

THE IANPHI/CDC SUPPORTED LABORATORY PROJECT IN NIGERIA

PRESENTED BY

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Outline

- Background
- Laboratory Accreditation in Africa
- The WHO/AFRO Stepwise Accreditation Approach
- Laboratory Accreditation in Nigeria
- The IANPHI Supported Project in Nigeria
- Recommendation

Background

- Effective and Reliable Laboratory services are critical for efficient and well functioning health systems.



- Laboratories are pivotal to:
 - Accurate diagnosis of disease conditions
 - Effective disease prevention and control
 - Reliable disease surveillance
 - Effective response to disease outbreaks
- However, for results of laboratories to be credible and contribute positively to improving health care, they need to implement quality management systems that meet international standards.

Background Cont.



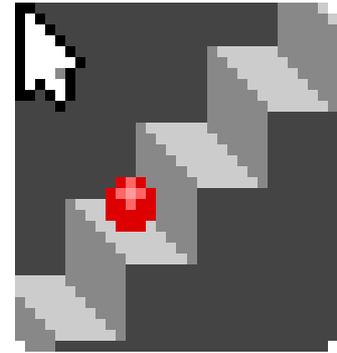
- To achieve this, health laboratories need to strive and achieve International accreditation – the ISO 15189 accreditation.
- Accreditation enhances the quality of performance of Laboratories to ensure they meet International Standards and produce credible results.
- In the developed countries, the culture of accreditation of medical laboratories has been well established and had been in practice for several decades
- On the other hand, the culture and level of laboratory accreditation in the developing countries is abysmally very low
- This Situation needs to be urgently addressed and improved

Laboratory Accreditation in Africa

- Until 2-3 years ago, only International Accreditation processes (ISO, CAP etc) were available to most African countries.
- The requirements for these International accreditation processes are quite stringent and the costs are enormous, thus unaffordable by laboratories in Africa.
- As a result, in 2010 only 340 of the several thousands of laboratories in Africa were accredited

Laboratory Accreditation in Africa cont.

- Out of these 340 accredited laboratories, 312 were in South Africa.
- This situation was unacceptable and stimulated the urgent need to increase the number of accredited laboratories in the African Region



The WHO/AFRO Stepwise Accreditation Approach

- Recognizing the gaps between the state of laboratories in the sub-region and the requirements of ISO 15189 accreditation scheme, the WHO/AFRO, established a **Stepwise** and affordable Accreditation scheme.
- The WHO/AFRO in partnership with CDC, ASCP, CLSI, APHL and the Clinton Health Foundation developed the SLMTA programme – a tool for strengthening laboratory management towards accreditation.

The WHO/AFRO Stepwise Accreditation Approach Cont.

- This WHO/AFRO approach was not intended to replace the ISO 15189 accreditation scheme.
- The scheme is meant to provide an alternative pathway towards the realization of International Laboratory Standards required for the ISO 15189 accreditation.
- The checklist of the WHO/AFRO accreditation scheme is based on the 12 quality essentials which are consistent with the ISO requirements for accreditation.

The WHO/AFRO Stepwise Accreditation Approach Cont.

- The SLMTA scheme is an 18 month cycle with the following essential components
 - Baseline Assessment of laboratories
 - 3 SLMTA Stepdown Workshops
 - 3 Supervisory/assessment visits.
- SLMTA provides every laboratory the opportunity to know the level of their quality management systems at any given time and make room for improvement.

The WHO/AFRO Stepwise Accreditation Approach Cont.



- At each assessment visit, laboratories are scored using the checklist and ranked on a graded scheme from zero to 5 Star.
- 0 Star (<55%), 1 Star(55-64%), 2 Star(65-74%), 3 Star(75-84%), 4 Star(85-94%), 5 Star(>95%)
- On attainment of the 5-star ranking, laboratories would have achieved QMS that meet international standards and are advised to apply for ISO accreditation.
- In 2010, the WHO/AFRO advocated that Laboratories in the sub-region should embrace the SLMTA Programme.
- Since then several laboratories in various countries of the sub-region have embraced this WHO/AFRO stepwise accreditation scheme

Laboratory Accreditation in Nigeria

- The Level of laboratory accreditation in Nigeria is extremely very low and appalling.
- There are currently over 6000 medical diagnostic laboratories operating in Nigeria.
- Disappointingly, only 2 of these 6000 (0.03%) laboratories have either ISO certification or accreditation (The NIMR HIV Laboratory and the Pathcare Ltd Laboratories)
- The stringent requirement and unaffordable costs of International accreditation schemes, is significantly responsible for this poor level of accreditation in the country.

Laboratory Accreditation in Nigeria Cont.

- The other identified factor is low level of awareness and culture for laboratory accreditation
- Nigeria embraced the SLMTA programme in 2010 and 23 laboratories under the PEPFAR programme were supported for the programme.
- However, successful implementation of the SLMTA programme requires a critical mass of trained personnel to roll out the laboratory workshops and assessments
- As at July 2012, there were only 7 trained personnel in the entire country with adequate expertise to conduct SLMTA workshops and assessments

Laboratory Accreditation in Nigeria Cont.

- Also there were no SLMTA Master Trainers in the country
- This level of available human capacity in the country was grossly inadequate
- To improve this situation IANPHI in partnership with CDC approved a grant for NIMR to develop in-country human capacity to support the roll out of SLMTA programmes

The IANPHI Support in Nigeria

➤ Goal

To contribute to a culture of quality services for laboratories in Nigeria with an aim of eventually making accreditation the norm.

This will be achieved through advocacy and by developing a cadre of SLMTANs and Master Trainers through a TOT programme

Subsequently support some laboratories in the country for the SLMTA programme.

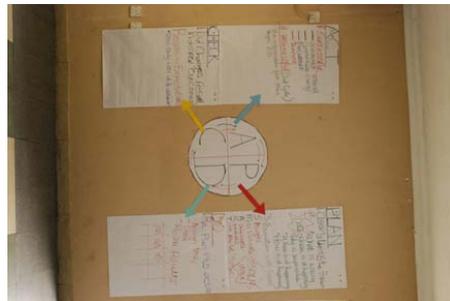
➤ Project Deliverables

- Enhance awareness and culture for accreditation
- Training three New Master Trainers
- Train additional 24 SLMTANs
- Support 6 Laboratories for the WHO/AFRO accreditation scheme



Achievements so far

- Developed and broadly distributed flyers on SLMTA,
- Conducted 1st SLMTA TOT in Nigeria (July 30-August 11, 2012) and trained:
 - 3 Master Trainers
 - 24 SLMTANs
- Commenced SLMTA programmes for 6 selected laboratories



➤ **Recommendation**

Urgent need for IANPHI member Institutions in Africa to embrace SLMTA and ensure that the quality of their laboratory services are improved to meet International Standards.

