



East Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC)

# Partnerships in strengthening laboratory systems: Experience of the East African Public Health Laboratory Networking Project

SLMTA Symposium  
28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Martin Matu



**East Africa Public Health Laboratory Network Project**

*Controlling the Spread of Communicable Diseases in Eastern  
Africa through Improved Diagnostic and Surveillance Capacities*



# Presentation outline

- Background
- About the EAPHLN Project
- Building on partnerships to improve quality systems
- Our major partnerships in improving laboratory systems and other health systems
- Main Outcomes



## East Africa Public Health Laboratory Network Project

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# Partnerships health laboratory systems

- Sustainable investment in laboratory improvement requires strong partnerships;
- Partners provides contributions to the overall health services delivery (including laboratory services, disease surveillance, clinical care etc) supporting to improve technical operations, governance, effective and efficient management of resources and quality of care;
- Ministries, regional and international Institutions needs to work in collaboration to achieve more in strengthening health care.



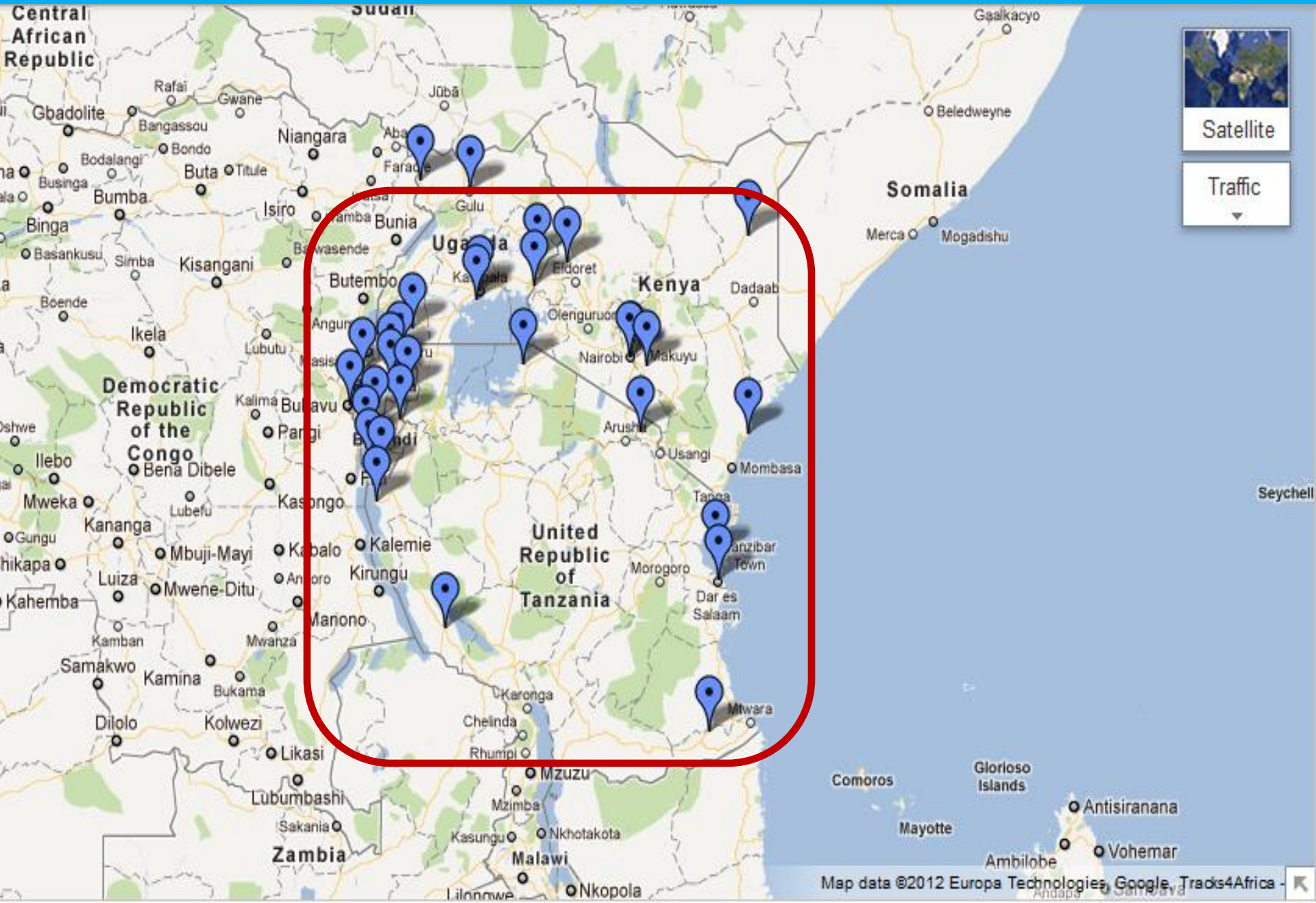
# The East African Public Health Laboratory Networking Project

