

Toward Universal Access in the African Region: Progress & Resources

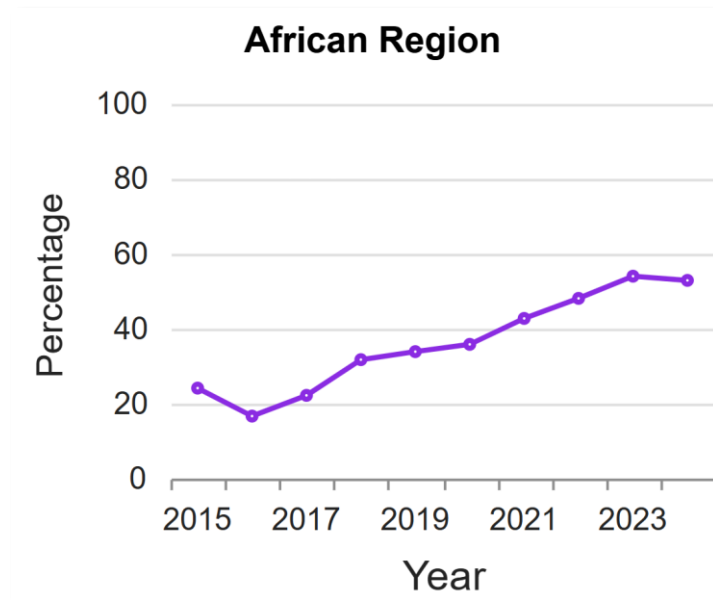
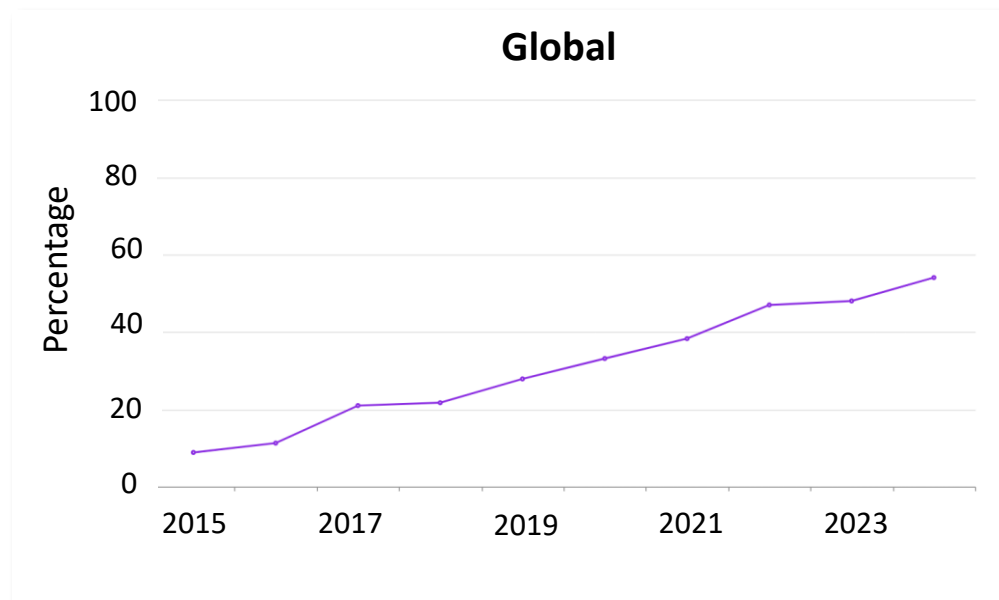
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2024 Data highlight progress, but continued gaps, in access to WHO-recommended rapid diagnostics (WRDs)



Source: WHO Global TB Report 2025

WHO Standard: 4 steps & 12 benchmarks to support universal access to TB diagnostics



STEP 1

Identifying
presumptive TB



STEP 2

Accessing
testing



STEP 3

Being
tested



STEP 4

Receiving
a diagnosis

WHO Benchmark dashboard is part of the annual Global TB Report



Country, regional and global profiles

Tuberculosis profiles are generated automatically based on data reported by countries and which are held in WHO's global TB database. They are available for all countries, areas and territories asked to report TB data to WHO. Countries can update information at any time via WHO's TB data collection system (or, for countries in the European region, via the ECDC - WHO/Europe Joint Surveillance system). Therefore data shown in the profiles may differ slightly from the data available at the time the *Global tuberculosis report* was written.

