Summary from Day One

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Global Consultation of the
TB Supranational Reference laboratory Network

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Action points

• Presentations from the consultation to be uploaded to the GLI website with the meeting report.

• Draft WHO TB Bio-safety Manual to be circulated to the SRLN for comment following final feedback from expert working group members. Expected timeline for distribution mid May 2010.

• Coordinate the update of the SRLN on the GLaDMap global laboratory database.
  – [http://www.gladmap.org](http://www.gladmap.org)

• Use email to communicate to SRLN updates to WHO policy guidance on the GLI website

• Establish a technical working group QA of DST to discuss:
  – Interpretative criteria for "difficult strains"
  – Should QA be limited to INH/RIF/quinolones/injectables
Programmatic

1. Liaise with Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI) technical partners, National TB Reference Laboratories (NRLs) and National TB Programmes (NTPs) to facilitate implementation of WHO policy guidance on TB diagnostics and laboratory norms and standards.

2. Support the integration of quality TB diagnostic services within national laboratory strategic plans incorporating cross cutting laboratory issues including supply management, specimen transport and referral and human resource development.


4. Support development of M&E indicators starting with a good data management system

5. Provide guidance on quality management systems for a process towards NRLs achieving accreditation.
TOR for the SRLN (2)

Technical

Serve as the focal point for coordination of technical assistance to NRLs to enable:

1. Proficiency monitoring of the NRL* performing drug susceptibility testing of *M. tuberculosis*
2. The provision of guidance to NRL microscopy networks on implementation of quality assured AFB microscopy
3. Support to countries with technical assistance to develop capacity and proficiency performing conventional and new WHO endorsed techniques including:
   1. Microscopy methods
   2. Culture and identification methods
   3. Drug susceptibility testing (phenotypic and molecular methods)
4. Assistance with the development drug resistance survey (DRS) protocols, data validation, and quality assurance as required
5. Provision of testing against second-line drugs (for both patient management and surveillance) until NRLs establish capacity
6. On-site technical training or in-house training of NRL staff as needed
7. Advice on the laboratory component of the GF country proposals
8. Assistance with operational research, if relevant, on the introduction of new laboratory tools

*designated lab in the country
Eligibility and inclusion criteria for SRLs:

1. Officially recognized by the National Health Authority or Ministry of Health
2. National Level TB Reference Laboratory supervising a functional national or sub-national network of lower level laboratories.
3. Expertise, bio-safety and equipment 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.
4. Conform to International standards to perform TB testing
5. Proven DST proficiency with sufficient workload levels to maintain proficiency (participated in at least 2 consecutive rounds of SRLN proficiency testing)
6. Proven potential (including human resources, infrastructure and equipment) to support laboratories in other countries (as per SRL TOR)
7. Established or capacity to develop working relationships with the NRL in other countries through formal links
8. Commit to provide the minimum SRL service requirements which are to:
   - Establish formal links with at least two countries
   - Based on country needs, provide technical assistance/training at least 3 times over biennium (both in-house and through country visits)
   - Provide reports to WHO on SRL services to countries.
Issues to consider in linking SRLs with NRLs?

- Political implications / Political history
- Cultural or language differences
- Country size and disease burden
- Appropriate geographical linkages
- Experience of the Head of the SRL

- MoU established between candidate SRL with ministry of Health of the supported country
Analysis

Diagnostic methods and algorithms defined at different level of laboratory services (SOP)

DR-TB and TB/HIV Risk Group country algorithm for diagnosis and referral is defined

Correct tests

HR development Training Records

Correct training

Correct supplies

Culture /DST Molecular/ Microscopy consumables

Facility with Equipment Maintenance Biosafety

Correct facility and equipment

SRL Ready

Correct patient

Correct results

Correct quality

EQA 1st / 2nd line DST Internal QC Performance indicators

Linkage with technical assistance from an SRL

Functional QA laboratory network