

Poster abstract submission

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Poster title

Understanding LMIC market needs for gonorrhea diagnostics, therapeutics, and preventatives: Findings from an eight-country assessment

Poster abstract

Antimicrobial-resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* is a growing threat in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) where syndromic management remains standard. To support WHO's call for diagnosis-guided treatment and inform product development, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) partnered with CARB-X to conduct a multi-country market assessment of clinical needs, market barriers, and user preferences for gonorrhea diagnostics, therapeutics, and preventatives.

Between Jan–Jun 2025, CHAI conducted primary and secondary research across 8 LMICs (Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, India, Kenya, South Africa, Vietnam, Zimbabwe). Countries were selected based on epidemiological burden, estimated target population, AMR/STI program alignment, and market readiness. Nearly 400 stakeholders participated, including clinicians, pharmacists, laboratory directors, microbiologists, clinic managers, and policymakers. The assessment examined standards of care, use cases, demand drivers, feasibility of rapid and resistance-guided diagnostics, and preferences for future therapeutics and vaccines.

LMIC diagnostic access is limited, constrained by cost, inadequate performance, long turnaround times, and outdated guidelines. Syndromic management dominates, leading to missed diagnoses, limited prevalence and resistance data, and low awareness. Stakeholders showed interest in affordable, high-performance rapid tests, with preference for multiplex STI platforms and integrated resistance detection. Demand will be highly price-dependent given constrained health budgets.

Adoption of new therapeutics and preventatives depends on strengthened diagnostic capacity and improved epidemiological data. Stakeholders preferred single-dose oral therapeutics aligned with WHO TPPs, and easy to administer vaccines suitable for settings with infrastructure constraints and high loss to follow-up. Gonorrhea vaccine support was strong due to expected reductions in HIV transmission, recurrent infections, reproductive complications, and AMR, but without donor funding, affordability will be critical for uptake. Preliminary findings underscore the need to expand diagnostic access in primary care to improve case detection, curb transmission and complications, and address AMR. Ongoing analysis to refine TPPs and introduction pathways will help ensure future gonorrhea products are well suited for LMICs. The CHAI-CARB-X partnership is driving equitable product development to strengthen global AMR containment

Research topic

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