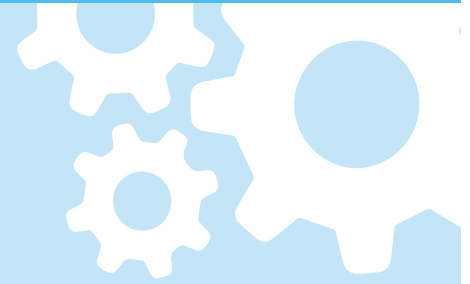


# UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

## 1-2-3-4 DIAGNOSTICS EQUITY IS AT THE CORE



### 1

#### THE HARD FACTS

##### *Did you know:*

- Less than 20% of people in low and middle income countries have access to **essential diagnostics**. But bridging the diagnostics gap could reduce more than 1 million premature deaths each year.<sup>1</sup>
- The introduction of **HIV self-testing** in family planning clinics in Zimbabwe increased testing coverage from less than 1% to 64% within 3 months.<sup>2</sup>
- More than an estimated 3 million people went undiagnosed for **TB** in 2022. <sup>3</sup>
- The majority of people with **hypertension** in sub-Saharan Africa are not aware of their condition.
- More than half of people estimated with **diabetes** in Africa are undiagnosed.<sup>4</sup>
- The vast majority of women in sub-Saharan Africa with breast or cervical **cancer** receive late-stage diagnoses leading to survival rates that are half of those in high-income countries.<sup>5</sup>

### 2

#### THE CHALLENGE

*At a civil society consultation<sup>6</sup> held on the sidelines of United Nations global health meetings, the message was clear: we need to work collectively to...*

- **Break the silos:** between disease areas and global health sectors to drive a coordinated, cohesive agenda for the development and integrated core priority packages of diagnostics and imaging that address health needs in a range of countries and contexts.
- **Build awareness** of key issues and global health actors in the diagnostics landscape at the global and national level among civil society with a proven track record of shaping plans, policies, and approaches.
- **Bring voices** of an informed civil society voice to conversations with industry and global health stakeholders active in the diagnostics arenas to convey local priorities, discuss updates and proposed directions and identify pathways for change at the international level as well as national level.

1. Fleming K et al. *The Lancet Commission on diagnostics: transforming access to diagnostics* *The Lancet*, Vol. 398, No. 10315 (October 6, 2021). [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)00673-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)00673-5)

2. *Integration of HIV testing and linkage in family planning and contraception services: implementation brief*. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2021. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

3. *Global tuberculosis report 2023*. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2023. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

4. World Health Organization (2022). *African region tops world in undiagnosed diabetes: WHO analysis*. <https://www.afro.who.int/news/african-region-tops-world-undiagnosed-diabetes-who-analysis>

5. World Health Organization (2022). *Addressing inequities in breast cancer treatment in sub-Saharan Africa*. <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/addressing-inequities-in-breast-cancer-treatment-in-sub-saharan-africa--insights-from-a-breast-cancer-surgeon-in-nairobi>

6. *Consultation: Diagnostics, equity and access*. *The Diagnostics Equity Consortium (DEC), an effort of the Pan-African Treatment Access Movement (PATAM) and the Center for Global Health Policy and Politics at Georgetown University, the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), FIND, and the Open Society Foundations (OSF), and brought together civil society and communities in September 2023.*

## 3

## THE CALL TO ACTION

*The civil society consultation resulted in calls for different actors, including ourselves:*

### WE WANT GOVERNMENTS TO:

- Identify a **national priority package of diagnostics and imaging** for each healthcare level and National Essential Diagnostics list based on the national health needs.<sup>7</sup>
- Establish a multi-year **national diagnostics strategy** with measurable goals including diagnostics/imaging availability for each healthcare level and hold annual reviews of progress
- Commit to **decentralization** of diagnostics: greater emphasis on self testing, greater access to diagnostics at the primary health care level and below, and greater availability of diagnostics at pharmacies.

### WE WANT GLOBAL HEALTH ACTORS AND DONORS TO:

- **Support synergies** between disease-specific initiatives and cross-cutting and equity-centric diagnostic needs.
- **Reform** pandemic initiatives to expand sole focus on national reference labs to improve the diagnostics system down to the primary health care level.
- **Support** civil society-led action to ensure accountability, introduction, and equitable access to diagnostics and imaging.

### WE WANT INDUSTRY TO:

- Commit to developing **suitable products** that are innovative, affordable, people centric, less invasive, easier to administer, and multiplex (one specimen for multiple disease) when possible.
- Commit to **fair pricing** and service/maintenance, patent, licensing policies and caps on otherwise high markups by local distributors.
- **Register products in LMICs**, prioritizing countries where clinical trials took place.

### AND AS CIVIL SOCIETY WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO:

- Increase our **diagnostic literacy** by educating ourselves and each other.
- **Create accountability mechanisms and strategies** to ensure equitable access to diagnostics and bridge the 'diagnostics gap' across diseases.

1. Resolution WHA76.5. Strengthening Diagnostics Capacity. In: Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly, Geneva, 21-30 May 2023. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2023. [https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/E7152/B152\(6\)-en.pdf](https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/E7152/B152(6)-en.pdf)

## 4

## THE OPPORTUNITY

*Join the conversation—for change*

Contact the Diagnostics Equity Consortium (DEC) to explore these issues and participate in “diagnostic study clubs” where stakeholders from diverse areas of focus engage in peer-to-peer learning towards building and advancing the action agenda above:

To join the e-discussion, email: [onDEC+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:onDEC+subscribe@googlegroups.com)

To join the mailing list for events announcements, email: [diagnosticsequity+subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:diagnosticsequity+subscribe@googlegroups.com)

Send questions or comments to: [info@diagnosticsequity.org](mailto:info@diagnosticsequity.org)

Check out the website for updates: [www.diagnosticsequity.org](http://www.diagnosticsequity.org)

LEARN MORE



CENTER for GLOBAL HEALTH  
POLICY & POLITICS

The Center for Global Health Policy & Politics is a partnership between Georgetown University's O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law and the School of Health.

DEC is hosted by the Pan-African Treatment Access Movement (PATAM) and the Center for Global Health Policy & Politics at Georgetown University's O'Neill Institute.