

# Supply Chain Challenges for COVID-19 Response in Africa

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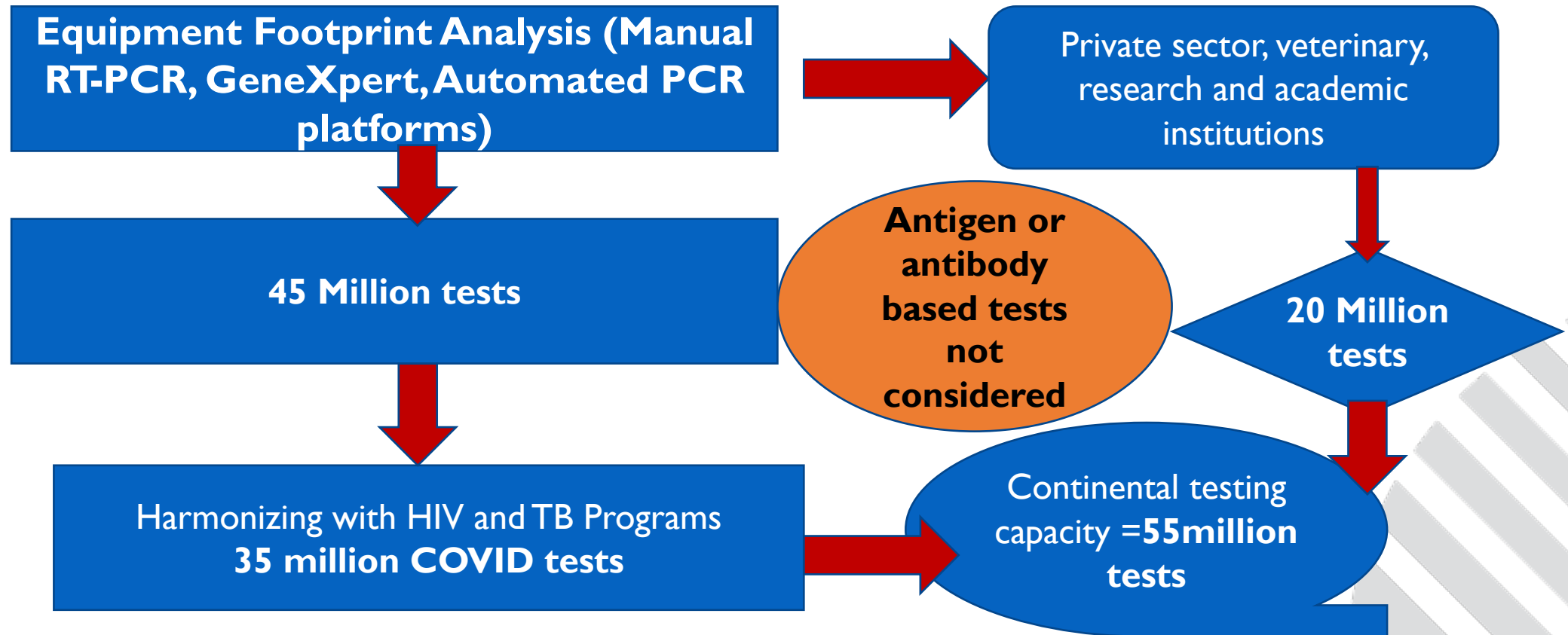
**Africa Union Commission**



# More Testing to Control COVID-19

- In the absence of vaccine and specific treatment, immediate identification and isolation of cases, tracing and quarantining of contacts (**contain or slow progression of pandemic**)
- Wide spread but informed testing strategy specially at the early phase of the pandemic is key
- Calculating testing numbers per million population is a proxy indicator for testing program but without considering positivity rate, it may be misleading (**testing is not a vaccine**)

