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CONFRONTING INEQUITIES IN STI PREVENTION, DIAGNOSTICS AND CARE



Challenges, gaps and opportunities in STI control in Zimbabwe

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Challenges

- Approach to diagnosis largely syndromic and misses out on asymptomatic STIs
- Weak laboratory capacity to support STI diagnosis
- Weak /poor partner notification and treatment making it difficult to break cycle of transmission
- Access issue :Stigma , user fees

Gaps

- Incomplete reporting (pvt sector)
- Lack of funding to support research and GC AMR surveillance
- Inadequate capacity to manage STIs by service providers

Opportunities

- Availability of GeneXpert machines an opportunity to strengthen STI diagnosis if cartridges were available
- Coming in of more RDTs on the market will strengthen syndromic diagnosis
- Integration of GC AMR with the ongoing broader AMR for other bacterial infections. The Wellcome Foundation funding available in country could be used for this purpose however there is need for advocacy with support from WHO
- EMTCT of HIV ,syphilis and Hepatitis an opportunity for strengthening disease specific STIs