

# WHO Regional Perspectives

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# Supranational laboratory network

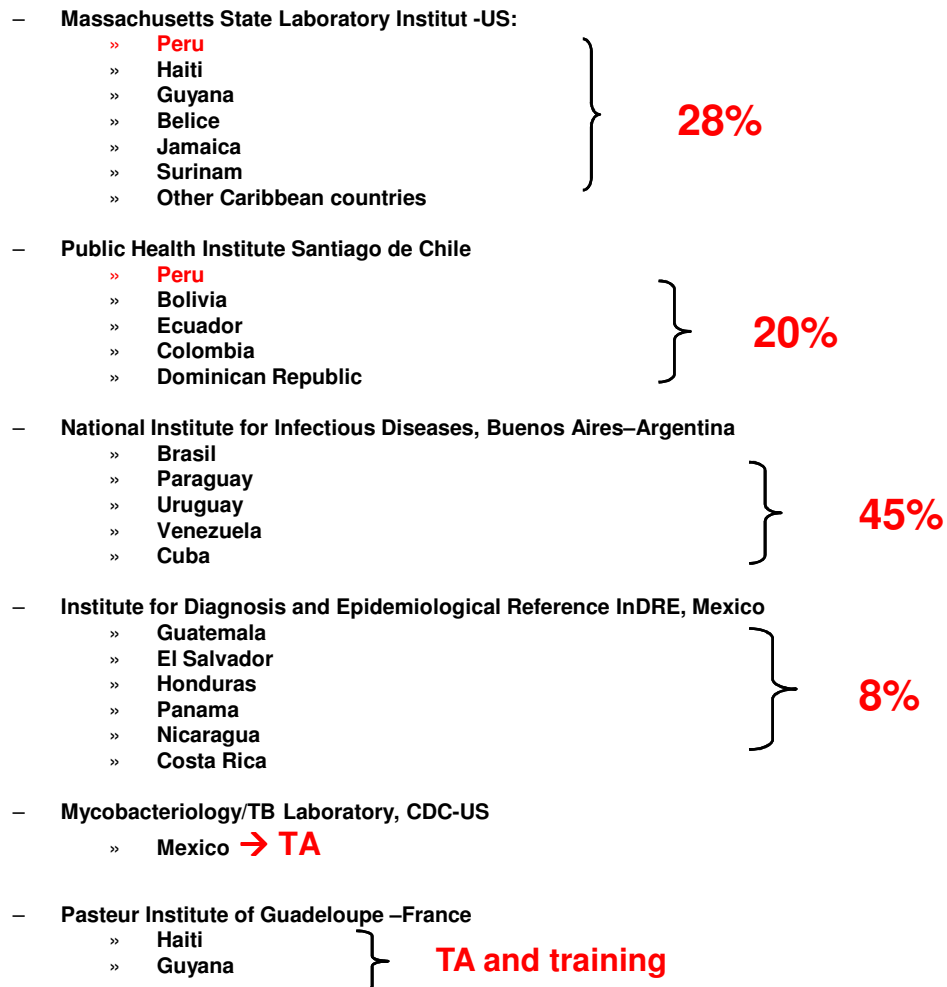


# Operation of the Supranational Laboratory network - AMRO



## ORGANIZATION

- Countries distribution for SRL (% of cases SS+ notified in 2008):



# Operation of the Supranational Laboratory network - AMRO



## ***ACHIEVEMENTS 2006 -2009***

Mexico, Chile, Argentina with two WHO TB Collaborating Centers (Cuba and Argentina) and recently incorporation of Massachusetts to establish a Technical Group integrated to the PAHO TB Regional Programme:

### ***Activities developed:***

#### **EQA:**

- EQA for DST (IUATLD/WHO standardised strain panels) → 16 countries in 2009 (almost all countries performing DST)
- EQA for Drug Resistance Surveys performed in PER, COL, NIC, ELS, DOR , BRA and PAR

#### **Technical Assistance:**

SRLs participated in PAHO missions to ELS, HON, GUT, DOR, HAI, GUY, JAM, COL, ECU, BOL, PER, BRA, PAR, ARG .... (2006-2010)

# Operation of the Supranational Laboratory network - AMRO



## ***ACHIEVEMENTS 2006 -2009***

Mexico, Chile, Argentina with two WHO TB Collaborating Centers (Cuba and Argentina) and recently incorporation of Massachusetts to establish a Technical Group integrated to the PAHO Regional Programme on TB:

### ***Activities developed:***

#### **Documents :**

- Survey on methods used for smear microscopy EQA (2006 survey)
- Survey on structure and resources of National TB laboratories network (2006-2007 survey)

#### ***Regional norms and standards:***

- Updated guidelines on smear microscopy, culture (published in 2008), DST and EQA for microscopy, culture and DST (to be edited in 2010)
- Position paper on new TB diagnostics considering the Region situation (2007)

#### **Training:**

- TB laboratory network management (2007, 2010)
- New tools for TB diagnosis (2009)

# Operation of the Supranational Laboratory network - AMRO



## ***ACHIEVEMENTS TO 2006 - 2010***

Mexico, Chile, Argentina with two WHO TB Collaborating Centers (Cuba and Argentina) and recently with the incorporation of Massachusetts Institute to establish a Technical Group integrated to the PAHO TB Regional Programme.