TB country, regional and global profiles (English, Español, Français, Русский)



Summary of TB indicators and trends



Indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals associated with TB incidence



WHO benchmarks of universal access to rapid TB diagnostics



66 Total Countries
18 from Africa

Dashboard benchmarks are displayed in completeness, % achievement & trend charts

TB Benchmark

Overview

Data Completeness

Benchmark Boxplots

High TB Burden

High DR-TB Burden

High TB/HIV Burden

Country-Level Data

Comparative Data

Data Dictionary

Step 1

Screened

Household Contacts
People with HIV
People with HIV: New on ART
Prisoners
Miners

District using Chest X-Ray

Step 2

Districts using WRD Algos

PHCs with access to WRDs

New & relapse cases WRD-tested

New & relapse cases WRD-tested

WRD sites with error rates ≤5%

Presumptive TB WRD-tested

Step 3

With DST

Bact. Conf. with RR DST Results

RR-TB with FQ DST Results

RR/FQ-TB with BDQ DST Results

RR/FQ-TB with LZD DST Results

Notified PTB with WRD results

Districts monitoring WRD positivity

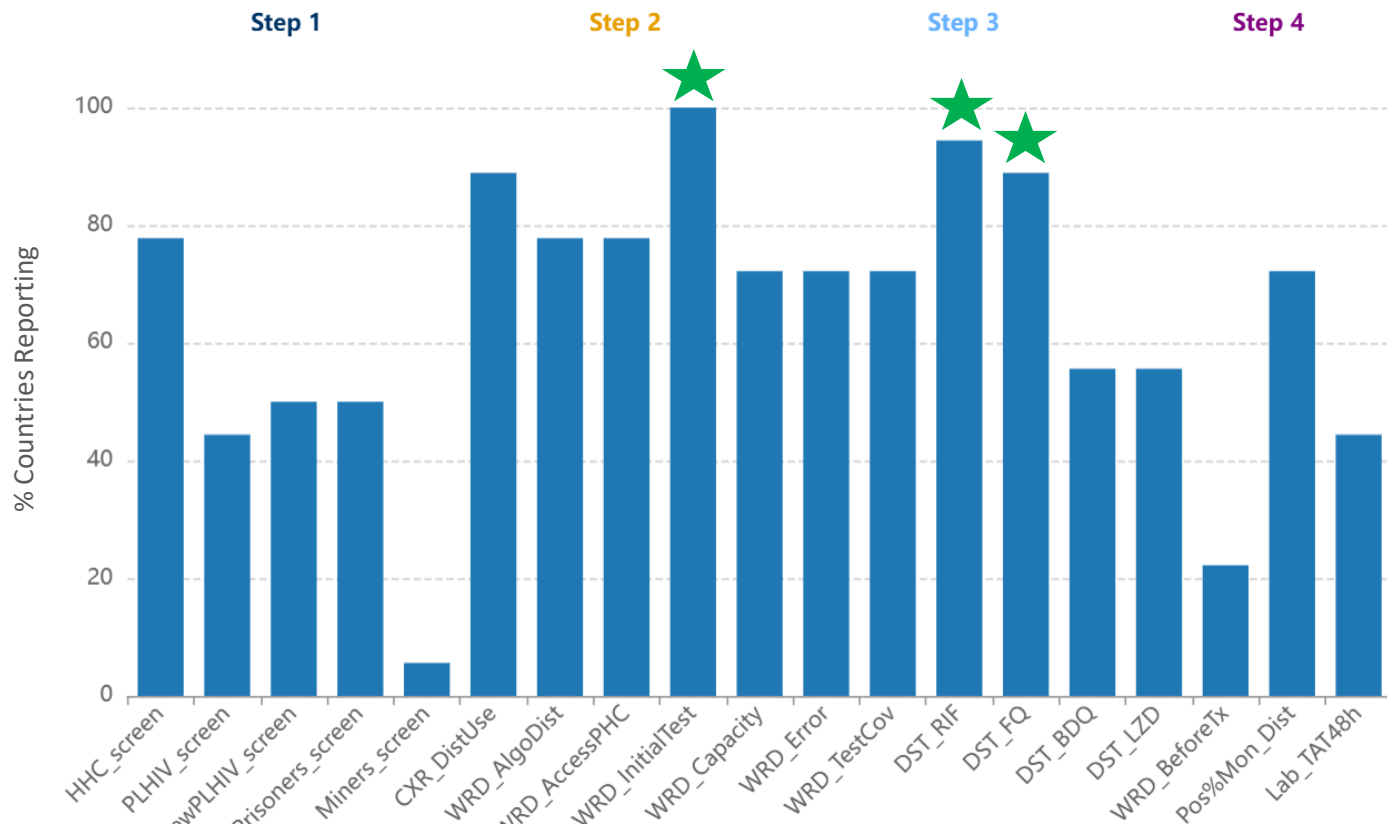
Labs with TAT of <48hrs for 80%

Step 4

Benchmark reporting in 2024 varied across 18 reporting African countries

TB Benchmark

- Overview
- Data Completeness**
- Benchmark Boxplots
- High TB Burden
- High DR-TB Burden
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- Country-Level Data
- Comparative Data
- Data Dictionary



2024 African region data highlight high WRD capacity, but variable access & low coverage

TB Benchmark

Overview

Data Completeness

Benchmark Boxplots

High TB Burden

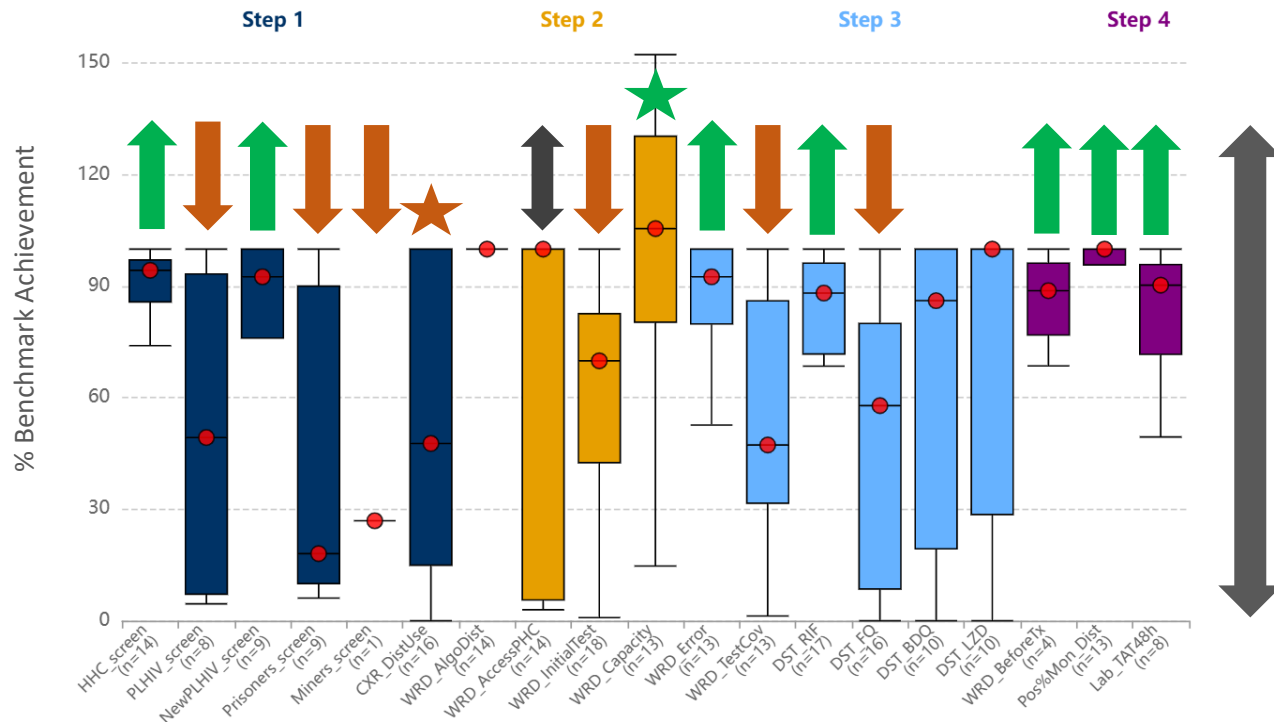
High DR-TB Burden

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2026 (Year 3) reporting underway for Global TB Report updates this year

