

LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROVIDES ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND MEDICAL LABORATORY EXCELLENCE IN RESOURCE LIMITED COUNTRIES



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XXXth Congress of the International Academy of Pathology 2014
Bangkok, Thailand

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Background

- ▶ Many developing nations have limited resources, not only in funding, but also skilled laboratory workers partially due to lack of education/training facilities, and comparatively low wages to the international community.
- ▶ Accreditation of laboratories provides a clear pathway to ensure proper management, training and retention of laboratory personnel.



Photos:

Title slide (L): Group photo from Threat Agent Detection and Response (TADR)

Retrieved from http://www2.cdc.gov/spectrum/vol2no2/leadstory_dbpr.htm

Title slide (R): CDC Global HIV/AIDS International Laboratory Resources

Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/globalAIDS/resources/laboratory/default.html>

Current slide: Reuters. Retrieved from <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/stronger-us-dollar-will-impact-global-currencies-2014-1430218>

Methods



- ▶ Accreditation is a tool to demonstrate the competence of medical laboratories and ensure the delivery of timely, accurate and reliable results.
- ▶ Under ISO 15189:5.1 laboratories must include a substantial investment in their personnel, to ensure and maintain best practices.

Results

- ▶ Approximately 28 nations/regions are signatories of the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC).¹



1. Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation October 2002-APLAC News Notes Issue No. 064. Retrieved from https://www.aplac.org/documents/aplac_notes/newsnotesoct02.pdf

Case Study - Thailand

- ▶ Thailand has successfully initiated its accreditation process by starting with national standards and gradually moving to international standards.*
- ▶ In Thailand, the national standard covered approximately **75% of the international standard ISO 15189**.
- ▶ Thailand also provided enough training to all medical laboratories to implement the national standards.
- ▶ The country could therefore accelerate the implementation of national and international standards within a short time.



Source: "Guidelines on Establishment of Accreditation of Health Laboratories"
Retrieved from http://apps.searo.who.int/PDS_DOCS/B3179.pdf
Image: World Health Organization Thailand.
Retrieved from <http://www.who.int/countries/tha/en>

Results

- ▶ The WHO-AFRO Stepwise Accreditation Program provides an attainable framework for lab accreditation for all 55 nations of Africa.² The establishment of ASLM and SADCAS are additional examples of the global effort to enhance laboratory accreditation programs.

Internationally Accredited Medical/Clinical Laboratories in Africa, May 2014*

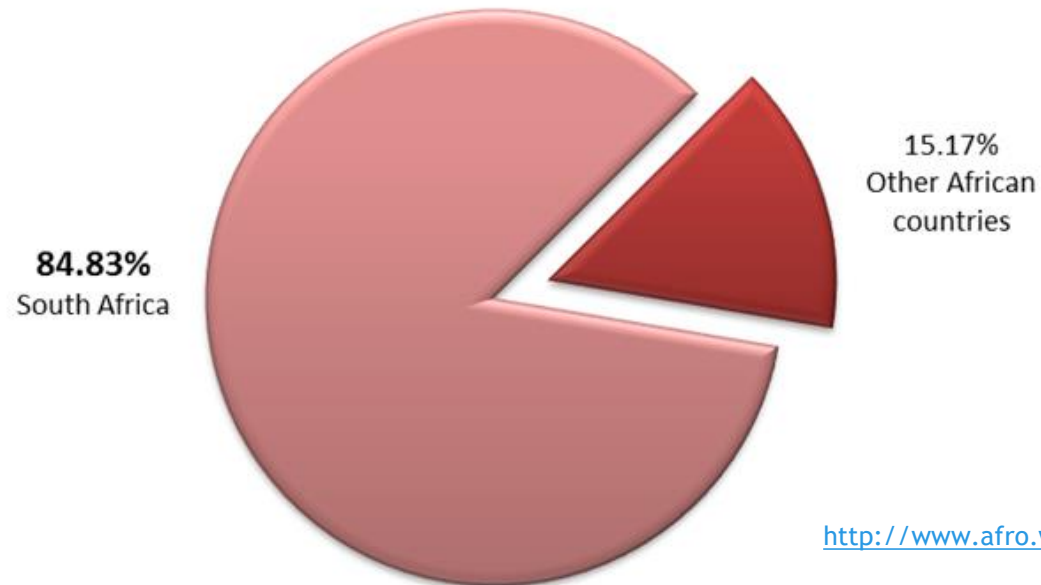


Figure: "Laboratory Accreditation Updates"