**Shared vision and collective action:** Prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases in the Eastern Africa region by raising quality of diagnostic and surveillance services

- 
- ❑ **LEADERSHIP** : Countries taking lead in promoting innovations and sharing experiences ; Regional bodies support knowledge sharing
  - ❑ **PARTNERSHIP**: Synergy with key actors (GLI/WHO, CDC, TB Union, UNITAID, USAID/KNCV, GEATM, ASLM, AMREF, etc)
  - ❑ **PROMOTING EXCELLENCE** : Adhering to regional standards established by WHO, ISO and CDC etc



# Project sites



# Building on Partnerships to improve quality systems

Training

EQA

Mentorship  
support

Outbreak  
confirmation

SLMTA

Infrastructure

Equipment  
and  
commodities



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# Laboratory Networking and Accreditation



SLMTA supported by CDC and other partners

- baseline and post-assessment visits;
- training workshops;
- supportive onsite supervisions/mentorship;
- intensive mentorship by dedicated scientists; and
- sensitization meetings for hospital management



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# Infrastructural development

## *Partnership in the design and development of state of the art laboratories*

- **Uganda** - New NTRL -
  - CDC - design
  - The Bank project - Construction;
- **Kenya** - National Public Health Laboratory Services (NPHLS)
  - CDC with PEPFAR funding - construction of a new laboratory complex (HIV and TB lab)
  - Bank - Rehabilitation of NPHLS at the same location
- **Rwanda** - the Satellite laboratories and new NRL
  - CDC support in review of designs and BoQs
- **Tanzania** - NHLQATC
  - CDC contracted
  - Bank supporting regional training at the centre





# Building capacity of laboratory and other health professionals

- Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (**FELTP**) - *Over 40 FELTP residents*
- **Mentorship** training - CHAI and AFENET
- Training of **Auditors** - ASLM
- **SLMTA**
- Lab **surveillance** - AMREF
- **Biorisk** Management - Makerere University



# Laboratory improvement efforts

- Strengthening **specimen transport** and referral mechanisms - CDC and other partners
- Support for **laboratory equipment**, commodities and supplies - CDC/GF and other partners
- Roll out of **Xpert** MTB/RIF testing network and has procured a number of GeneXpert machines across the EAC countries -
- **ICT** infrastructure improvements
- **Laboratory Information Management** systems developed - CDC/APHL



# Operational research and operational advice

- Project reviews - CDC, WHO
  - Implementation support missions
  - MTR
- Operational research
  - Economic impact model (CDC)
  - Multi-country studies (KEMRI, NIMR, MOH)



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# Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response

- Strengthening disease **surveillance** activities - EAC, UNOCHA, CDC
- Design of **eIDSR** system - CDC
- Scale up of **IDSR** training activities,
- Establishment of outbreak management and response committees



