SCMS

CLINTON HEALTH ACCESS INITIATIVE

Introducing ForLab, a new open-source, multi-method laboratory quantification tool

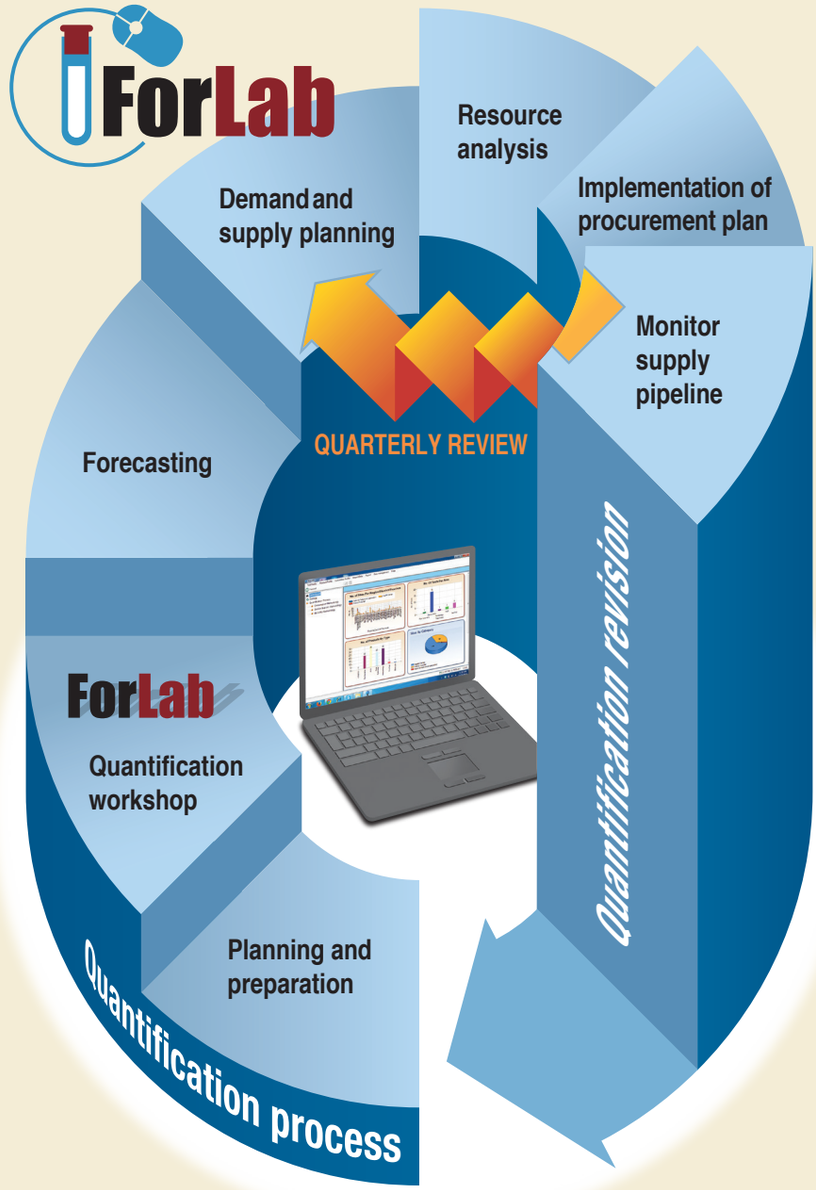
ForLab is a standardized, open-source tool with clearly defined requirements, improving programs' ability to collect and analyze data to accurately forecast commodity needs. ForLab performs long- and short-term forecasts and guides improvements in diagnostic services.

Functionality and features

- Analyzes the following data sets to generate informed, evidence-based forecasts:
  - Service statistics (test numbers)
  - Logistics data (consumption)
  - Demographics (program targets)
- Imports high volumes of data
- Compares forecasting methodologies to identify programmatic and commodity gaps
- Analyzes actual and forecasted instrument utilization, diagnostics contribution, and instrument diversity
- Models cost estimates associated with guideline shifts

Benefits of ForLab within the quantification process

- **Planning and preparation:** Focuses data collection efforts to populate a standardized template
- **Reduces** forecasting analysis time to minutes
- **Improves** the reliability of the **forecast**
- **Demand and supply planning:** Promotes development of evidence-based supply plans
- **Resource analysis:** Provides the opportunity to identify efficiencies within a laboratory network
- **Validates** consumption with service rates