Benchmark data support evidence-based country planning to achieve universal access

Availability of access data is varies between countries

Data collection & reporting pathways require review to support evidence-based decision-making

Access to WRDs varies across countries, steps, and benchmarks

*Access is not 'one size fits all'
Solutions must be data-driven & setting-specific*

Existing WRD instrument capacity is generally high across African

Diagnostic updates should consider & leverage existing investments & services & maintain gains in RR-TB coverage

Existing capacity is not meeting coverage & PHC access needs

Local challenges (cost, network design, network reach, drugs for DST) need to be identified & matched with interventions

Three new TB diagnostic recommendations expand access in different ways

NEW

Near point-of-care nucleic acid amplification tests (NPOC-NAATs)

Expanding the molecular WRD testing network



NEW

Tongue swabs on NPOC-NAATs and LC-aNAATs

Expanding TB testing to adults & adolescents that can't produce sputum



NEW

Sputum pooling with LC-aNAATs

Expanding access to existing mWRD testing faster & at lower cost



NPOC-NAATs expand access to TB diagnosis — not merely replace existing services

3 Priority Use Cases: Reaching sites and populations not currently served by timely molecular testing

1

Peripheral Primary Healthcare & Community Settings

Expanding access

Decentralizing initial molecular testing to the peripheral level, including sites not currently served by any WHO-recommended rapid diagnostics

Hard-to-reach areas

Settings where laboratory networks cannot achieve the WHO-recommended 48-hour result turnaround — provided referral for follow-on DST, treatment and care can be assured

2

Smear Microscopy Laboratories

Replacing smear microscopy with more sensitive molecular tests

Upgrading from diagnostic smear microscopy to molecular testing; smear retained for treatment monitoring where it is still needed

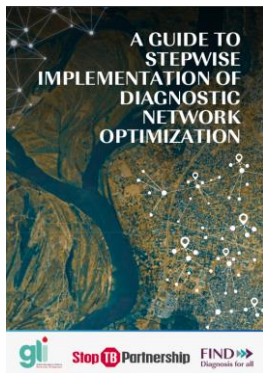
3

Unequipped Intermediate & Decentralized Laboratories

Extending molecular reach

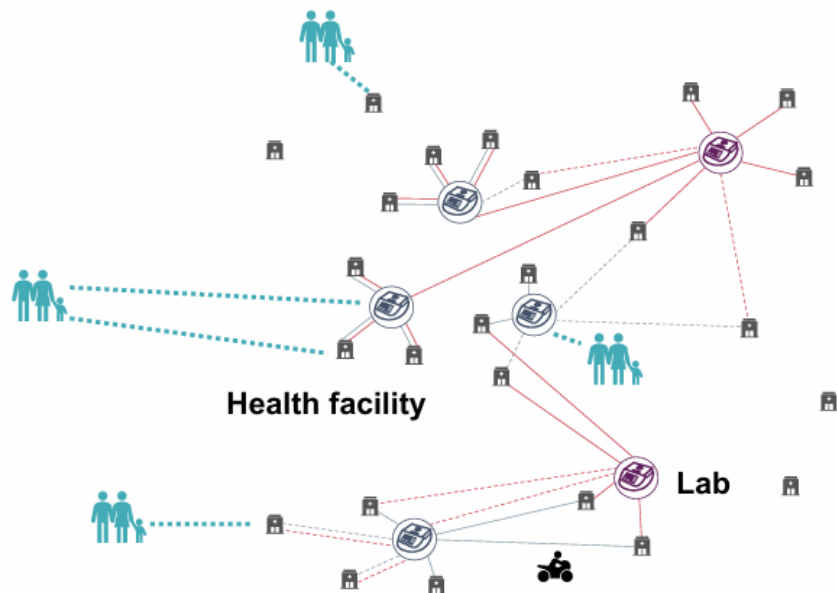
Introducing initial molecular testing where molecular WHO-recommended rapid diagnostics are needed but cannot be introduced in the immediate or short term

GLI/ FIND Guide to Stepwise Diagnostic Network Optimization: Maximize diagnostic impact, efficiency, & cost-effectiveness