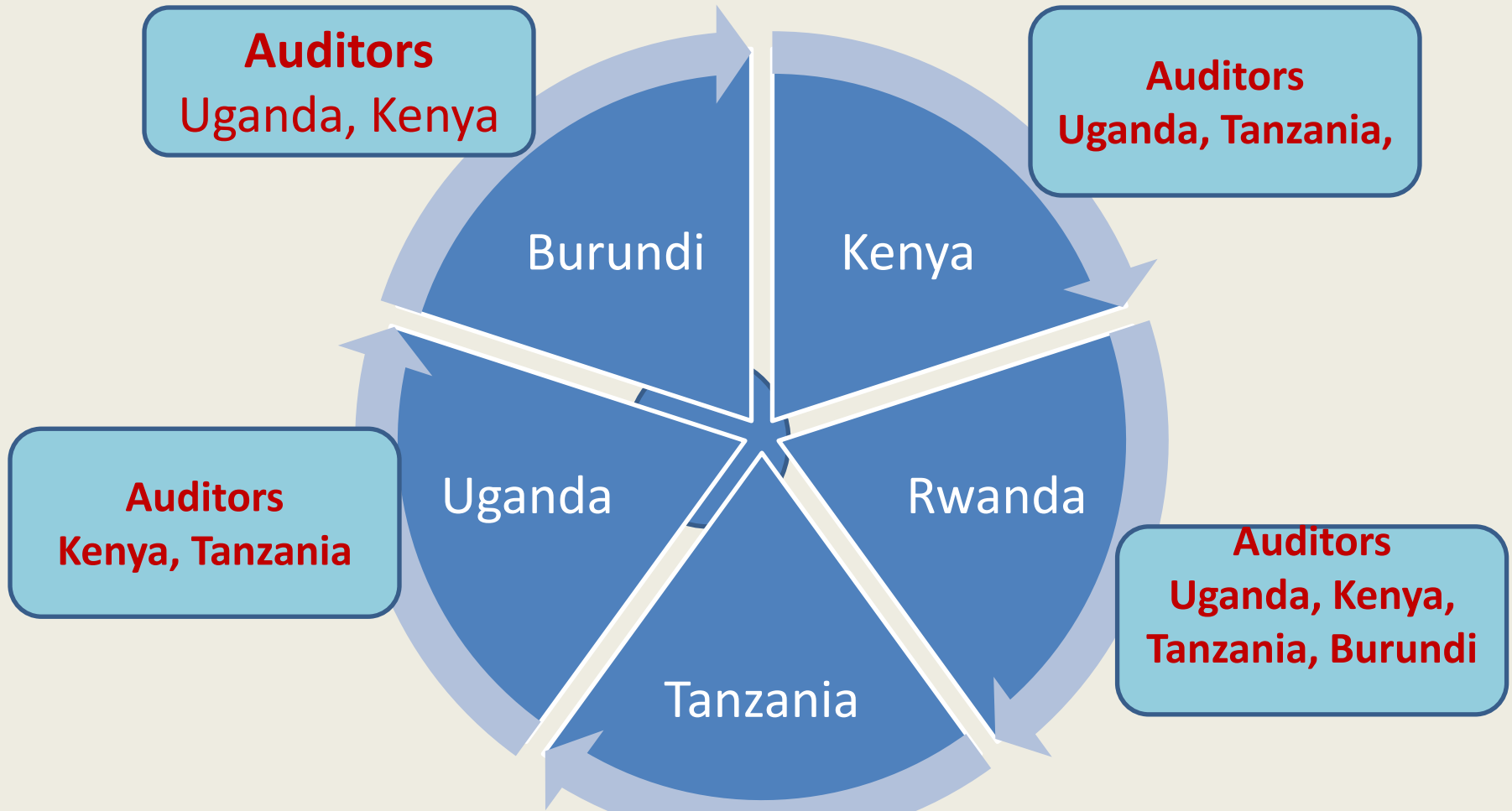
# Main outcomes

- Introduced and applied a unique and cost ***effective peer review mechanism*** by which the 5 EAC member states assess annually each other's performance using the SLIPTA checklist, ensuring objectivity and promoting cross country learning.
  - ***Substantial quality improvements with impressive gains*** - SLIPTA composite scores (at least 80% of 32 sites attained 2 stars by 2013),
  - Instilled culture of continuous quality improvements and setting facilities on a path towards international standards;
- **Piloting of Performance Based Financing as a complementary strategy** to link incremental improvements in the SLIPTA composite scores to financial incentives with lessons from Rwanda;
- **Capacity building of mentors and laboratory auditors** with support of CHAI, AFENET and ASLM;
- **Implemented SLMTA in all countries** with support of CDC and other partners;