Retrieved from <http://www.aslm.org/what-we-do/slipta/>

2. "WHO Guide for the Stepwise Laboratory Improvement Process Towards Accreditation in the African Region." Retrieved from

http://www.afro.who.int/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=8642&Itemid=2593

Case Study - Africa

Figure 1. SLIPTA Tiers of Recognition

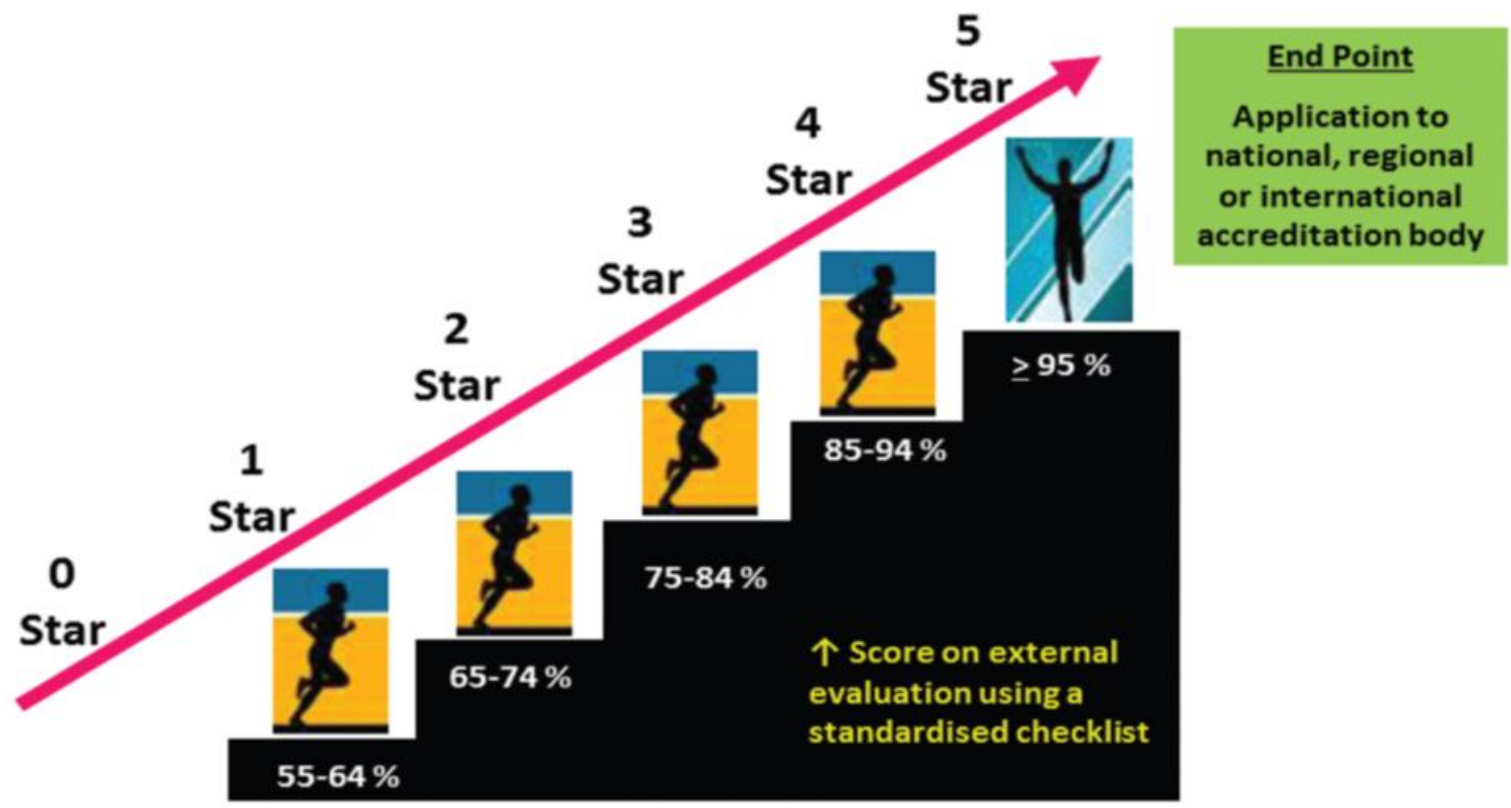


Figure 1: “WHO SLIPTA Guidance Document August 2013”
World Health Organization (WHO); African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM)
Retrieved from <http://www.aslm.org/resource-centre/resource-library/accreditation/>

Case Study - Africa (Regional Progress)