People access services at nearby health facility (samples collected and referred for testing) or by traveling direct to laboratory

Population Accessibility focus



Samples are tested on-site or are transported from health facilities to labs/testing sites within the network

Diagnostic Network configuration focus

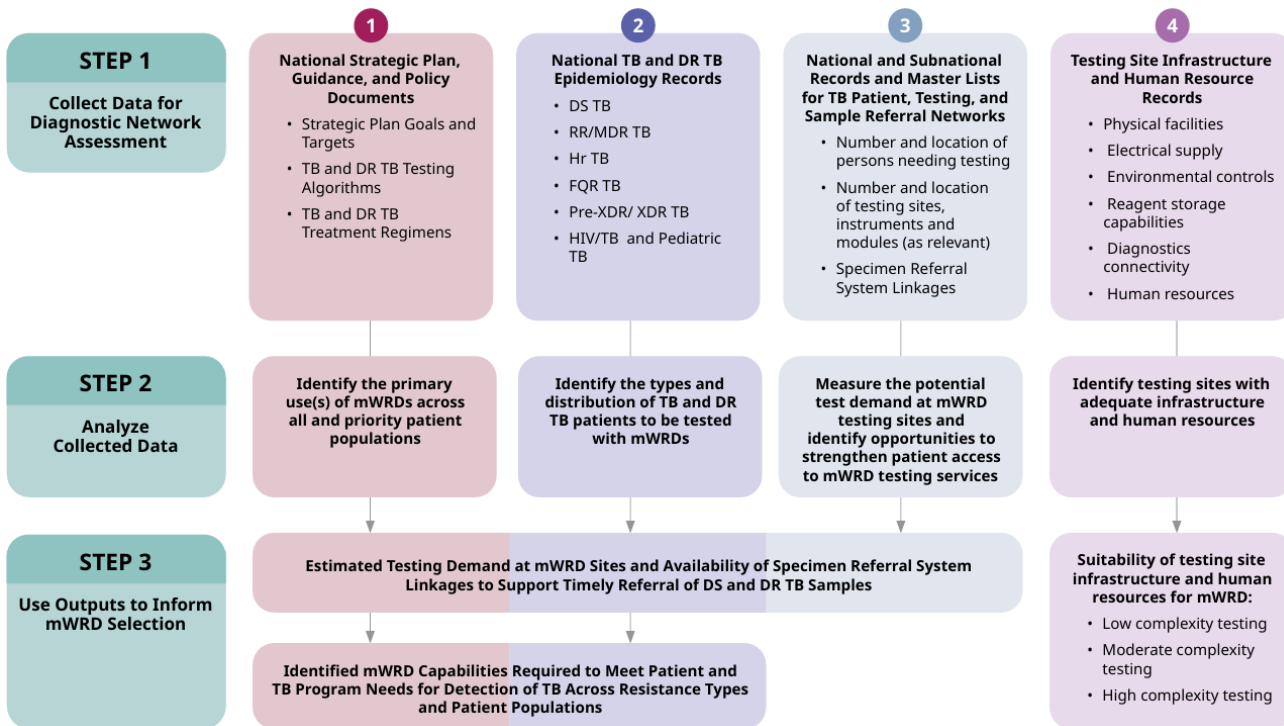
“Diagnostic network optimization (DNO)”

Slide image credit: FIND/ GLI Guide to stepwise implementation of diagnostic network optimization

WHO/ GLI mWRD selection manual is available to guide technology selection



Manual for selection of molecular WHO-recommended rapid diagnostic tests for detection of tuberculosis and drug-resistant tuberculosis



Slide image credit: FIND/ GLI Guide to stepwise implementation of diagnostic network optimization

WHO Integrated Health Tool: TB Module is Updated with NPOC-NAATS & Swabs



Welcome to the Tuberculosis Module of the Integrated Health Tool (IHT)

The Integrated Health Tool for planning and costing (IHT) is a web-based tool designed to support national strategic health planning over the medium term*. The tool provides planners with a single framework to assess costs, health impact, scenario comparisons and financing strategies for one or multiple diseases, or health sector wide. The Tuberculosis (TB) Module of IHT supports this analysis by including default estimates and cost inputs that can be adapted by the user. These include estimates of populations needing TB services, costing for TB service delivery and associated programme and health system costs, and optional estimates of impact using either statistical or dynamical impact models.

