

Africa Public Health Laboratory Networking Project (EAPHLNP)



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Outline

Background

Key Achievements

Gene-Xpert Update



A screenshot of the East Africa Public Health Laboratory Network website. The browser's address bar shows the URL www.nrl.gov.rw/eaphln/index.php?id=2. The website header includes the text "EAST AFRICA PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK" and navigation links for "HOME", "PROJECTS", "RELATED LINKS", and "PUBLICA". Below the header, there are links for "Rwanda", "Burundi", "Tanzania", "Kenya", and "Uganda", along with a search bar. A large map of Africa is displayed, with the East African region highlighted in the colors of the national flags of Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. To the right of the map, there is a section titled "Latest News" with a small thumbnail image of a group of people.

high rates of TB & TB/HIV (hbdc) in East Africa with countries facing **similar challenges to diagnosis and treatment**

large pipeline of **new diagnostic tools** presents an opportunity to enhance clinical care for TB/HIV co-infected persons and those suffering from MDR-TB

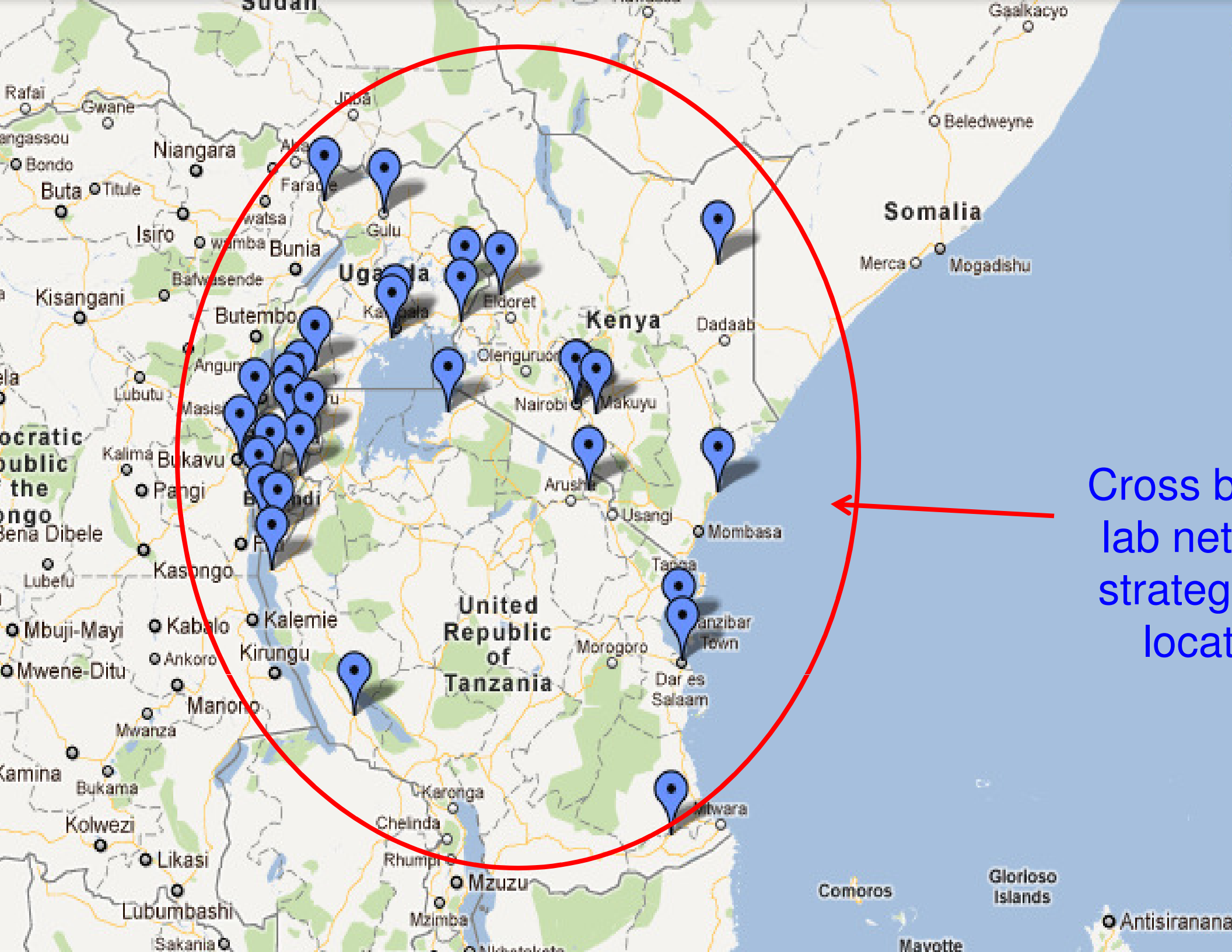
growing recognition of importance of laboratories which are key for clinical care, monitoring drug resistance, and disease outbreak investigations