Figure 2. Charting the Spread of SLIPTA

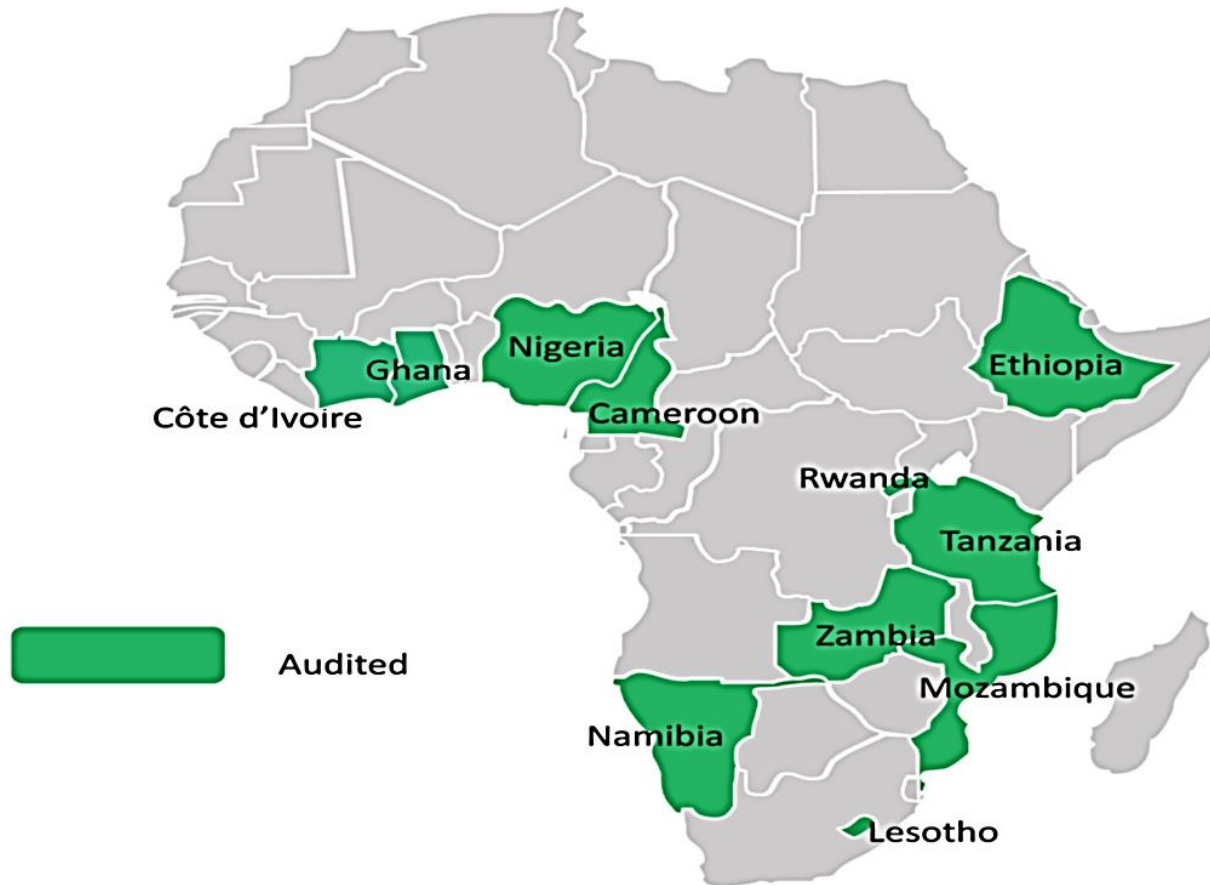


Figure 2: "Stepwise Laboratory Quality Improvement Process Towards Accreditation (SLIPTA) Update: 2011-2013"
World Health Organization (WHO); African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM)
Retrieved from <http://www.aslm.org/resource-centre/resource-library/accreditation/>

Conclusion

- ▶ Throughout the world today, laboratory accreditation has been increasingly recognized as an effective tool to remove technical barriers to trade as well as to better quality of life.



Photo (L): "Saving lives on the Ebola frontline". BBC Online
Retrieved from <http://www.thedailystar.net/saving-lives-on-the-ebola-frontline-37359>

Photo (R): Arapan Welfare Society

Retrieved from <http://www.awssamiti.org/Descraption.aspx?MID=cbbd675c-f31e-4733-9366-97dc7808e870>

Conclusion

- ▶ Accreditation by an objective, external body is an excellent way to incorporate accountability for laboratory services.
- ▶ Through the application of national and international standards, government, procurers and consumers can have confidence in laboratory systems.



Photo: "Teamwork Magnified in the Laboratory." Retrieved from <http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/highland/about-us/Working-Here/Department-Spotlights/Pathology-Laboratory-Medicine.aspx>