

Viral Load SMS-Rwanda

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CQUIN 6th Annual Meeting
December 6 – 9, 2022 | Durban, South Africa



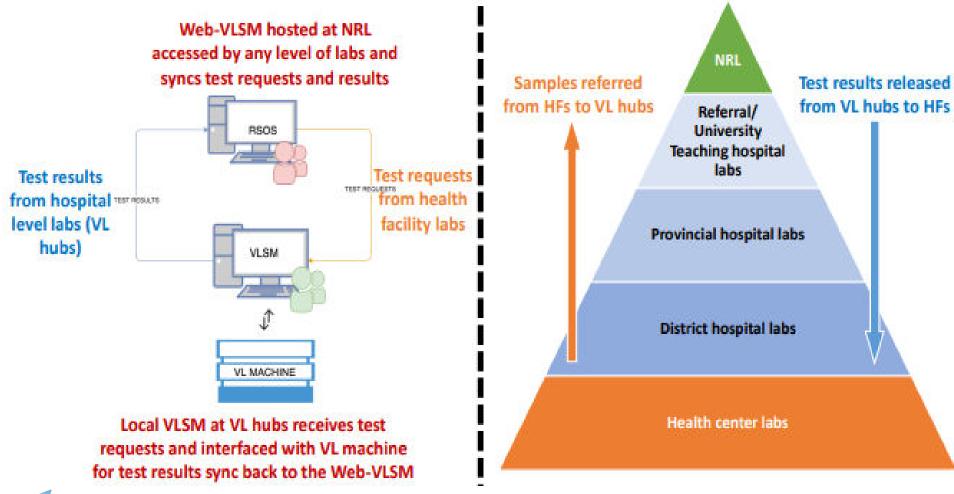
Background



- VLSM is an open-source LIS that supports the sample tracking from test request to the return of test results for: HIV VL, Early Infant Diagnosis (EID) and Hepatitis samples.
- Established e-system for the decentralized VL hubs and hosted at the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) Division of the Rwanda Biomedical Center.
- NRL is mandated among other functions to oversee national laboratory network service delivery and quality assurance of testing in public health programs, surveillance and response.

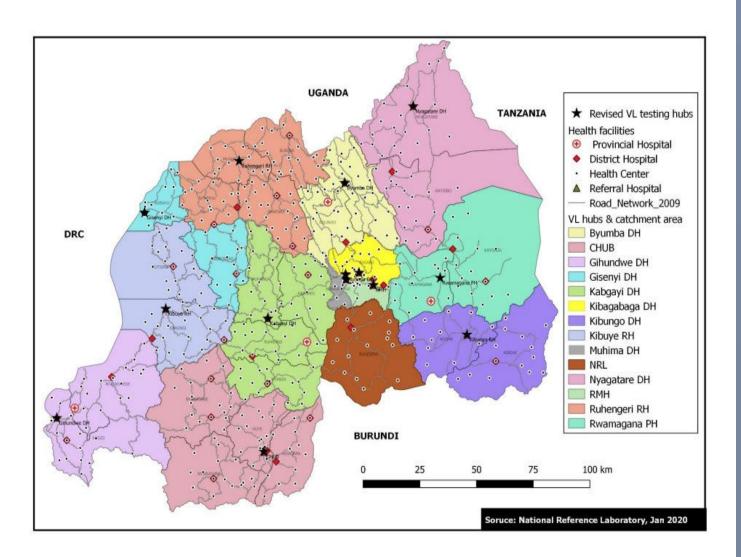


VLSM Architecture and Tiered Lab Network





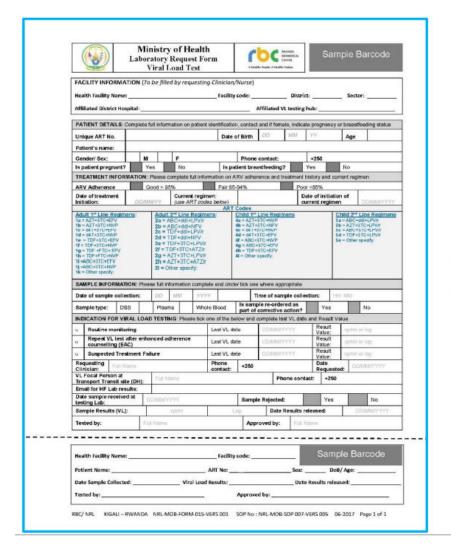
Map of VL Testing Hubs and Service Catchement Area



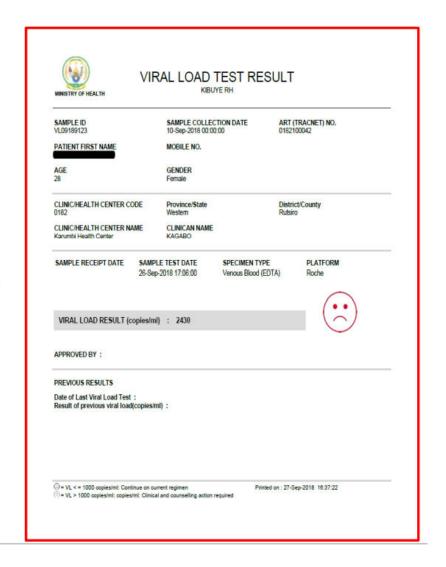
- 2020: 9 Hubs
- Current mapping: 16 functional hubs.
- Kigali: 6 hubs, East: 4 hubs, west: 3hubs, North: 1hub, South: 2 hubs
- Following diagnostic network optimization exercise and implementation plan under way additional hubs will be established