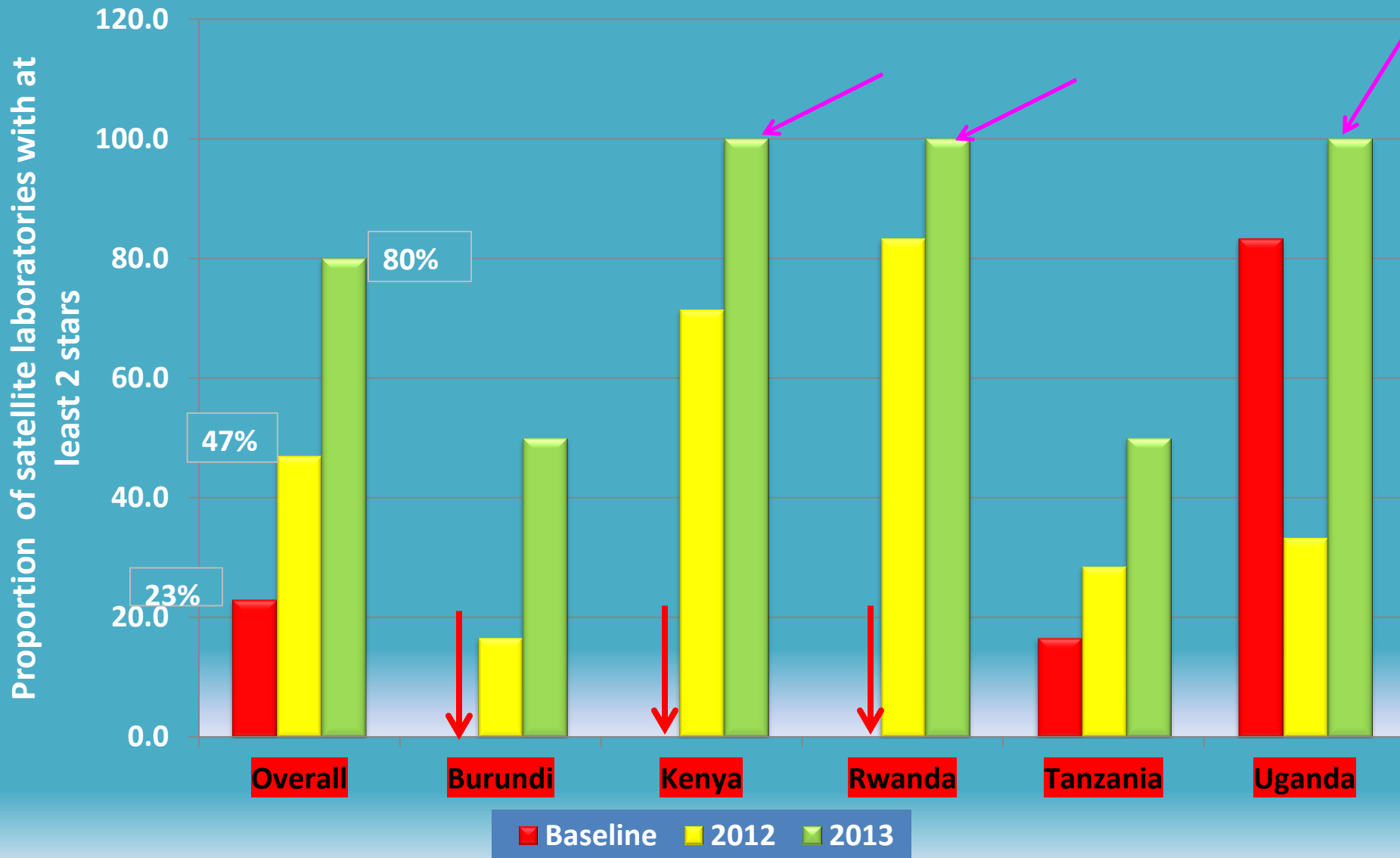
To establish a network of efficient, high quality, accessible public health laboratories.

