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# Technical Specifications and Laboratory Procurement:

## PRACTICAL ISSUES

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**For better health worldwide.**

# Focus of this presentation:

- Highlighting selected challenges for countries
- Stimulating open discussion on challenges and practical issues to be considered by AMDS, WHO and others



# Global technical guidelines – Challenges for Countries

- How to adopt or adapt guidelines for country use
- How do guidelines fit in with existing country health policies and plans
- Organization of health care system – integrated v vertical
- Suggested test profile v Basic health care package requirements

# Procurement and commodity management challenges

- Planning and proper selection
- Product eligibility across donors
- Sources of funding and procurement systems
- Quantification – nationally and at local sites
  - Consumption v morbidity based methods
  - Software
- Inventory management and control
- Warehouse management, storage and distribution
- QA and QC



# Management Capacity and Systems Support

- Leadership and advocacy
- Lab premises and infrastructure
- Budget
- Trained and motivated staff
- Information systems
- QA and supervision
- M and E
- Logistics and transport
- Maintenance

# Building HR Capacity in Commodity Management



# Example from Kenya

## Program Objective

- Improve the knowledge, skills and practices of facility-based staff in laboratory equipment and supply chain management

## Expected result

- Effective systems for continuous supply of all laboratory commodities required to provide HIV/AIDS diagnostic and monitoring services

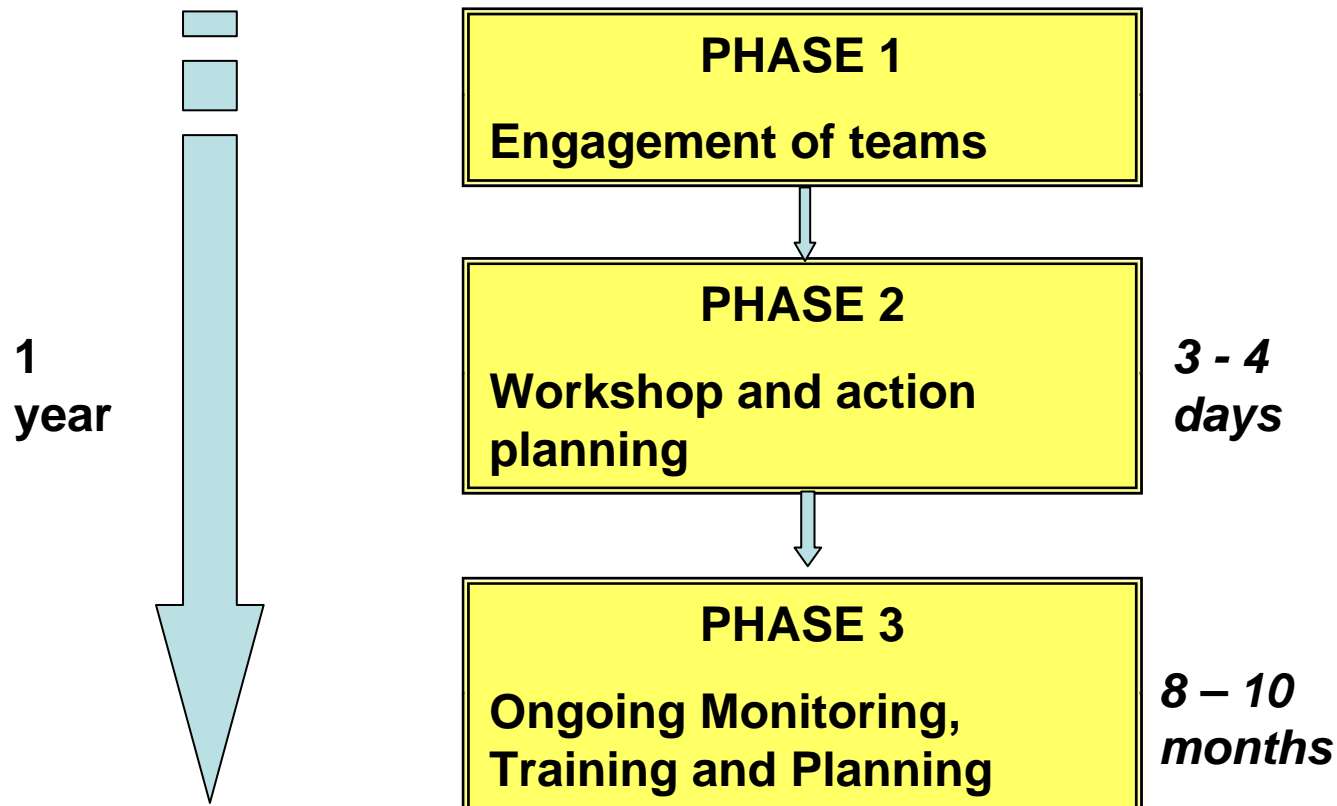
# Target Audience

- Health Facility Teams –  
all those responsible for laboratory  
commodity management

## TYPICAL TEAM :

- *Hospital administrator*
- *Stores / Procurement Officer(s)*
- *Pharmacist or pharmacy technician*
- *Laboratory manager (in charge)*
- *Laboratory technician (responsible for quantifying and ordering commodities)*

# Program structure



# Phase 1 - Engagement

- Site visits to health facilities
- Meetings with management and staff responsible for equipment and supply management
- Explain objectives and program design
- Obtain commitment for team participation
- Baseline situation analysis and data collection

# Phase 2 - Workshop

- Workshop - central feature of the program
- Attended by health facility teams – committed to active participation
- Team members learn to work and plan together
- Teams learn from each other

*Three modules include specific time for*

- Knowledge transfer
- Identifying challenges
- Setting priorities
- Action planning

# Workshop content

## ***Module 1:***

- The HIV epidemic and role of the laboratory
- Test profiles, associated equipment and supplies
- Sources of technical and financial support

## ***Module 2:***

- Current practices, roles, responsibilities and challenges in commodity management
- Inventory management, record-keeping and quantification at facility level
- Storage, handling and disposal of lab supplies

## ***Module 3:***

- Preparing team action plans

# Follow-up Program

Weekly onsite implementation team meetings

Weekly e-mail, phone, or fax contact:

Facilitator to teams

- Team progress reports to facilitator

5 x one-day sessions for teams, at 6–8 week intervals:

***Monitor progress:***

- Report on activities
- Report on & analyze data collected for this session

***Training:***

- Review and reinforce basic skills as required

***Planning:***

- Define goal and tasks for next period
- Identify data collection required and perform data collection

# Challenges

- Continuity of teams and participants
- Need to build capacity at national/provincial as well as local level
- Need for full pipe line
- Need to emphasize basic aspects of good commodity management
- Use of national inventory management tools
- Introducing the electronic tool
- Institutionalizing the whole process at provincial and facility level

# Open Discussion