# COVID-19 Testing Capacity in Africa



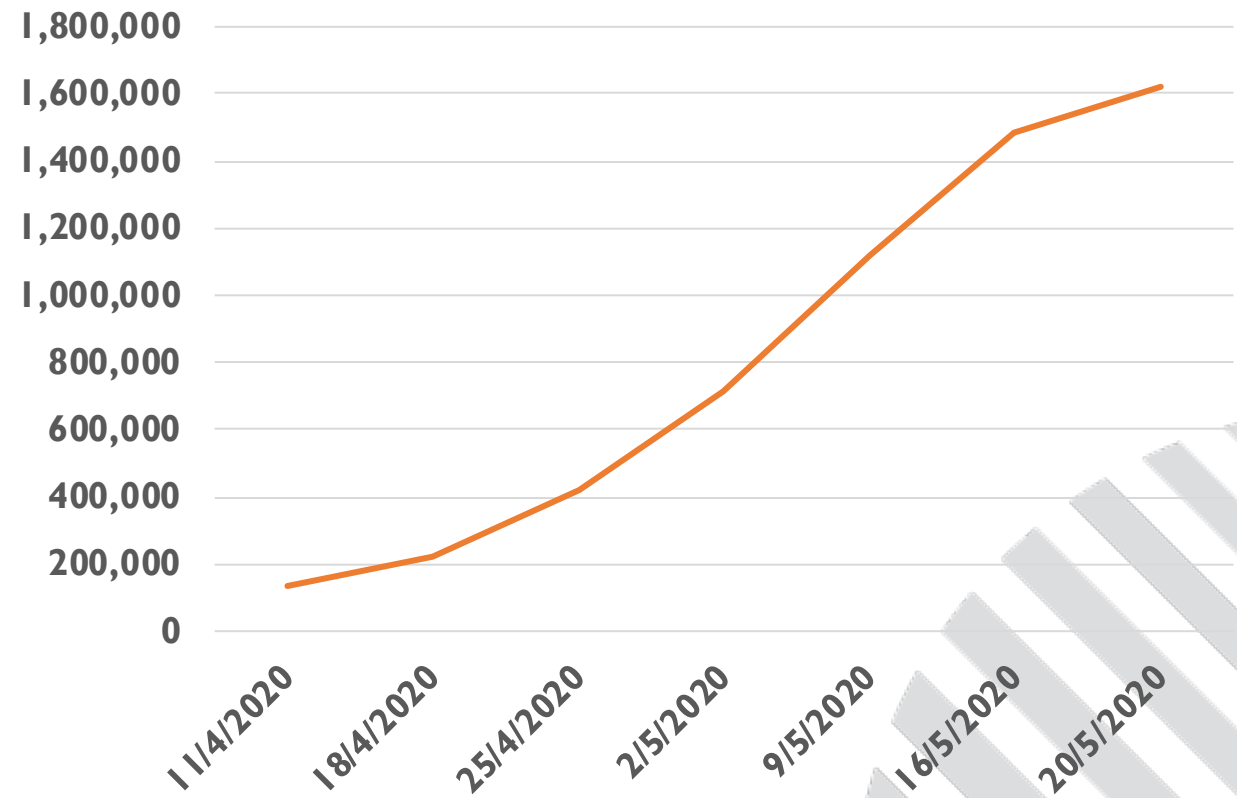
# Projected COVID-19 Testing Numbers

- There are no reliable modeling tools and some modeling exercises generated outrageous numbers
- WHO estimate for Africa indicated 29-44 million people could be infected in the first year of the pandemic (average of 36.5 million)
- Current containment and mitigation policies could reduce the rate by 40% (infection rate may come down to 21.9 million)
- Based on the testing strategy currently recommended, all suspected cases did not need to be tested specially at a later stage of the pandemic (testing could get only 60% of expected infections =13.1 million)
- To identify 13.1 million cases, testing has to be done on 87 million suspected cases (taking maximum of 15% positivity rate)
- Total projected tests in Africa per annum= 87 million

# Progress on COVID-19 Testing in Africa

- 1.62 million tests
- Positivity rate 5.7%
- 45% increase in two weeks

Total SARS-CoV-2 tests in Africa



# Supply Chain Challenges

## 1. Access for COVID-19 diagnostics is very difficult



88 countries have put temporary export restriction on COVID-19 related products Including diagnostics



