Developing and deploying RDTs for the main meningitis pathogens: where we are now and what's happening next
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Bacterial Meningitis is a life-threatening disease. Rapid detection of meningitis pathogens is critical for case management, surveillance, and outbreak investigations. Rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) are valuable and effective tools for meningitis detection. While a number of RDTs are available for the diagnosis of meningitis, the limitations of certain products restrict their wide implementation and use to specific levels of care and settings. For this reason, "Develop and facilitate access to diagnostic assays at all levels of care for meningitis confirmation" is identified as a key strategical goal in the "Defeating Meningitis by 2030" roadmap. To achieve this goal, the global partners specialized in laboratory diagnostics and treatment were called on to develop new RDTs that can effectively inform public health interventions and case treatment plans. This presentation describes the limitations of existing RDTs for meningitis detection, the specific features of next generation RDTs with a focus on use case 3, the status of use case 3 RDT development as well as the potential strategies for implementing RDTs.