to prevent and control the spread of TB and other

Strengthening diagnostic and surveillance capacity,
promoting innovations, and specialization in service delivery
(NRL, SRL)

Supporting training and capacity building for lab
professionals, including mentorships, pre service &
continuing professional development

**Fostering knowledge sharing and South-South
collaboration** and promoting **evidence based approach**



Cross border
lab network
strategic
locations

UGANDA

Lab
networking

TANZANIA
Training

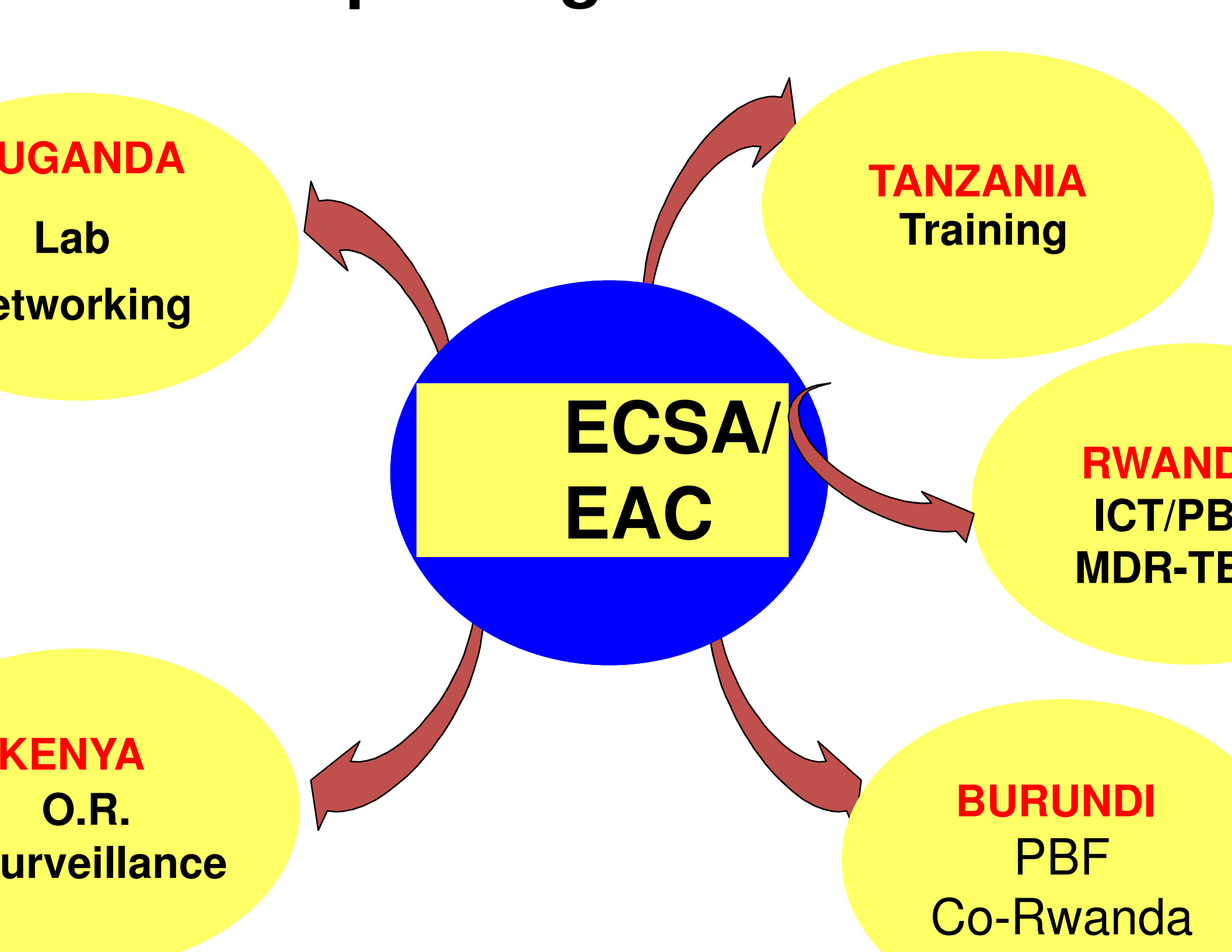
**ECSA/
EAC**

RWANDA
ICT/PB
MDR-TE

KENYA

O.R.
surveillance

BURUNDI
PBF
Co-Rwanda



Conducting peer assessments

**31 satellite laboratories in 5
countries using SLIPTA**

Linking lab improvements

plans to accreditation and

promoting use of performance

based financing for laboratories

Strengthening TB reference

and satellite laboratories

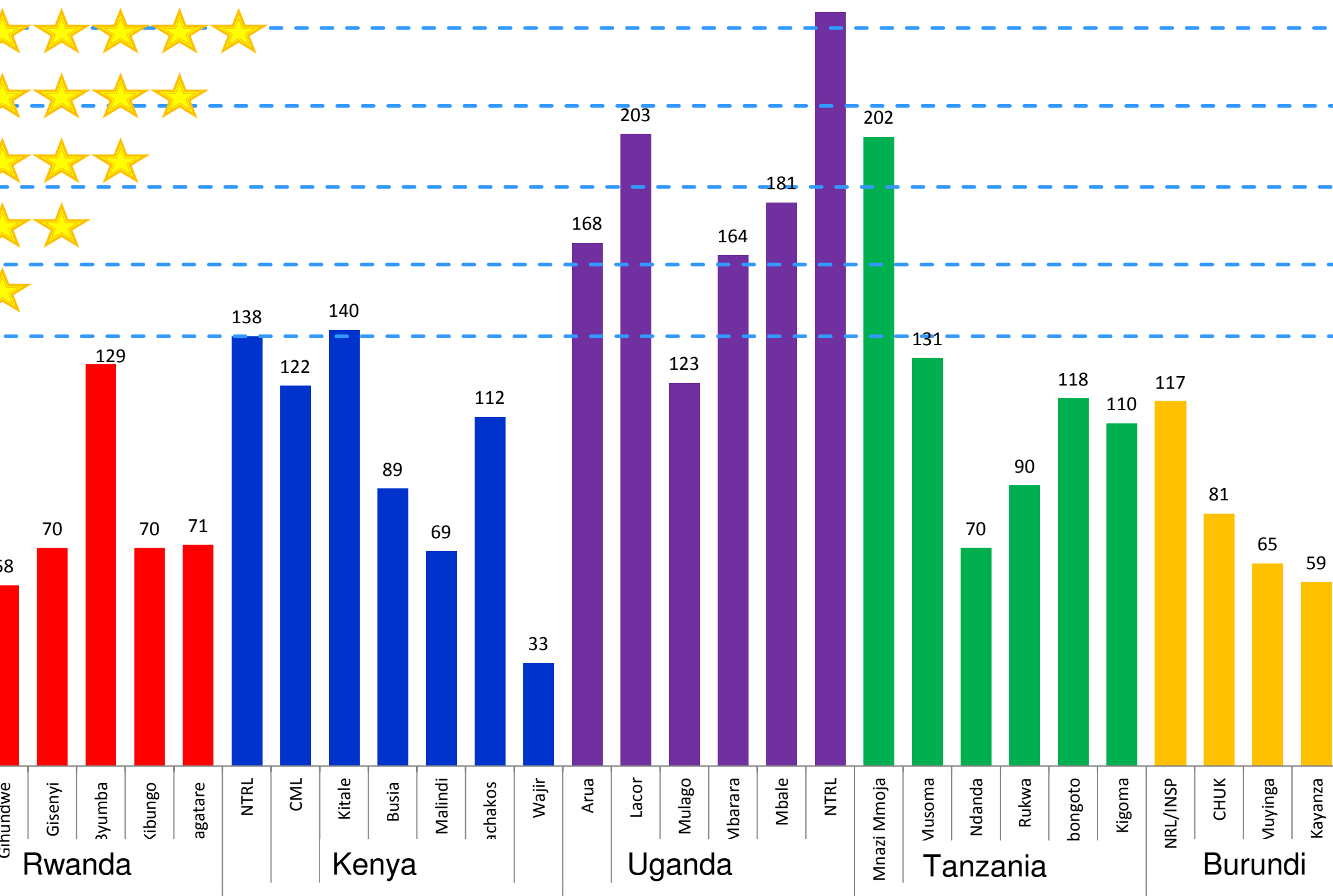
through provision of advanced

equipment and enhanced

infrastructure



Results from Peer Assessment of Satellite Laboratories (SLIPTA approach)



conducting joint training for laboratory management; lab assessors; and developing e-learning modules

