



# **SLMTA: The Laboratory Medicine Game Changer**

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**Director**

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**African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

# Humble Beginnings...



**Before**

**Adwa Hospital Labatory**



**After**

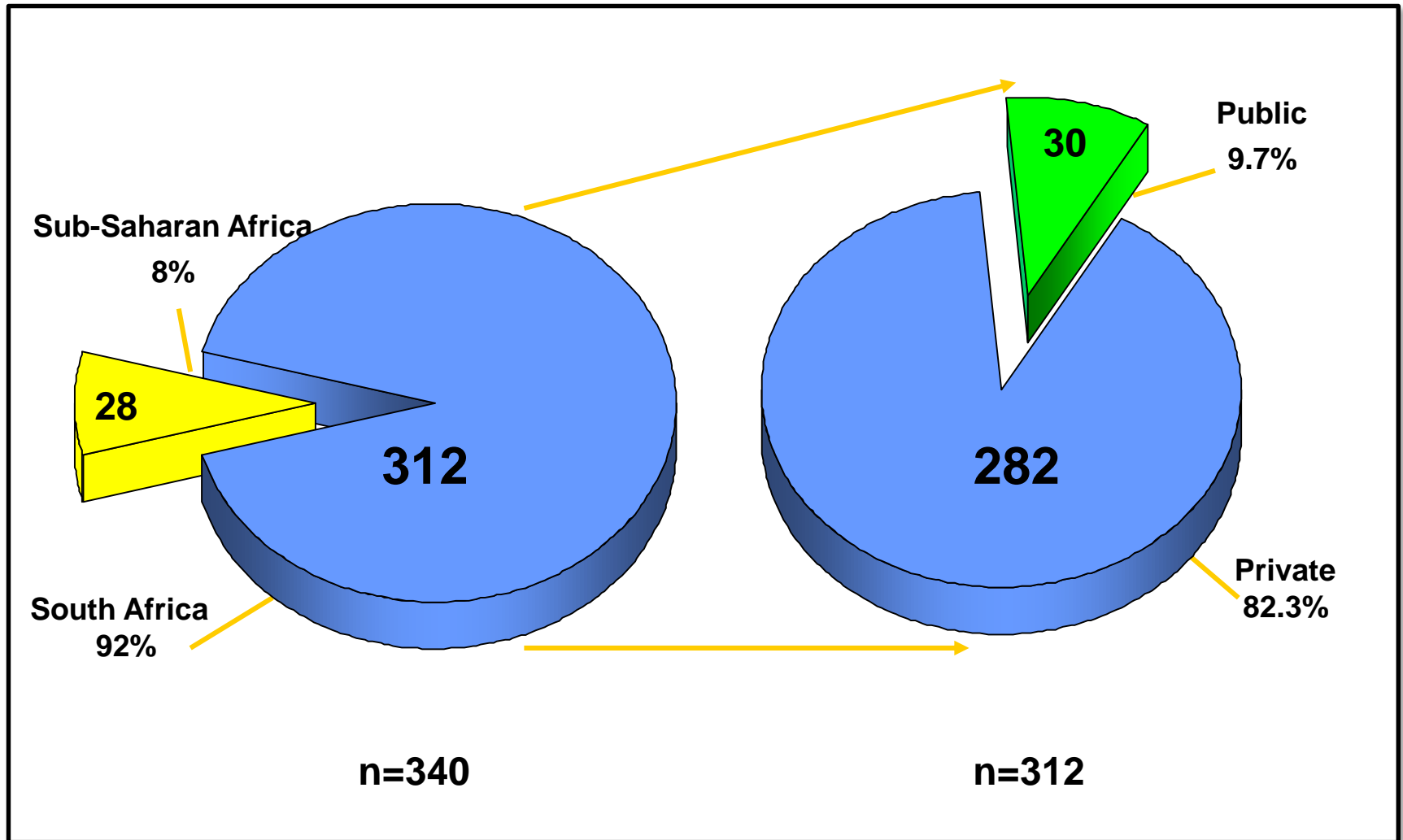


**Awash Health Center Laboratories**

# Reference Laboratory - Early Days



# Internationally Accredited Laboratories In Africa as of 2008

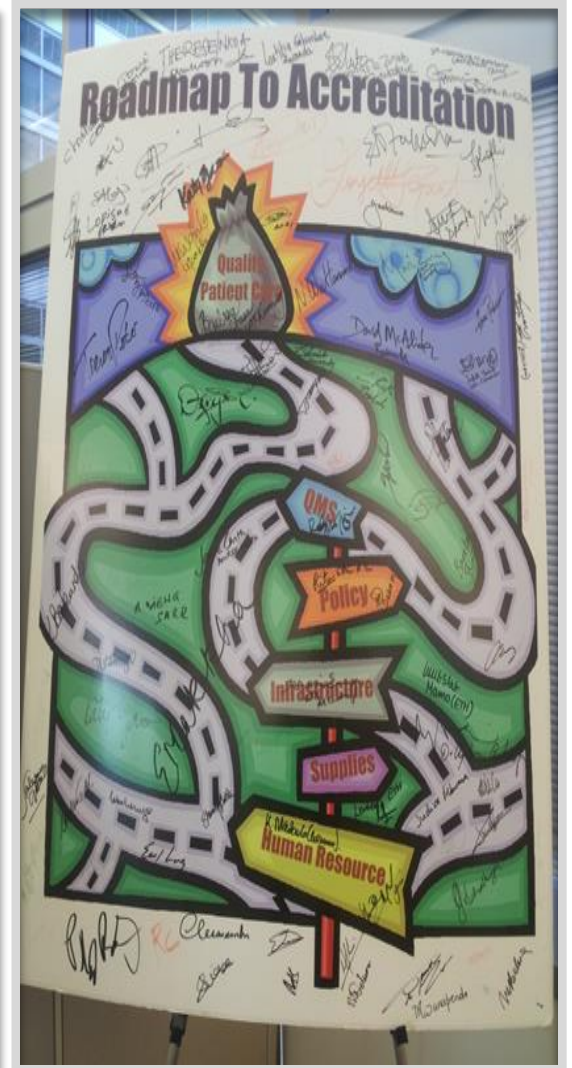


**“THE TIME IS  
ALWAYS RIGHT  
TO DO THE RIGHT  
THING.”**

**— MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**



# Launch of the WHO AFRO Stepwise Laboratory Improvement Process Towards Accreditation, 2010



# The Case for Lab Strengthening

Kigali Conference / LABORATORY SYSTEMS AND SERVICES IN GLOBAL HEALTH

## Laboratory Systems and Services Are Critical in Global Health

Time to End the Neglect?

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**Key Words:** National laboratory systems; Laboratory strengthening; Global health; Public health; Infectious diseases

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AJCP / EDITORIAL

## A Shifting Paradigm in Strengthening Laboratory Health Systems for Global Health

Acting Now, Acting Collectively, but Acting Differently

*John N. Nkengasong, PhD*

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**Neglected Lab Infrastructure**

AJCP

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Pathology

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Kigali Conference / IMPROVING QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

## Improving Quality Management Systems of Laboratories in Developing Countries

### An Innovative Training Approach to Accelerate Laboratory Accreditation

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**Key Words:** Accreditation; Management; Laboratory quality management system; Laboratory management; Task-based training

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# Institute Of Medicine Report on Evaluation of PEPFAR (2013)

“Although challenges remain, the improvement of laboratories under PEPFAR support and guidance has been a signature achievement of the program ----During the committee’s country visits, this was a theme emphasized with near universality”

REPORT BRIEF FEBRUARY 2013

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE  
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Advising the nation • Improving health

