Title: CDC Works with Cameroon and Dominican Republic 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: Dr. Emily Kainne Dokubo, MD, MPH. Country Director – CDC Cameroon

Dr. Dokubo speaks:

Thanks to support from SLMTA, a CDC-led initiative to improve laboratory quality, five labs in Cameroon received international accreditation before the COVID-19 pandemic began.

These were the first labs in Cameroon and the first in Central Africa to receive ISO 15189 accreditation, the highest internationally recognized standard for laboratory quality.

When COVID-19 overwhelmed lab capacity and delayed HIV viral load testing by over a month

We were able to leverage capacity developed through the SLMTA program to resolve the backlog of samples for testing, enhance our use of equipment, extend hours of operation

And facilitate effective communication to improve the public health system.

On-screen text: Hilda Rosario, MT. Laboratory Specialist - CDC Dominican Republic

Hilda Rosario speaks:

When the virus that causes COVID-19 reached the Dominican Republic, laboratories were better prepared to face the pandemic thanks to lessons learned from years of FOGELA (SLMTA) training and mentoring.

With support from CDC and funding from PEPFAR, labs improved their accuracy, productivity, workflow, and safety.

Technical assistance provided by the CDC team through the FOGELA program, helped bring order and organization to labs and hospitals in the Dominican Republic.

The trainings and enhanced skills also helped develop efficient ways to test COVID-19 samples and guarantee high quality services without interruption.

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