carrying out joint cross border investigations and disease outbreak simulations

supporting design of web based mobile phone disease surveillance reporting

developing multi-country operational research proposals (TB, malaria,



New TB Diagnostics

Generate evidence for early and increased detection and proper management of TB patients

Avoid waste of resources associated with empiric management of smear negative TB

Produce data that will contribute to policy & programmatic changes in use of TB diagnostics and patient management

Key Research Questions:

What is the **impact of introducing new TB diagnostics on the management of TB** and on patient outcomes?

What is the **performance of various combinations of new TB diagnostic tests**? Gene Xpert; OSSM and Gene Xpert; OSSM, Xpert, MGIT



participating countries endorsed use of this novel technology for TB diagnosis and aim to roll this out quickly to serve vulnerable populations in cross border areas

Kenya – 6 machines (delivered & installed)

Uganda – 11 machines (pending)

Tanzania – 7 machines (pending)

Rwanda – 5 machines (pending)

Burundi – 6 machines (not yet ordered)

Over 200,000
cartridges to be
procured in 2012

WHO/GLI guidelines and periodic updates are very helpful to countries

WHO/GLI Roll out strategy utilized where the project facilitates training and implementation with close linkages with NTP

The operational research under the project hinges on the prompt delivery of the Gene-Xpert machines

Difficulties and delays in procurement of Gene-Xpert due to protracted discussions over bidding documents with the manufacturer proposing a simplified document which is not consistent with Bank country regulations

Clinicians are yet to be fully sensitized hence machines may be in place but are not being optimally utilized

Inadequate planning for consumables with some facilities experiencing stock outs; need to institutionalize supply of consumables

Lack of back up power at some facilities which implies machines not fully utilized or reagents may be wasted; installation of solar panels may offer a solution to this issue

a major milestone in diagnosis

This is particularly important for us in Wajir where patients travel hundreds of miles to get these services



Dr Njoroge Francis
Medical Officer (Wajir)

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CDC-Atlanta, country offices

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