

Our Story

The Uganda National Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory was 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). The lab received accreditation from the WHO in April 2013, making it the first Supranational Reference Laboratory (SRL) in East Africa, and the second in Sub-Saharan Africa to achieve this status. Therefore, it serves a dual role as the NTRL and SRL.



Old Site of the NTRL Lab in Wandegaya



The new NTRL Lab Complex in Butabika

Who We Are

Mission

Provide quality laboratory services and strengthen SRL diagnostic network through leadership and expert guidance; and reduce the burden of TB in supported countries.

Vision

Every person in Sub-Saharan Africa has access to quality TB diagnostic services.

Our Expertise

- ◆ Diagnostic Testing
- ◆ Training & Mentorship
- ◆ External Quality Assurance (EQA)
- ◆ Proficiency Testing

We have been accredited by South African National Accreditation System (SANAS) for 'Medical Testing Laboratory Tuberculosis and Molecular Tuberculosis' – ISO 15189:2012 and 'Proficiency Testing by Interlaboratory Comparisons' – ISO/IEC 17043:2010 attesting to our world-class technical competency in TB diagnostics.

Where We Work

As NTRL Uganda, working under the National TB and Leprosy Program of the Ministry of Health, our overall function is to advise and guide policies, standards, technical and operational guidelines for all TB labs in Uganda. To that effect, we set diagnostic standards for all TB Labs in Uganda.

As SRL Uganda, we support countries in the region to build robust and resilient TB Lab systems. We are supported by the Global Fund 'Regional TB Lab Strengthening Project' in partnership with the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC) and other partners.

In this partnership, the Global Fund provides the funding, ECSA-HC serves as the principal grant administrator while 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.

Our African Footprint

ECSCA Member States

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

Non - ECSCA Member States

10. Burundi
11. Botswana
12. Eritrea
13. Mozambique
14. Namibia
15. Rwanda
16. South Sudan
17. Sychelles
18. Somalia
19. Ethiopia
20. Angola
21. Liberia



NATIONAL TB REFERENCE LABORATORY, UGANDA



UGANDA **Supranational[®]**
Reference Laboratory

Timely Accurate Diagnostics for a TB-Free Africa



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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