### **Laboratory strategies for different situations**

- TB high incidence countries → annual Meetings/Workshops 2005-2010
- TB low incidence countries → one workshop in 2006
- MDR-TB key and high priority countries → workshops for MDR-TB management 2007 and 2010

### **Annual meetings involving SRLs**

- To evaluate activities
- To share information
- To develop annual plan

### **Other activities:**

- Provision of culture and DST (1<sup>st</sup> line drugs) services for Caribbean countries
- Provision of 2<sup>nd</sup> line DST for Ecuador, Bolivia, DOR, Colombia
- Training for NRLs professionals

# Operation of the Supranational Laboratory network - AMRO



## CHALLENGES

- **Distribution of the countries by SRL in function of geographical accessibility and language and not in function of TB burden, staffing and technical capacity???**
- **Human Resources in SRLs in LAC:**
  - Retirement of two SRL managers:
    - Involvement of a new SRL?
    - Re-evaluation of technical capacity of the existing SRLs?
    - Intensive training of professionals of the existing SRLs??
  - The staff existing are adequate to support national activities but insufficient to deal with international activities
- **Funds for SRLs in LAC**
  - The national institutions that host these SRLs under the MoH umbrella are not able to allocate funds for international support , thus this activity depends entirely on external funding.
  - PAHO has been mobilizing funds but not enough to needs

# Needs of the Supranational Laboratory network - AMRO



- **Renovate political commitment and establishment of formal relationship with National Health Authorities**
- **To reinforce the technical capacity of SRLs –from LA countries-**
  - Increase funds for the international activities
  - Reinforcement of HR involved in international activities
  - Renovation of equipment and acquisition of reagents and consumables
  - Training of junior professionals (visits of SRLs of developed countries and participation in international courses and missions)
  - Increase research activities
- **Coordination of SRLs activities at regional level – focal point for laboratory issues in PAHO**



# What SRL network in general needs from GLI?



- **Definition of new terms of reference in accordance with the actual situation**
- **Define comprehensive criteria for country distribution per SRL**
- **Define criteria for designation and resignation of SRLs**
- **Define economical requirements for a SRLs from middle-income countries**
- **Decentralize the structure and functions of SRLs network**
- **Facilitate exportation/importation of *M. tuberculosis* strains (not only for EQA but also for X/MDR TB diagnosis).**

# Sources of funding available for SRL support at regional level



- **USAID → PAHO umbrella project**
  - Annual meetings
  - Country missions
  - Documents – edition and printing
- **AECID (Spain) → PAHO project**
  - Training courses
  - Documents
  - Funds for SRL activities
- **PAHO regional budget:**
  - Country missions
- **Country level → Global Fund and national budget???**

**FUNDS DO NOT COVER THE NEEDS FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SRLs' NETWORK**

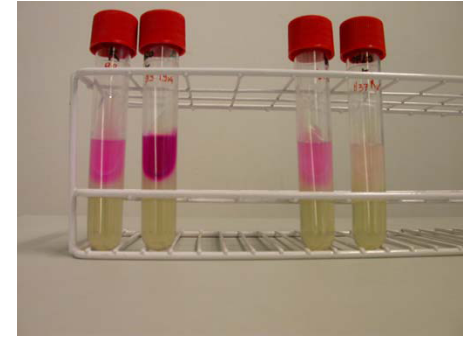
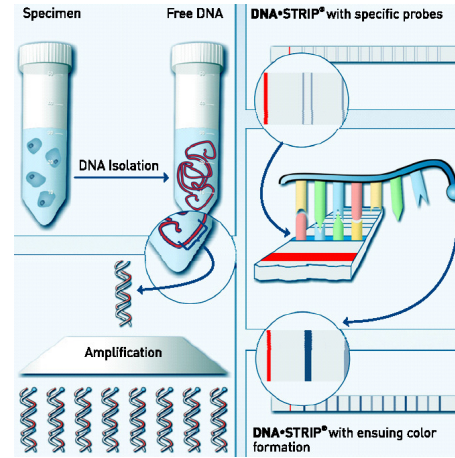
# Proposed next steps



## Strengthening the SRL network to respond to MDR-TB expansion Plan in the Americas:

### *Technical support to countries*

- **Surveillance**
  - Systematic in all retreat cases
  - Systematic, sentinel or periodic in new cases
- **Retooling → rapid test for DR**
- **TA for HR development**
- **Biosafety in the national network**
- **Annual monitoring and evaluation missions to the NRLs**
- **Capacity building:**
  - Training on biosafety- BSC verification
  - Training on SLD susceptibility testing
- **Improvement laboratory information system:**
  - Creation of database to monitor laboratory networks performance at regional and country level



***THANK YOU***

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