Countries Supported by the Project

ECSA Member States
1. Kenya
2. Lesotho
3. Malawi
4. Mauritius
5. Eswatini
6. Tanzania
7. Uganda
8. Zambia
9. Zimbabwe

Non-ECSA Member States
10. Burundi
11. Botswana
12. Eritrea
13. Mozambique
14. Namibia
15. Rwanda
16. South Sudan
17. Seychelles
18. Somalia
19. Ethiopia
20. Angola
21. Liberia

REGIONAL TB LAB STRENGTHENING PROJECT

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About the Regional TB Lab Strengthening Project

The Uganda National Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory is the first Supranational Reference Laboratory (SRL) in East Africa, and the second in Sub-Saharan Africa. We attained this accreditation from the WHO in April 2013.

The SRL started as the Uganda Bacteriological Investigation Unit in the late 1950’s under the then East African Community. After the collapse of the East African Community in 1970’s, the laboratory reverted to the line ministries and became known as Uganda National Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory (NTRL).

As SRL Uganda, we are currently implementing a Global Fund supported ‘Regional TB Lab Strengthening Project’ in partnership with the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC). SRL Uganda runs the operations of the laboratory, supporting and mentoring countries national TB Labs of 21 countries in the region to build resilient and sustainable TB diagnosis systems.

Training & Mentoring National TB Labs in Africa

Ultimately, our target is to mentor other countries in our network to build their own resilient and sustainable TB Lab systems and eventually achieve WHO accreditation. We serve as a demonstration site, offering training and peer to peer mentorship for both local and regional lab personnel in various essential skill sets. Our teams also make several visits to various in country and regional sites to train, mentor, encourage and challenge the personnel to do better.

From our network, Mozambique has now achieved a Supranational Lab status, while Tanzania, Namibia and Kenya are in line to achieve WHO accreditation.