# Peer laboratory audits





# Findings of regional peer audits

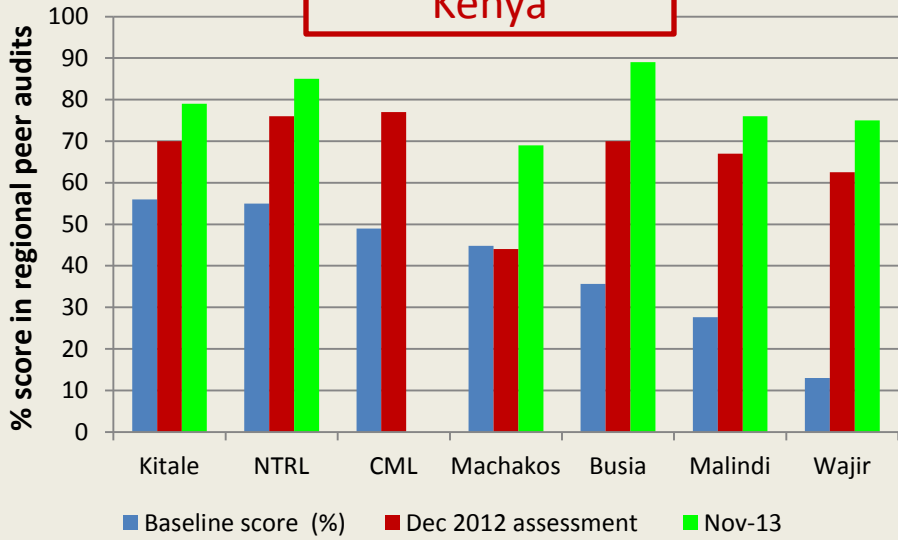


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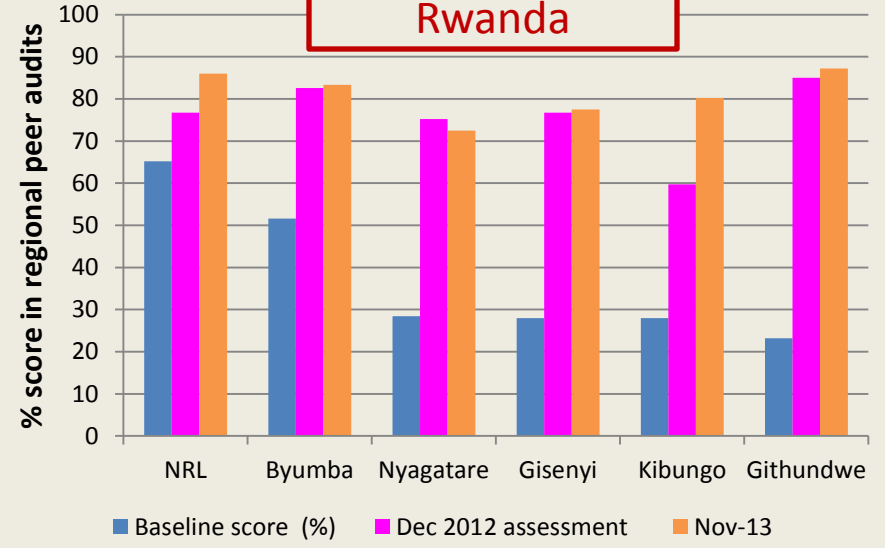
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# Findings of regional peer audits

