

External Quality Assessment (EQA) - Proficiency Testing (PT) in Developing Countries Medical Laboratory Field

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Presentation Outline

- Overview of ZINQAP
- Background
- PT / EQA Practices
- Challenges
- Recommendations
- Conclusion
- Questions

Zimbabwe



- Located in Southern Africa
- Population of 12 million
- World Heritage Sites
 - Victoria Fall
 - Great Zimbabwe Monument

Overview of ZINQAP

ZINQAP – Zimbabwe National Quality Assurance Programme

Mandate

Assist medical laboratories and testing sites attain and maintain quality

Governance

- Non-profit stakeholder governed organisation

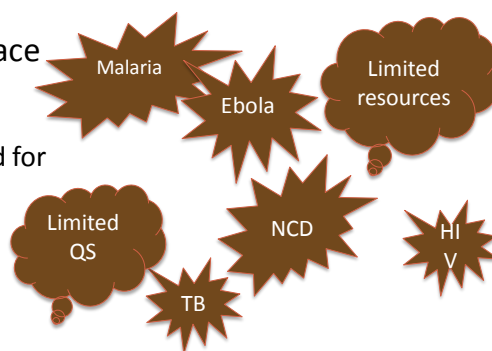
Strategies

- Accredited PT Service
 - 2005, SANAS.
- Training & mentorship
- SADC Regional Centre of Excellence – Quality Systems
 - Support QA initiatives in SADC MS

Background

- Laboratory testing key component of Health delivery system
- Laboratories in the developing countries face numerous challenges
 - High disease burden
 - Ever increasing demand for testing services
 - Limited resources
 - Limited quality and technical infrastructure

70% of medical decisions are based on laboratory test results



Importance of Strengthening Laboratory Technical Capacity in Africa

- Political commitment and support for strengthening laboratories in Africa
 - Maputo declaration: 2006
 - WHO-CDC Joint statement: 2008
 - Launch of the Africa Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM): 2011

Quality Systems in Developing Countries

- Increased implementation QS in developing countries
 - World Health Organisation AFRO initiative
 - Various development partners
 - Various tools
 - SLMTA
 - WHO
- Laboratory audit
 - SLIPTA
- Increased demand for PTS



World Health Organization



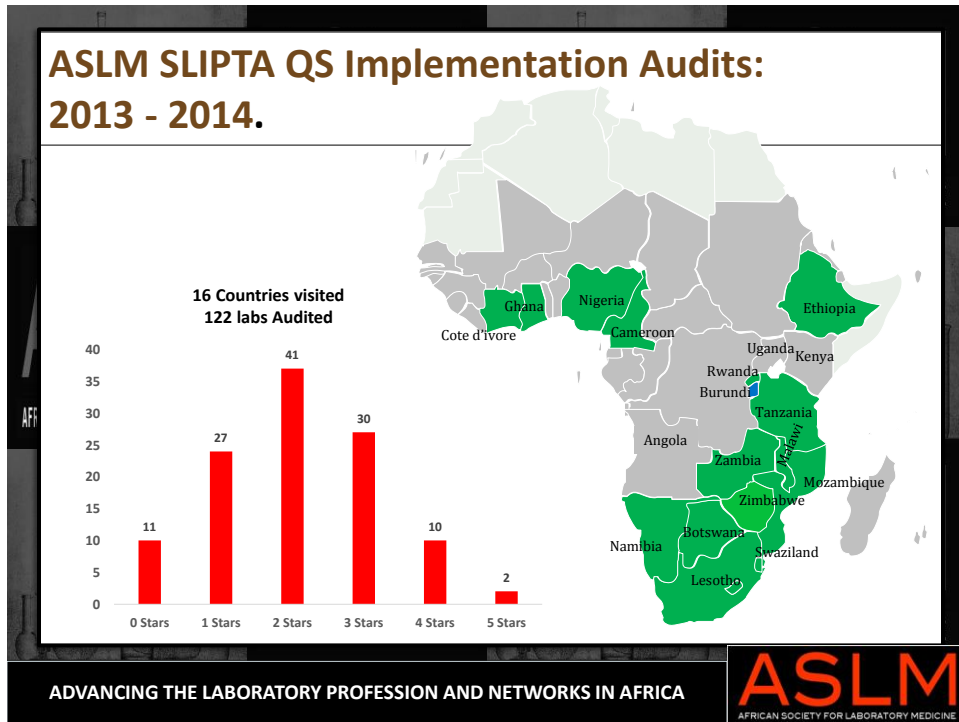
Investing in our future

The Global Fund
To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria



PEPFAR





Increased Awareness of QS

- Increased awareness and demand for PT Services
 - ISO 15189; ISO 17025 – PT/ILC Requirements
 - Good laboratory practice
 - Initiatives from National Programmes