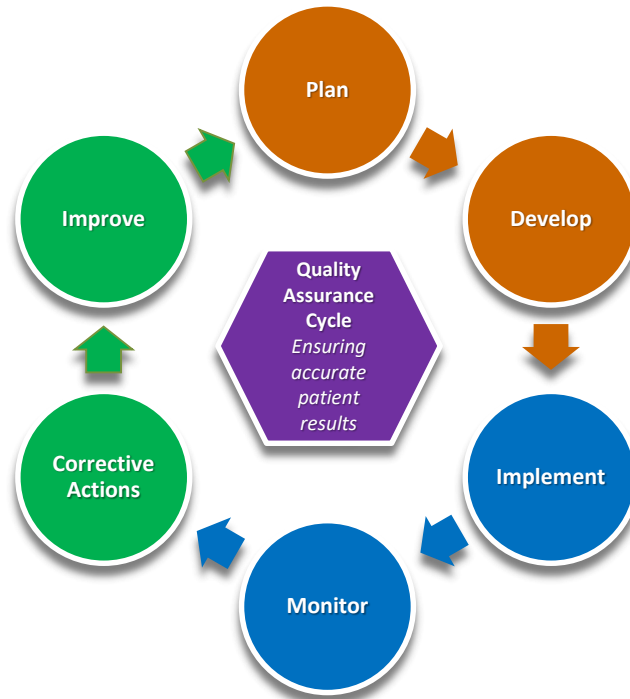
For more information visit [www.iom.edu/pepfar2](http://www.iom.edu/pepfar2)

## Evaluation of PEPFAR



Through the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the United States has provided an unprecedented level of health and devel-

