in manufacturing capacity expansion and automation to scale up low-cost production in exchange for ensured access pricing and test volume for LMICs



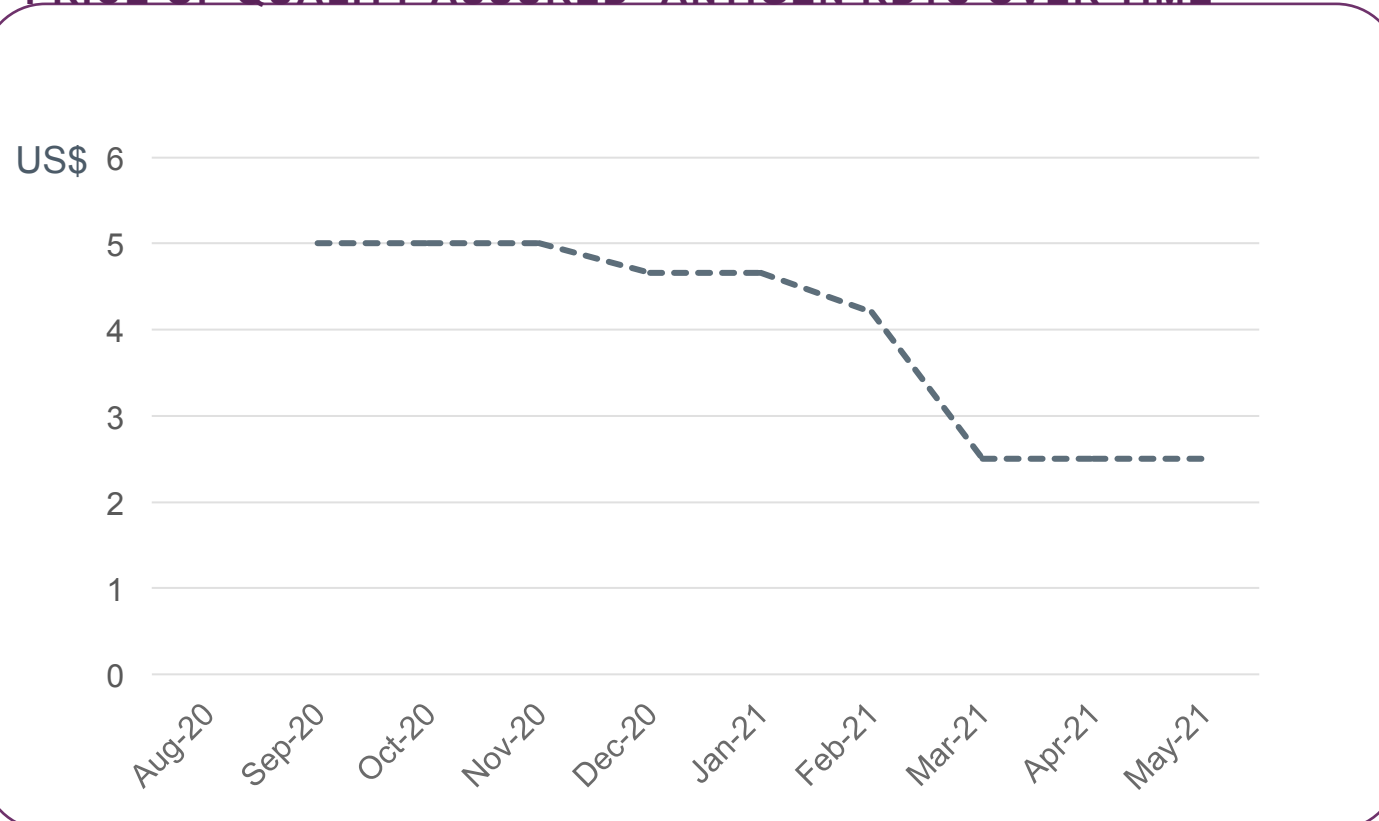
Partnership between established US RDT developer and local Brazilian manufacturer for tech transfer, focusing on LatAm region



Partnership between West African manufacturer and British manufacturer for technology transfer

# ACTIVE INTERVENTIONS HAVE LOWERED THE PRICE OF QUALITY-ASSURED ANTIGEN RDTS FOR LMICS

PRICE OF QUALITY-ASSURED\* ANTIGEN RDTS OVER TIME



\*WHO Emergency Use Listed

Source: Diagnostics Consortium for COVID data as 27 April 2021

### R&D investments

- Investments in local manufacturing and automation to increase efficiency to scale capacity

### Market-shaping interventions

- Coordination negotiations across procurement organizations
- Investments in key suppliers and support for regulatory processes increased number of high-quality suppliers in the market

### Policy guidance and development

- Support to generate new policy guidance and rapid uptake of products to ensure adequate pull in the market

# MAIN RESEARCH TOPICS REMAINING FOR ANTIGEN RDTs

## Technology R&D

Less invasive sample types to increase access

*Is there enough Ag in saliva?*

*Is it complexed with antibodies?*

Impact of VOCs in performance

*Is there selective pressure for N mutations at immunodominant epitopes?*

Need for standards to enable performance comparisons, lot release, and in-country QC

Improved shelf-life to facilitate implementation in harsher environments (e.g. >30°C)

Improved analytical sensitivity (better antibodies, novel detection schemes)

## Implementation studies and operational research

Evidence generation in-country to support policy development

Frequent testing with antigen RDTs to enable a robust test-trace-isolate strategy and support lifting restrictions

Expanded use cases in non-traditional healthcare settings (border crossings, pharmacies, workplaces)



**FIND** 

**THANK YOU**