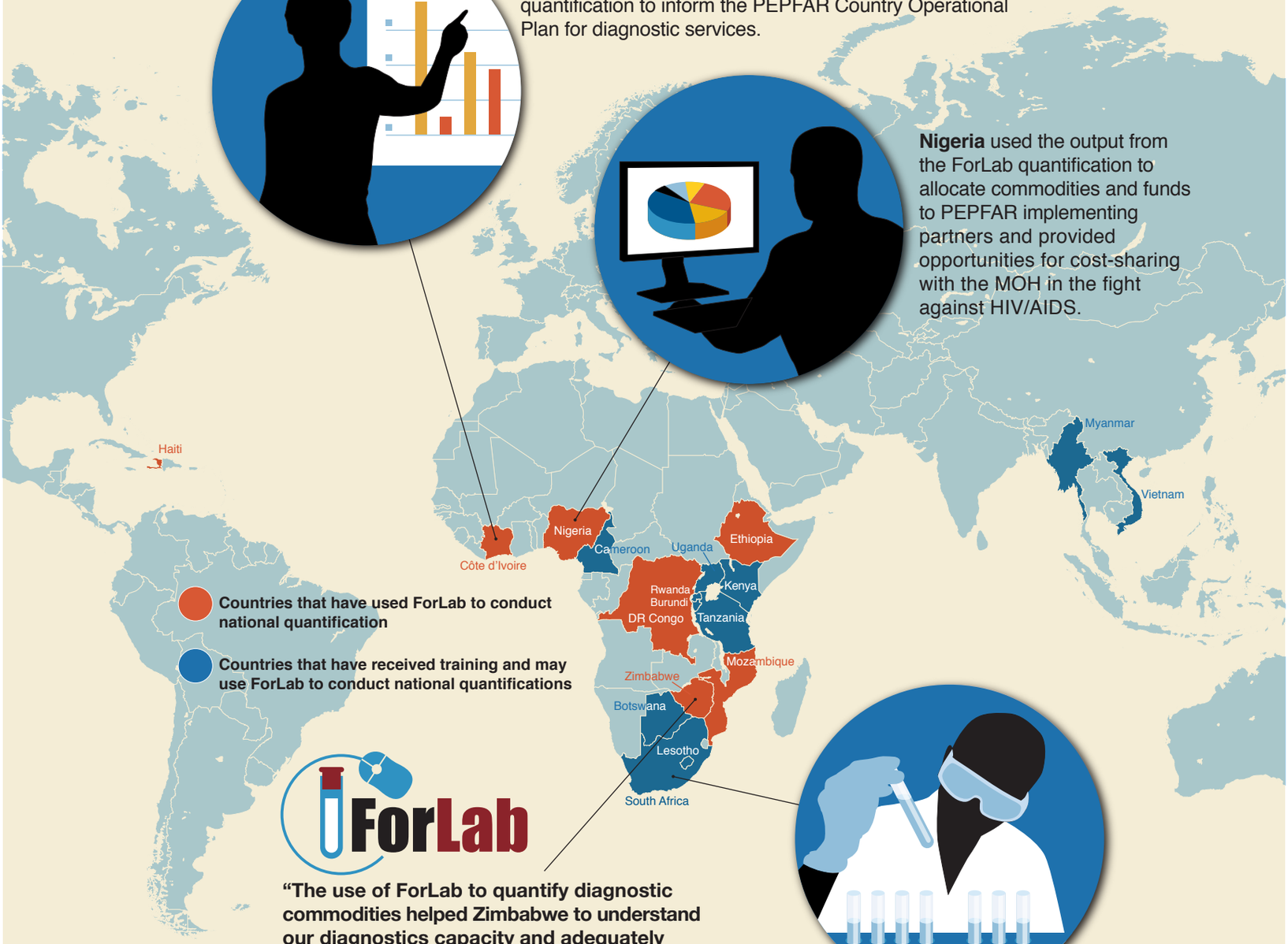


Need more information or interested in contacting one of our laboratory advisors?
Send an email to info@pfscm.org

ForLab's reach continues to grow

Côte d'Ivoire was the first country to pilot the tool in November 2013 and used the output of the ForLab quantification to inform the PEPFAR Country Operational Plan for diagnostic services.

Nigeria used the output from the ForLab quantification to allocate commodities and funds to PEPFAR implementing partners and provided opportunities for cost-sharing with the MOH in the fight against HIV/AIDS.



Countries that have used ForLab to conduct national quantification

Countries that have received training and may use ForLab to conduct national quantifications

"The use of ForLab to quantify diagnostic commodities helped Zimbabwe to understand our diagnostics capacity and adequately respond to the needs of programs and the Global Fund's New Funding Model."
Raiva Simbi – Deputy Director, Directorate of Laboratory Services, Ministry of Health and Child Care, Zimbabwe.

ACILT hosted the first Forlab multi-country master user training in January 2014.

The Supply Chain Management System(SCMS) and Clinton Health Access Initiative(CHAI) collaboratively developed the ForLab tool, with financial support from PEPFAR.

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