# **Five Lessons Learned**



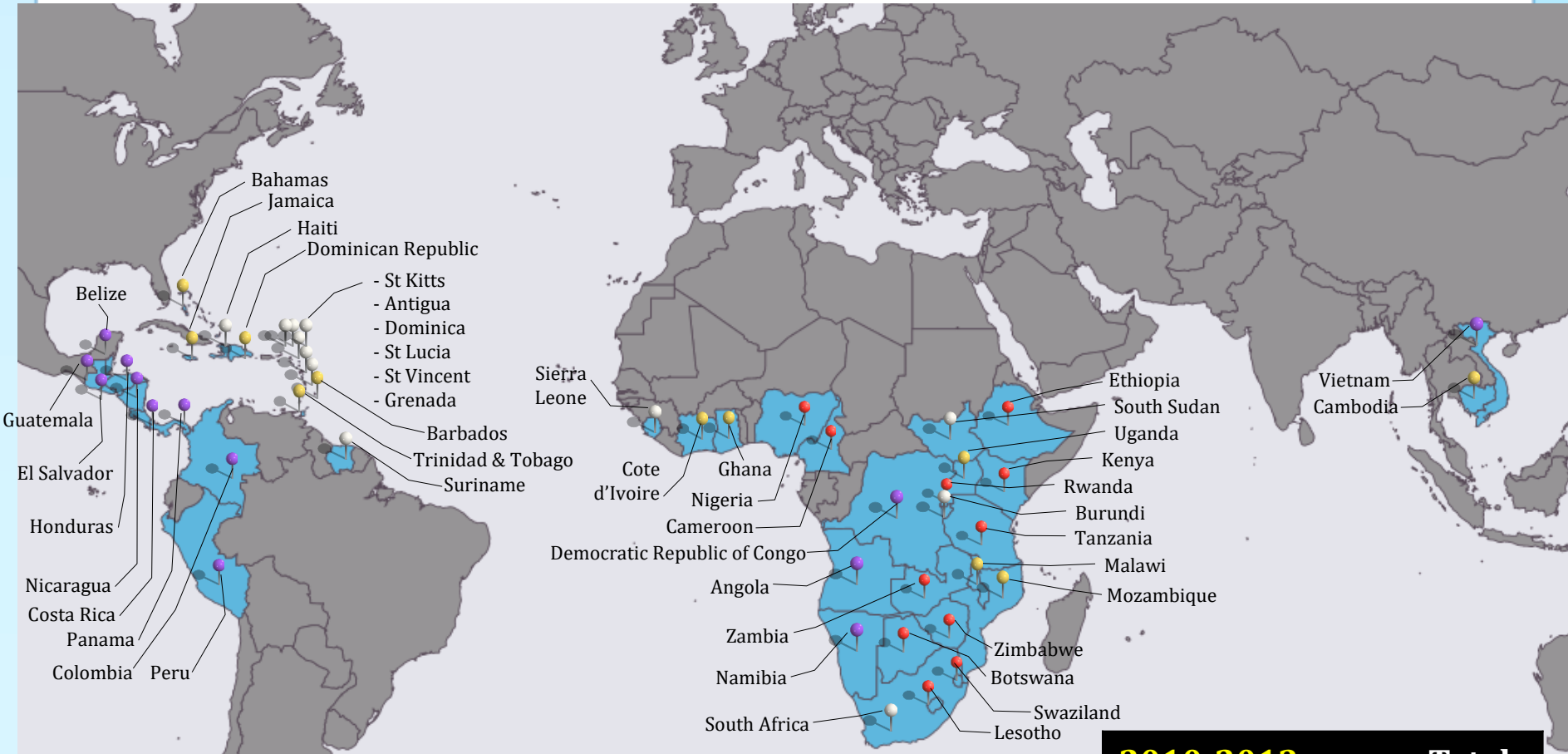
# 1

What gets Measured gets Done





# Produce in Africa and exported: SLMTA took off like a bullet

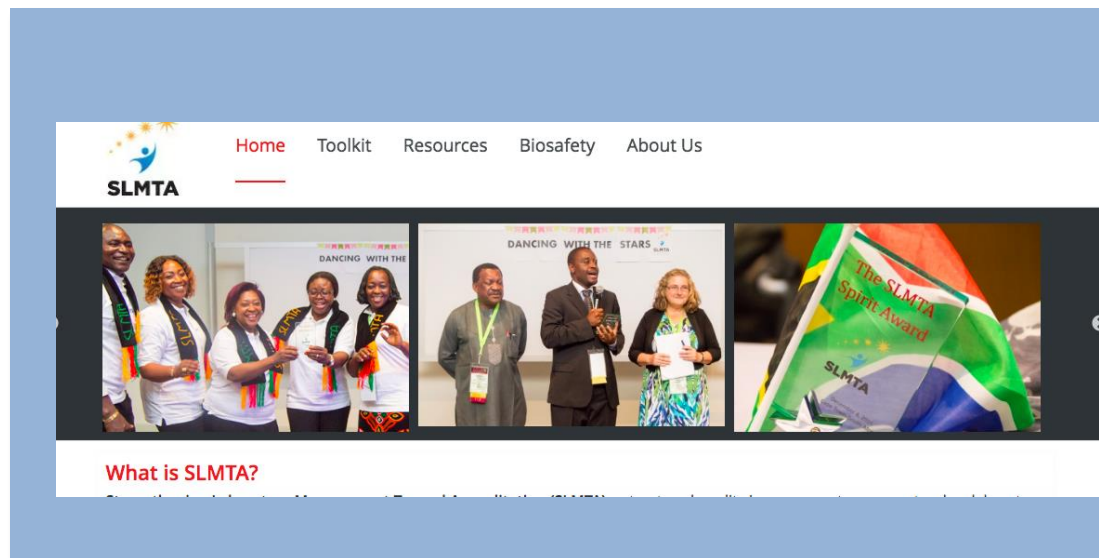


Year when SLMTA was initiated: 2010 2011 2012 2013

2010-2013	Total
# countries	47
# labs enrolled	617
# people trained	1,923

Source: Yao et al. 2014

# 2



**SLMTA became a networking platform = produced a chain effect of people to people**



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## What is SLMTA?



