

NTD diagnostics: online test directory and data analytics portal

The [WHO NTD 2030 roadmap](#) has highlighted the need for more suitable and accessible diagnostic tools for the majority of the 20 NTDs and disease groups. Six of the NTDs (Buruli ulcer, echinococcosis, foodborne trematodiasis, mycetoma, onchocerciasis, taenia/cysticercosis) have no diagnostic tests available at all, while the remaining are in urgent need of adaptation, modification, and/or improved access to diagnostic tests. Closing the diagnostic gap is an essential prerequisite to achieving the global ambition for NTDs, with the new NTD roadmap providing a blueprint for action. However, progress in R&D is slow and fragmented, with a lack of engagement and coordination between academia, developers, industry, donors, and endemic countries, leading sometimes to the duplication of efforts and potential waste of the already scant resources.

Creating an ecosystem with visibility, transparency and integration at its core will help streamline programmatic action, reduce the risk of duplication, and leverage the full potential from a limited pool of funding. To achieve this vision, FIND, the global alliance for diagnostics, a WHO Collaborating Centre, is working to create visibility around the diagnostic landscape for NTDs, through an open-access online portal for NTD diagnostics, which in the first instance will focus on the seven NTDs in the FIND portfolio: Buruli ulcer, Chagas disease, human African trypanosomiasis, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis and visceral leishmaniasis. Moving forward, we will extend the scope to include all NTDs.

The online portal will be built in two phases. In the first phase, a fully searchable test directory, including test characteristics, will be created. This will be based on the existing FIND [COVID-19](#) and [monkeypox](#) test directories. The NTD test directory is now online and we would like to encourage the NTD community to contribute details of their tests (either that are in development or commercially available).

The second phase will be to deploy data analytics approaches to reveal insights from the data in the test directory. Users will be able to query the data on elements such as the number/type of diagnostics that are available for specific use cases, or that relate to particular target product profiles. It will also be possible to identify where there are diagnostic gaps. The scope of this data analytics portal will be developed in collaboration with the global health community, based on user journey methodology to make it as useful as possible to stakeholders.

NOTE: As a non-profit organization, FIND has no commercial interest in any product listed in our test directories, and inclusion of a test in a FIND test directory does not imply endorsement or recommendation by FIND or WHO. We make every effort to ensure the information in our test directories is up-to-date and correct, however we rely exclusively on information provided to us by manufacturers and via public sources and the information is not independently verified. To confirm the current regulatory status of a specific product, we refer users to the official websites of the competent authorities in the relevant jurisdiction and/or invite them to directly contact the manufacturer.

To submit details of a test for inclusion in the NTD test directory, please [click here](#).

In case of queries, please [contact us](#).