# Supply Chain Challenges----

## 2. Supply of incomplete materials

- Laboratories in Africa are now reliant on partner support or donations (example Ethiopian PM-Jack Ma initiative provided support for 1.5 million tests, Africa CDC distributed 300,000 tests, WHO and others have provided tests)
- Test kits provided by partners or from donations usually may not be complete to allow testing (detection, extraction kits, swabs, VTMs and other necessary supplies)
- Other supplies for PCR laboratories ( plates, tubes, pipette tips, PPEs etc are not considered)

# Supply Chain Challenges-----

## 3. Lack of forecasting and quantification at country level

- Testing projections have to be done systematically at country level and all necessary supplies have to be quantified
- These quantities can be used for pool procurement at regional or continental level
- Can also be used to present to partners or donors or Finance Ministers for funding



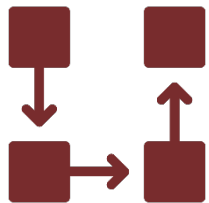


# Supply Chain Challenges-----

## 4. Quality of products



- There are many products that may not have been validated properly



- Conducting systematic evaluation is challenging because of lack of time or urgency to use the items



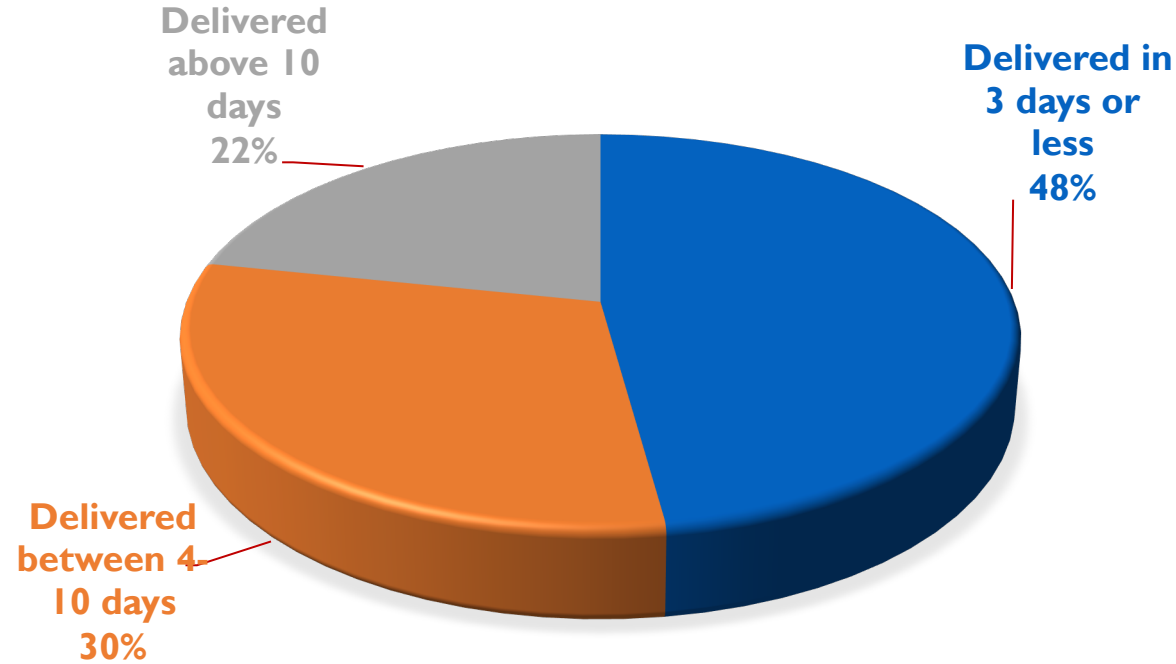
- Lack of sufficient capacity to evaluate technologies quickly



# Supply Chain Challenges

## 5. Distribution

Time to Deliver items to Member States (n=29)



# Recommendations

- **Projection of testing number per country**
- **Make quantification of all necessary supplies**
- **Pooled procurement supported by technology (e.g. Procurement platform being built at AU)**
- **Engagement of Member States to allow movement of cargo**
- **Bundling for items for procurement**



**THANK YOU**