VLSM Lab request and VL test result formats

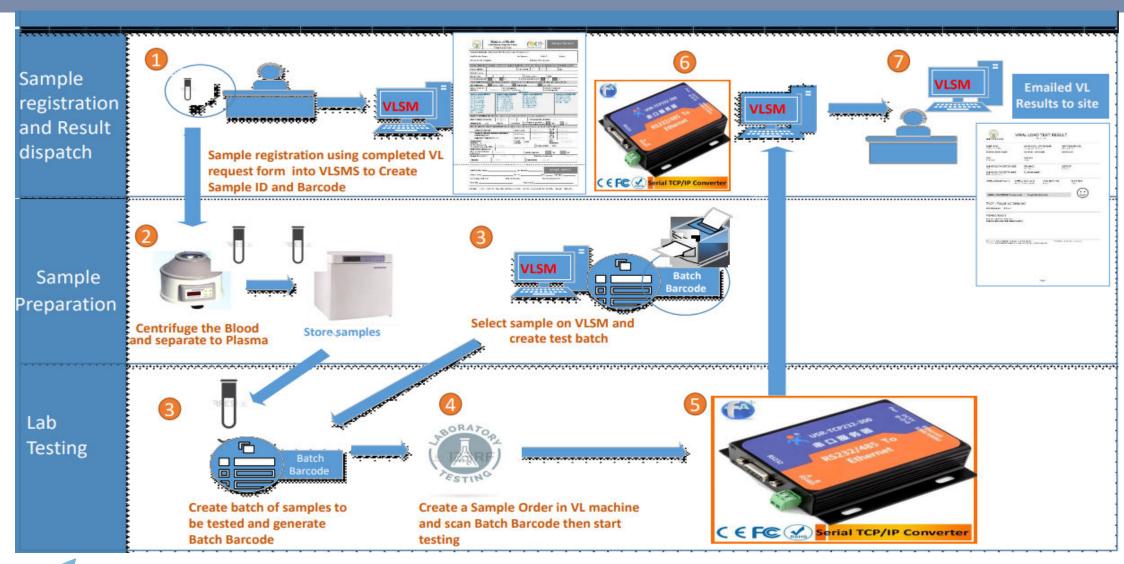








VLSM Workflow for VL sample Registration and Result Management





DEMO

https://vlsms.rbc.gov.rw/

https://vldashboard.rbc.gov.rw/

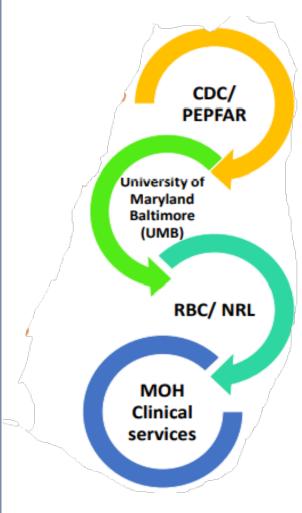


Progress and Achievements

- 100% sites have access and utilizing VLSM for lab service delivery.
- 414 sites were trained which include 1 nurse and 1 lab staff per site.
- Documents were developed to support VLSM implementation (System validation, Job aides, Training manual, SOPs).
- Automated workflow process from sample collection to timely return of results with reduced TAT from 60 days to <7days (min 3days)
- Developed instrument interfacing solution to replace manual transfer of results from VL machine into VLSM (Roche and Abbott platforms).
- Developed VL dashboard and validation for routine use in monitoring and continuous quality improvement of VL testing services to meet optimal testing coverage and program outcomes.



Implementation timeline and Partnerships – CONT'D



CDC/PEPFAR: Support programmatic, strategic and technical guidance and planning of the VLSM implementation

ICAP: Provides TA to RBC/NRL staff for VLSM development, enhancements and implementation processing (replaced UMB)

RBC: Coordinate and implement plans and routine technical support to VL hubs and End-users at site levels

MOH CS: Provide resources to sites for infrastructure, equipment and End-users to access and utilize VLSM in lab-clinical services



Challenges

- Intermittent internet connectivity
- Capacity building for above site support staff such as NRL in system enhancement or upgrade of the VLSM
- Covers few lab services/ modules as its limited to HIV services
- Interoperability with other e-health systems for cost effective provision and delivery of laboratory services in the healthcare infrastructure
- Limited resources for IT hardware and replacement/ repair at site levels



Lessons Learnt

- Joint planning with program managers and strong partnerships to support rapid implementation of the VLSM solution to improve VL testing coverage
- Started VLSM for HIV VL testing but evolved to a modular platform with add-on such as EID and Hepatitis
- Encouraged and established tools to regularly gather and review End-user feedback to guide and modify implementation approaches
- Site uptake was motivated by timely return of results and system adopted to the sample referral network and testing workflow suiting End-user's needs and experience.
- Initial investment in IT equipment, and training of End-users; no need for license renewal costs but need continued investment in system enhancements and remote support to End-users
- Plan resources for site support visits, replacement/ maintenance of hardware and internet connectivity for users at primary site or in resource limited settings facilitate users to work at hospitals



Next Steps

- Enhancing the VLSM platform to have mobile applications for site with poor connectivity (allows for offline entry and ad-hoc use then sync later).
- Health information interoperability and data system integration including dashboards, DHIS2 tracker and CBS digital platform (RHIES & OpenMRS)
- More modules into the VLSM to cover other lab services offered in the lab network
- Making data available for use and strategic interventions or quality improvement by program managers, policy makers and Data governance, security, privacy and confidentiality



Acknowledgements

PEPFAR, Center for Disease Control

ICAP-Rwanda

National Reference Laboratory, Rwanda Biomedical Centre, Ministry of Health





Thank you!