## Dancing with the Stars

ASLM 2016-South Africa SLMTA Song and Dance



ASLM 2016-Cameroon SLMTA Song and Dance



ASLM 2016 - Kenya SLMTA Song and Dance



## SLMTA in Action



## SLMTA in Print

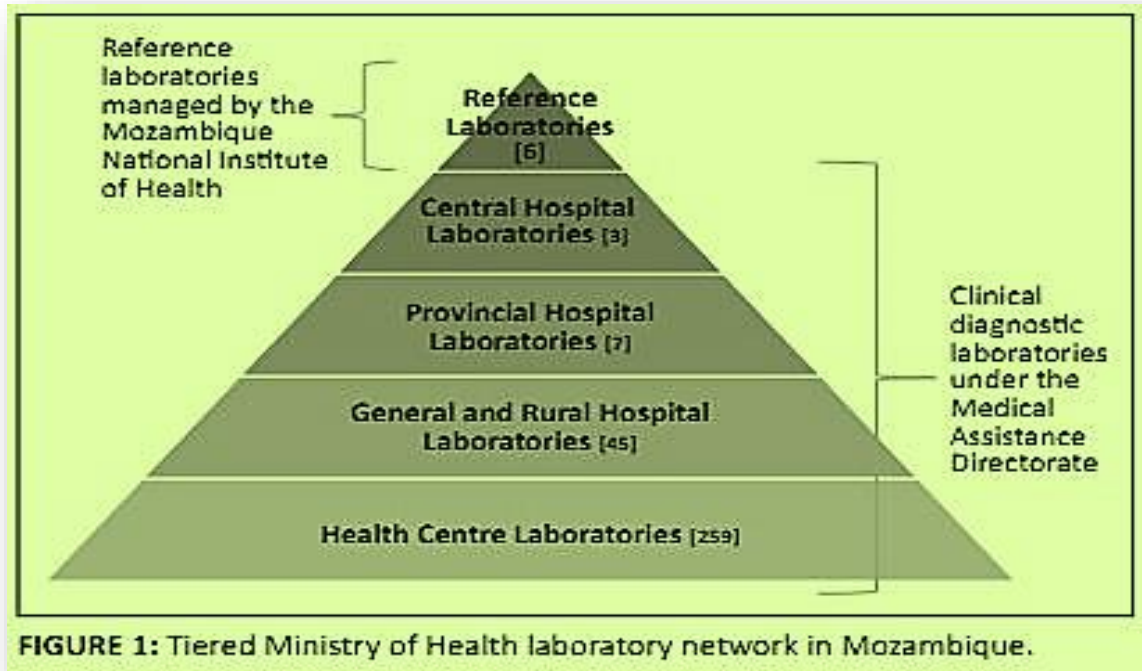


## SLMTA in Motion





# 3



**Rising Sea Tides Lift all Boats:** An Instrument for other health systems



# Driving hospital transformation with SLMTA in a regional hospital in Cameroon

## Authors:

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**Background:** Inspired by the transformation of the Regional Hospital Buea laboratory through implementation of the Strengthening Laboratory Management Toward Accreditation (SLMTA) programme, hospital management adapted the SLMTA toolkit to drive hospital-wide quality improvement.

**Objective:** This paper describes changes in the hospital following the quality improvement activities in hygiene and sanitation, the outpatient waiting area and the surgical and maternity wards.

**Methods:** In March 2011, hospital management established a quality improvement task force

“SLMTA is an invaluable tool for every lab director, every hospital manager and health policy maker because of its value in ensuring quality improvement within the laboratory and its potential in contributing to strengthening the entire health system at little or no cost.” (Director of a Regional Hospital in Cameroon)