Forms of EQA

- Proficiency Testing
- Re-testing / Rechecking
- On-site Evaluation



Developing Countries

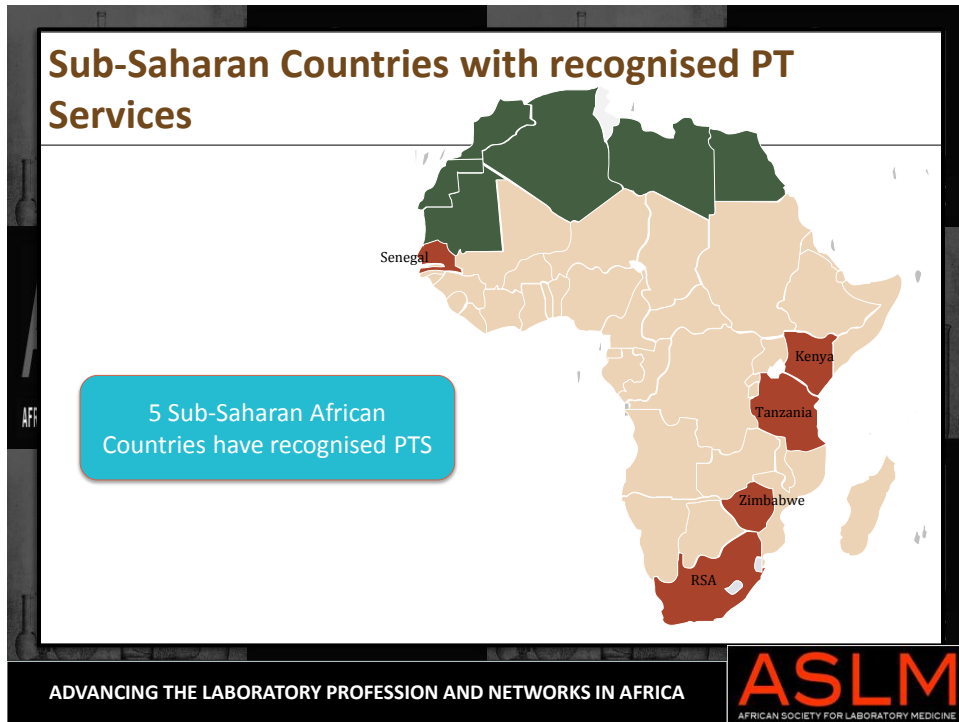
- High, Medium and Low income
- Quality systems at different levels of development
- High Income Emerging Markets
 - Well established
- Medium and Low Income
 - Minimum QS infrastructure

PT/EQA Services in Emerging Markets

- PT/ EQA is well established
- Local PT Providers
 - Accreditation to ISO 17043
 - Wide range of PT schemes – covering different forms of testing
- Good appreciation of PT/EQA
 - Importance / value
 - Participation
 - Review of participation and implementation of CA

PT / EQA in Medium to Low Income Developing Countries

- PT/EQA is less developed
- Lower appreciation of PT/EQA and its value
- Fewer local PT service Provider
- Reliance on External PT Service Providers
- Alternative forms of EQA used
 - Blinded re-testing / re-checking
 - On-site evaluation



Challenges

- Limited appreciation of the value of QS, PT / EQA
- Unavailability of local PT Programme
- The cost of the PT Programme
 - Competing demands for resources
- Challenges in running a PTS
 - PT design
 - Access to homogenous sample
 - Transportation services
 - Data analysis and reporting software/systems

Recommendations

- Need to build local capacity in QS and PTS
 - Disease surveillance
 - Support of the Health Delivery System
- Urgent need to identify funding for laboratory system strengthening and QS, PT...
- Develop and implement regulatory mechanisms enforcing, QS, PT

Conclusion

Need to improve the quality of laboratory services, PTS and contribute to a Healthy, Happy, population



QUESTIONS

THANK YOU