Resources for self guided learning and training are available from the [WHO website](#).

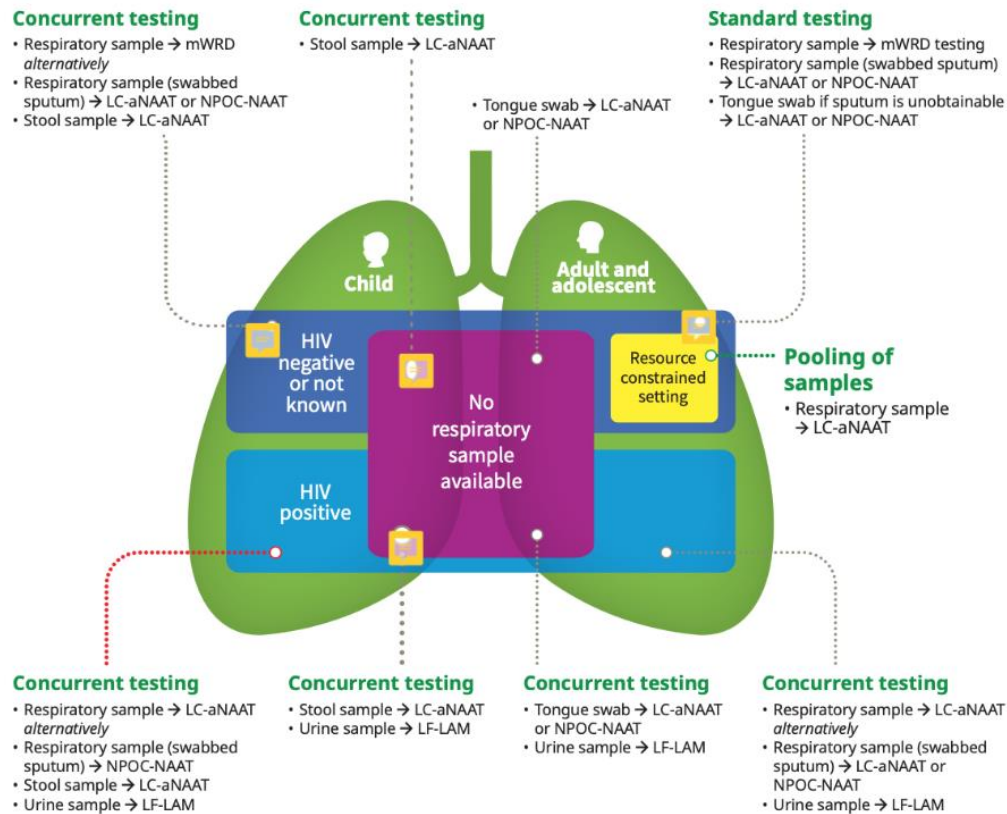
*The Integrated Health Tool is a next-generation version of the OneHealth Tool and represents the migration of the desktop OneHealth Tool to the web, along with upgrades and rebranding as the Integrated Health Tool.

Contact us

Updated operational handbook and toolkit to support implementation (Q3 2026)

WHO operational handbook Module 3: Diagnosis, 2nd edition

- All currently recommended diagnostic classes, sample types and strategies in one place
- Model algorithms: Algorithm 1 TB & RIF detection; 2a/2b DST follow-up; Algorithm 3 TB infection
- Updated sample collection job aid and workflow for vulnerable populations (children, PLHIV, non-sputum producers)
- Updated mWRD selection & placement content
- Step-by-step guidance for introducing new TB diagnostics into national programmes
- New simulations: NPOC-NAAT testing and sputum pooling scenarios



Full guidelines and operational handbook expected later in 2026



Pre-release of recommendations

Recommendations, remarks, and evidence summaries — available on WHO website

March 2026

Implementation toolkits

SOPs, training modules, M&E tools, capacity calculator, videos, & more

April 2026

WHO consolidated guidelines on TB, Module 3, 2nd edition

Full guidelines, GRADE summary of findings, evidence-to-decision tables and other information

Q3 2026

WHO operational handbook on TB, Module 3, 2nd edition

Covering all recommended technologies, model algorithms, and introduction steps

Q3 2026

Thank you

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