# View from the top: Involvement of Namibia's health ministry in laboratory quality improvement

## Authors:

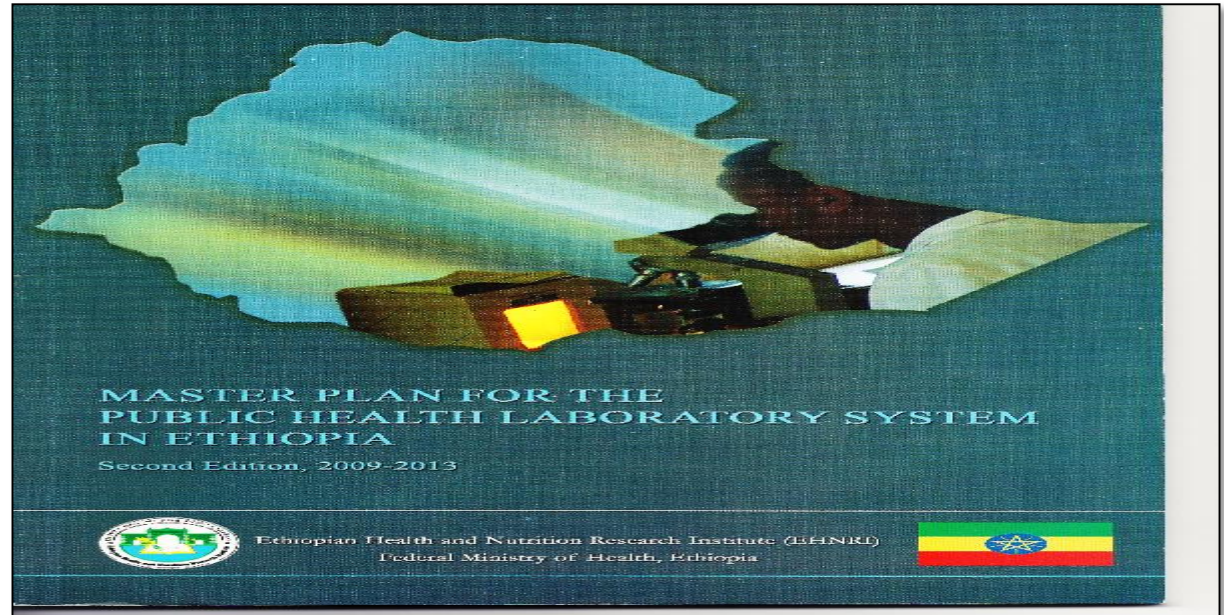
Mary N. Mataranyika<sup>1</sup>  
Landine K. Beukes<sup>1</sup>

## Introduction

Laboratories form the backbone of health systems, providing critical test results that aid diagnosis and identify the cause of disease outbreaks. Accurate laboratory results improve

“As quality improvements become institutionalised in hospital laboratories, it is becoming evident that entire hospital systems are in dire need of similar quality improvement programmes. The Namibia MoHSS calls on international agencies to develop and adapt programmes such as SLIPTA and SLMTA for use throughout hospital systems so as to ensure continuous quality patient care.”

4



SLMTA and SLIPTA brought out the best from us: Adult moment in the continuum of health systems