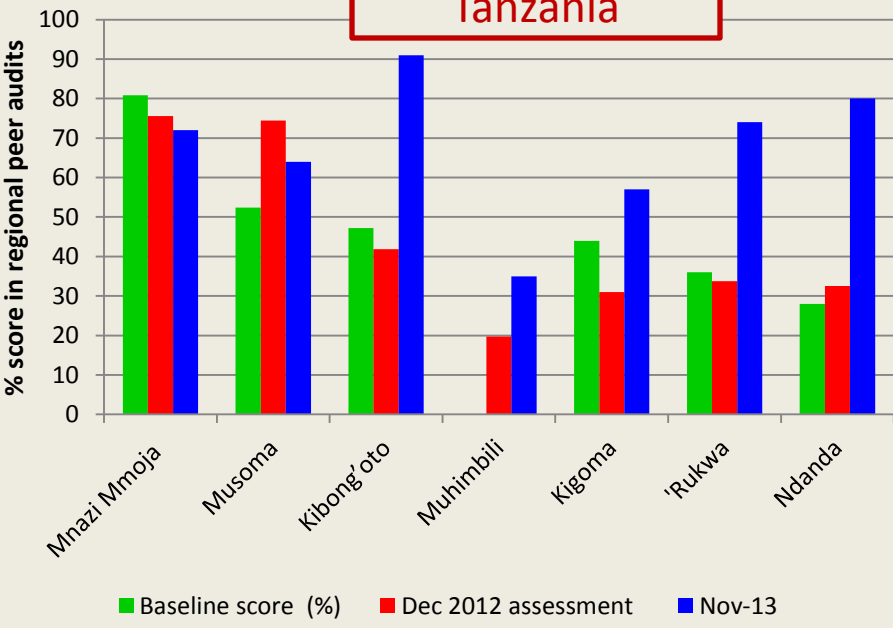
**Kenya**



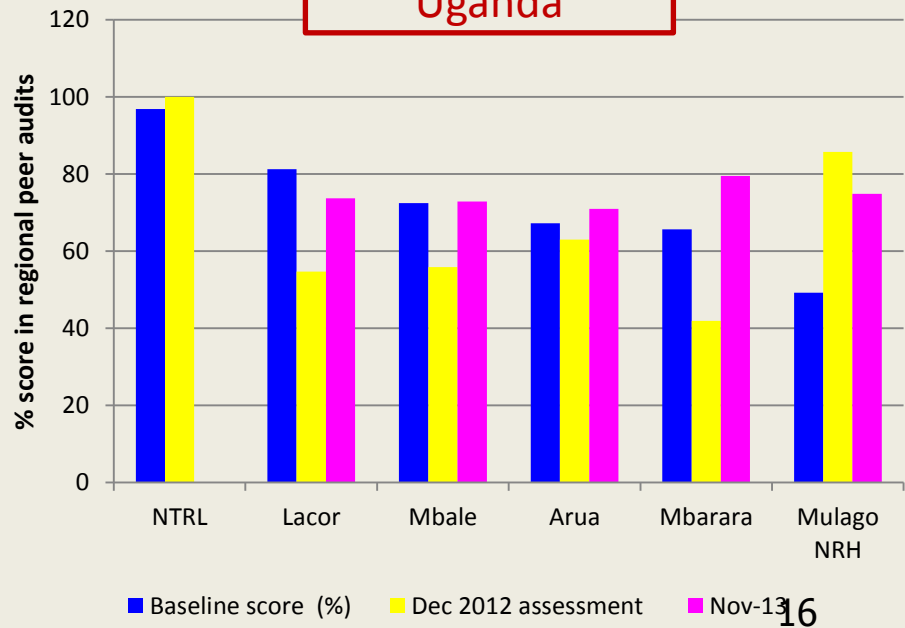
**Rwanda**



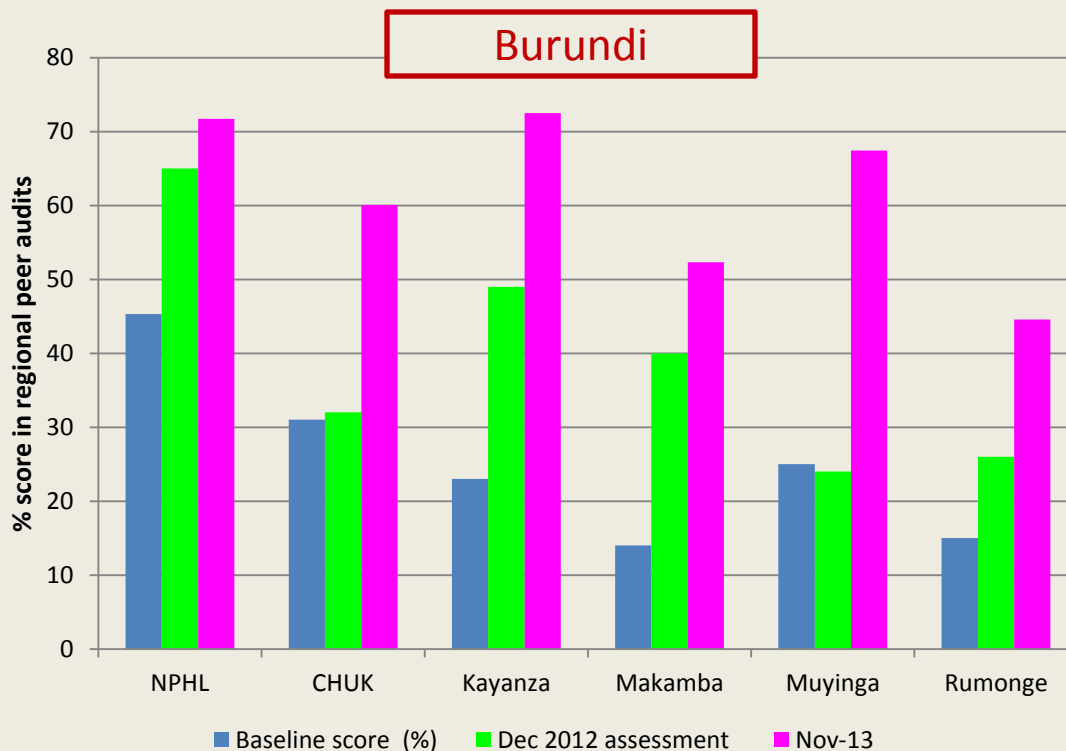
**Tanzania**



**Uganda**



# Findings of regional peer audits



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# Key factors contributing to improvements



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# Knowledge and experience sharing



Newsletter

The East Africa Public Health Laboratory Network Project  
Two years on good



Burundi comes on board as EAC and ECSA-Health Community seal a collaboration pact

Negotiating for improved health systems performance as a regional bloc through effective and efficient health services remains primary on the agenda of the ECSA-Health Community Secretariat, as mandated by the Health Ministers in the region. It is in this context that the ECSA-Health Community and the East African Community have sealed a collaboration pact to tackle common health problems in the region in diagnostic management of disease(s) outbreaks under the East African Public Health Laboratory Network Project (EAPHILNP). While addressing the project steering committee from participating member states, Mr Jean Claude Nsengiyumva, the EAC Deputy Secretary General (Productive and Social Sectors) said: "We must work together to strengthen each other so that whoever is challenged we can support each other and move together as a regional bloc." Mr Jean Claude Nsengiyumva also observed



The EAC Deputy Secretary General (Productive and Social Sectors) Mr Jean Claude Nsengiyumva (left) with the Community Director General (right)

# Thank you



## EAIDSNet BULLETIN

UJUIYA YA AFRIKA MASHARIKI

EAST AFRICAN INTEGRATED DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

## EAPHILNP Bulletin

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Continental Africa

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EAST AFRICAN PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORKING PROJECT  
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