Project Overview

The Strengthening Public Health Laboratory Systems (SPHLS) program, a five-year cooperative agreement funded by the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief through the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and implemented by Management Sciences for Health (MSH) and the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) as a subcontractor.

The program aims to improve Kenya’s capacity in stewardship, technical guidance, and oversight to implement country-owned and -led quality integrated medical laboratory services. SPHLS supports strategies which ultimately save lives. The strategies include prevention, diagnosis, surveillance and clinical management of priority diseases including HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical and non-communicable diseases.

To support the MoH, the SPHLS program helps—

- Coordinate partners’ work at central and county levels
- Empower the county health systems to establish high performing laboratories at all levels of care for better equity and universal access to quality, efficient, and cost-effective laboratory services
- Strengthen the regulatory environment for laboratory policy and governance
- Support efforts for laboratory accreditation and biosafety
- Referral network and lay the groundwork for a national quality assurance system for laboratories

SPHLS’s key partner is the Kenyan government through the MoH’s different departments and divisions at all levels of care as well as national and regional implementation partners. The program also collaborates with selected public sector facilities, institutions affiliated to faith based organizations, local NGOs, and local government health institutions including the Nairobi City Council. AMREF Kenya participates as a technical assistance partner to spearhead improvement of laboratory services in hard-to-reach areas.

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