# SLMTA in Action in Botswana

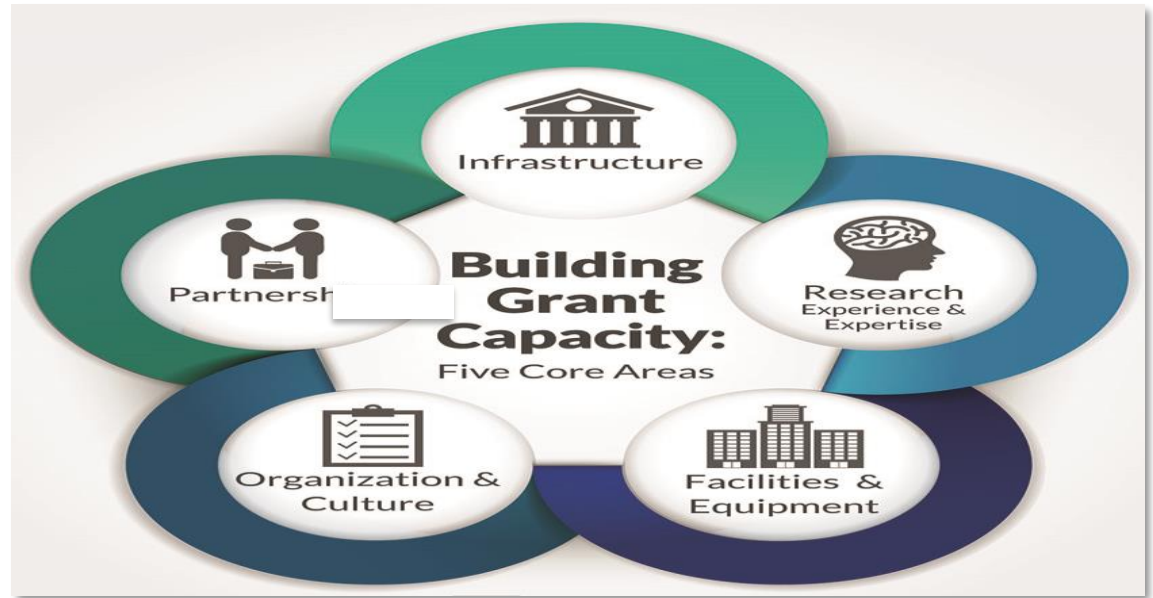
Hi Sibongier-

In Botswana on TBIC evaluation- saw notebook with SLMTA written on it- a lab at Palapaye Hospital keeping track of microscopy turn around times- they have been reduced from 3-5 days to reach surrounding clinics to 24 hours- based on their records and reports from clinics- go SLMTA! The lab is also calling clinics directly when they have a smear+ specimen.

Cheers-

Courtney

# 5



The Right Champion and Partnerships

# Katy Yao - Champion's Champion and Grandmother of SLMTA



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## International Excellence In Partnering Award



Katy Yao receiving the award



Katy Yao with Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, CDC Director

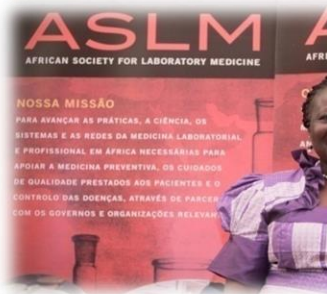


Photo at the award ceremony

## Leadership and Commitment Strategic and Partnerships and Relationships







## ASLM MISSION

To advance professional laboratory medicine practice, systems and networks in Africa needed to support preventive medicine, quality care of patients and disease control through partnership with governments and relevant organizations.



ADVANCING THE LABORATORY PROFESSION & NETWORK IN AFRICA

**ASLM**  
AFRICAN SOCIETY FOR LABORATORY MEDICINE



# Meet the Ministers at ASLM Launch 2011



## The Lancet March 2018

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### Laboratory medicine in low-income and middle-income countries: progress and challenges



*\*John N Nkengasong, Katy Yao, Philip Onyebujoh*

Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, African Union, Addis Ababa W21K19, Ethiopia (JNN, PO); and US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, USA (KY)  
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JNN is the Director of Africa CDC. KY is a public health educator at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention who conceptualised the SLMTA programme and serves as its global programme director. PO is senior policy and strategy adviser in the Office of the Director of Africa CDC. We declare no other competing interests.

“----Together, SLMTA and SLIPTA have revolutionised laboratory improvement in LMICs. As the global community considers the call to action by Horton and colleagues,<sup>4</sup> lessons learned from the past decade’s successes will be crucial in facilitating progress in the years ahead. Flagship programmes such as SLMTA and SLIPTA must continue to be supported and scaled up. Tools similar to SLMTA/SLIPTA could be developed to strengthen microbiological laboratories for antimicrobial resistance testing and testing of other diseases. It is important that vertical programmes such PEPFAR and the Global Fund continue to fund this programme----”

# Conclusion

AJCP / EDITORIAL

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*John N. Nkengasong, PhD*

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**Bigger, Bolder, Better**

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Thanks!