

Diagnosis, the missing key to health

FIND is a global non-profit organization that drives innovation in the development and delivery of diagnostics to combat major diseases affecting the world's poorest populations.

Diagnostics often do not exist, are inaccessible, or cost too much. Despite being pivotal for guiding the best treatment for individual patients; for preventing the spread of disease and antimicrobial resistance; and for enhancing surveillance for early disease detection and monitoring – diagnostics remain under-resourced and overlooked.

We are the only WHO Collaborating Centre in diagnostics, with priorities clearly aligned with the global public health community. We turn complex diagnostic challenges into simple solutions through unique partnerships with the public, private and non-profit sectors.

We have 120 staff based in Geneva and 4 regional hubs, working with our partners on over 70 projects across 6 disease areas. Our work bridges R&D to access: we have deep technical and practical experience in definition of needs, development of fit-for-purpose products, generation of evidence for regulators and policy-makers, analysis of market dynamics, introduction of new products, and strengthening of laboratory systems.

Since 2003, we have been instrumental in the delivery of 21 new diagnostic tools used in 150 low- and middle-income countries. Over 38 million FIND-supported products have been provided to our target markets since the start of 2015. Our work has been transformative in the diagnosis of tuberculosis and malaria, and helped bring sleeping sickness elimination within reach.

In the next 2 years we are seeking to achieve multiple diagnostic breakthroughs, from point-of-care tests that will help patients access appropriate treatment for diseases including tuberculosis and hepatitis C, to advances in digital tools to make diagnostic data useful in low-resource settings for clinical care and surveillance.

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Success stories

We have been involved in development and/or delivery of every one of the 10 TB diagnostics recommended by WHO.

We co-developed assays for GeneXpert, a point-of-care (POC) molecular platform that has changed the landscape in TB diagnosis and drug-susceptibility testing: time taken to obtain a test result has been reduced from months to less than 2 hours.

- GeneXpert is becoming the mainstay of infectious disease diagnosis in low-resource settings, used in more than 130 countries for diseases including HIV (early infant diagnosis), HPV, HCV, and Ebola – as well as TB.

We co-developed the first rapid diagnostic test (RDT) for sleeping sickness and supported its implementation in integrated screening strategies, which has been central to sleeping sickness elimination efforts: 16 African countries are on track to meet WHO targets.

We introduced a systematic, WHO-endorsed assessment of malaria RDTs to help countries buy quality tests, which has transformed the malaria market and enabled test-and-treat strategies for control: 96% of tests now meet quality standards – versus 23% in 2006.

Core activities include:

- Collaborating to define target product profiles
- Shaping development of fit-for-purpose products
- Supplying specimens and reagents to researchers and developers
- Running clinical trials to generate data that inform regulatory and policy decisions
- Supporting market sustainability
- Conducting price negotiations
- Strengthening laboratory systems
- Training health workers
- Promoting the value of diagnostics

By 2020 we aim to:

- Develop a POC test for TB to find the “missing millions” of undiagnosed patients and link them to appropriate care
- Develop diagnostics that support WHO objectives for three neglected tropical diseases (schistosomiasis, Buruli ulcer, leishmaniasis)
- Evaluate a partnership-based flexible business model that pairs assay developers with platform developers to provide comprehensive test menus and support global pandemic preparedness
- Introduce single-step screening test for hepatitis C, including a self-test
- Develop POC tests to combat antimicrobial resistance through responsible antibiotic use
- Bring to scale innovative software solutions to drive diagnostic data use (e.g. electronic clinical decision aids)
- Scale up innovative delivery models in early adopter countries (e.g. POC tests for hepatitis C to reach key populations)
- Support procurement of over 20 million FIND-supported tests at global access price in LMICs every year
- Ensure 1,000 health workers are trained and 800 laboratories and testing sites strengthened every year