Title: CDC Works with Cambodia and Zimbabwe to Improve Laboratories

On-screen graphic: PEPFAR logo

On-screen text: The U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief funds the SLMTA (Strengthening Laboratory Management Toward Accreditation) program through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

On-screen graphic: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Logo

On-screen text: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

On-screen text: Uong Huot. Laboratory System Analyst – CDC Cambodia

Uong Huot speaks:

The Cambodia Laboratory Quality Management System was adapted from the SLMTA program.

CDC helped the Cambodian Health Ministry implement this program for 9 years, which led to the international accreditation of the National Public Health Laboratory in 2019.

This lab is one of 38 government clinical labs participating in Cambodia’s quality management program,

and is now playing a major role in the national COVID-19 response.

It is being used for COVID-19 testing and also to train, mentor, and assess work done in other COVID testing labs.

Cambodia has 16 COVID-19 testing labs nationwide, most of which are under the Cambodia quality management program.

On-screen text: Prisca Chikwanda. Laboratory Branch Chief – CDC Zimbabwe

Prisca speaks:

For more than 2 decades, CDC has been supporting the Government of Zimbabwe, through collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child Care, to improve the quality of laboratory systems.

Implementing SLMTA was instrumental in seven labs attaining and maintaining international accreditation, with many more making improvements towards accreditation.

When COVID-19 emerged, we had a systematic approach in establishing quality testing processes.

The culture of mentoring and continual improvement was already set across our labs.

This allowed for rapid adaptation to establish a national testing network for the pandemic response.

We were better prepared for COVID-19 thanks to the support from SLMTA.

On-screen text: To learn more about CDC’s global health work, please visit www.cdc.gov/globalhealth. Follow @CDCGlobal on social media.