

The Global Laboratory Initiative

Eligibility and inclusion criteria for GLI TB Supranational TB Reference Laboratories

TB Supranational Reference Laboratories (SRLs) are expected to meet the following minimum criteria. New candidate SRLs are assigned a provisional SRL status and are mentored by their linked SRL for a period of at least one year prior to formal designation by GLI as a member of the SRL network.

1. Officially recognized by the National Health Authority or Ministry of Health acting as National Level TB Reference Laboratory supporting a functional national or sub-national network of lower level laboratories. New candidate SRLs must have a formal link with an established TB Supranational Reference Laboratory.
2. Technical capacity to perform AFB microscopy, culture, identification and drug susceptibility testing (DST) of *M. tuberculosis* using phenotypic and molecular methods according to current WHO policy guidance.
3. Meet national laboratory regulations and conform to WHO and other international standards for performing TB testing
4. Proven DST accuracy (participated in at least 2 consecutive rounds of SRLN proficiency testing) with sufficient workload levels to maintain proficiency
5. Ability (including human resources, infrastructure and equipment) to support laboratories in other countries (as per SRL TOR)
6. Established or capacity to establish working relationships with the NRL in other countries through formal links
7. Commit to provide the minimum SRL service requirements which are to:
 - a. Establish formal links with at least two NRLs
 - b. Provide at least three technical assistance visits to countries every two years
 - c. Provide reports to the GLI secretariat on SRL services provided to countries.
 - d. Report at least one activity per country per year