



**Supranational TB Reference Laboratories Network**

Collaboration Agreement

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The National Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory, hereafter designated as “the NRL”

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

and the TB Supranational Reference Laboratory, hereafter designated as “the SRL”

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

have agreed to collaborate for both the programmatic and technical development of tuberculosis laboratory services, research, and technical assistance with policy development in *country* according to the terms of reference for the **WHO/GLI Supranational TB Reference Laboratory Network**.

**Programmatic**

1. Coordinate and prospectively communicate with Stop TB Partnership’s workgroups, the Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI) and its 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, while respecting relevant national laws and regulations.
2. Support the integration of quality TB diagnostic testing for the purpose of providing prompt and accurate results to patients according to the International Standards of Care with national laboratory strategic plans incorporating cross cutting laboratory issues including supply management, specimen transport and referral, and human resource development.
3. Advocate for TB laboratory worker protection with the use of current WHO TB bio-safety recommendations.
4. Support development of monitoring and evaluation indicators starting with a good data management system.
5. Provide guidance on and build capacity in quality management systems for a process towards NRLs achieving accreditation, nationally, internationally, or both.

**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 laboratory network 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:
  - a. Microscopy methods
  - b. Culture and identification methods
  - c. Drug susceptibility testing (phenotypic and molecular methods).
4. Assist and collaborate in the development drug resistance surveillance (DRS) protocols, data analysis, and quality assurance as required.
5. Provision of testing against second-line drugs (for both, patient management and surveillance purposes), as NRLs establish capacity.
6. On-site technical training or in-house training of NRL staff as needed.
7. Provision of operational research, if relevant, on the introduction of new laboratory tools.
8. Prepare and share technical reports with the NRL, within SRL Network and with other GLI partners.

Within the limits of available funding, the NRL accepts to:

1. Participate in all quality assurance activities for phenotypic or genotypic drug susceptibility testing, as proposed by the SRL.
2. Provide timely testing of QA samples and report findings to the SRL.
3. Facilitate SRL technical assistance visits by means of invitation letters, hotel reservations, reception at the airport and transport within the country for duty travel, as required.
4. Provide to the SRL all necessary information regarding its laboratory network activities, workload and performance, as required.

This agreement is of undefined duration and can be ended by any party upon written notice, with a copy to the Global TB Programme, WHO, Geneva.

For the NRL,

For the SRL,

Signature:

Signature:

Name:

Name:

Designation:

Designation:

Date:

Date: