

NATIONAL TB REFERENCE LABORATORY, UGANDA



UGANDA

Supranational[®]
Reference Laboratory

Timely Accurate Diagnostics for a TB-Free Africa



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

**ORGANISATION
PROFILE 2019**

www.ntrl.or.ug



**NATIONAL TB REFERENCE LABORATORY
/ SUPRANATIONAL TB LAB, KAMPALA UGANDA**

Director's Message



Prof Moses Joloba - Director NTRL Uganda / SRL Uganda

“ We now serve a dual purpose as NTRL Uganda; and on the other hand, as SRL Uganda. While we continue to diligently execute our mandate as NTRL Uganda, we now have the added responsibility of supporting other NTRLs in East, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA) region to improve their TB diagnostics. ”

Thank you for taking time to read about us. Your interest in learning more about us and what we do in the world of TB in Africa is yet another opportunity for us to share our story, and inspire one more person to join the fight against TB.

As the National TB Reference Laboratory (NTRL) of Uganda, our story is one of an arduous journey of resilient commitment to eliminate TB in Uganda. We started out as the Uganda Bacteriological Investigation Unit in the 1950s, evolved and grew over the years to become known as NTRL in the 1990s. We are statutorily established under the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Program (NTLP) of the Ministry of Health.

I am also pleased to inform you that owing to the Uganda government's support and commitment to fight TB that culminated into our overall good performance in TB diagnostics, NTRL Uganda received accreditation from the World Health Organisation (WHO) in April 2013, making us the first Supranational TB Reference Laboratory (SRL) in Sub-Saharan Africa and the second after Algeria in Africa.

Consequently, we now serve a dual purpose as NTRL Uganda; and on the other hand, as SRL Uganda. While we continue to diligently execute our mandate as NTRL Uganda, we now have the added responsibility of supporting other NTRLs in East, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA) region to improve their TB diagnostics. The extra responsibility has served to help us forge new friendships and partnerships and this has seen a sharp rise in our overall capacity across board in terms of human resource and training, up-to-date world class technology and overall improvement in testing for TB in Uganda.

we currently support and mentor national TB Labs of 21 countries in the region to build resilient and sustainable TB diagnosis systems.

Beyond achieving the supranational lab status, we have continued to strive to improve our services to serve our clients better. *To that effect, NTRL has since received accreditation from the reputable South African National Accreditation System (sanas) for 'Medical Testing Laboratory Tuberculosis and Molecular Tuberculosis' – ISO 15189:2012 in May 2018; as well as further accreditation from sanas for 'Proficiency Testing by Interlaboratory Comparisons' – ISO/IEC 17043:2010 in October 2018 further attesting to our world-class technical competency in TB diagnostics.*

I am glad to report that our model of SRL Uganda supporting and mentoring other NTRLs having been proved to be successful was scaled from East Africa to cover the East, Central and Southern Africa region. Owing to our success, WHO is working on replicating the model in West Africa.

On the SRL front, under the Global Fund supported 'Regional TB Lab Strengthening Project' in partnership with the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC), we currently support and mentor national TB Labs of 21 countries in the region to build resilient and sustainable TB diagnosis systems.



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 Values

Innovative: Freedom, Decisiveness, creativity, Independent

Integrity: Honest, Standards Adherence, Ethical

Professional: Quality, competent, knowledgeable, responsive, accountable

Community: Respect, Trust, Cooperation, Loyalty, Security, Relationships, Friendship

Our Story



Old Site of the NTRL Lab in Wandegaya



The new NTRL Lab Complex in Butabika

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.

Our Expertise

Diagnostic Testing



We offer world-class diagnostic testing using the following technologies:

- ZN Microscopy
- LJ Drug Susceptibility Testing
- MGIT 2nd line DST
- LPA 2nd line DST
- Sequencing and mods
- FM Microscopy
- MGIT 1st Line DST
- LPA 1st line DST
- GeneXpert

We have since 2014 offered testing services both in-country and to various countries for samples for MDR patients using LPA, LJ culture and LJ DST methods.

In 2013, we received accreditation from South African National Accreditation System (sanas) for 'Medical Testing Laboratory Tuberculosis and Molecular Tuberculosis' – ISO 15189:2012 further attesting to our international standards in a range of TB diagnostics.

Training & Mentorship



Ultimately, our target is to mentor other countries in our network to build their own resilient and sustainable TB Lab systems. 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 is in the process of attaining a Supranational Lab status, while Tanzania, Namibia Eswatini and Kenya are in line to achieve WHO accreditation.

External Quality Assurance (EQA)



Most of the challenges in TB diagnostics in the region are systemic and cut across – from technical expertise to procurement processes. As SRL Uganda, we perform quality assurance services for NRLs under our network through onsite supervision and training, blinded rechecking and proficiency testing.

Proficiency Testing



Proficiency Testing (PT) in TB has to do with the reliability of laboratory results. However, PT is not readily available to many countries in the region. Consequently, we provide world-class PT services both in country and for other countries under our SRL Uganda network. We provide PT panels for microscopy, LPA, Genexpert and DST.

In October, 2018, we received international accreditation from South African National Accreditation System (sanas) for 'Proficiency Testing by Interlaboratory Comparisons' – ISO/IEC 17043:2010 further demonstrating our technical competence.

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.

The 21 countries include: ECSA member states – Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia & Zimbabwe; and the non-ECSA member states – Burundi, Botswana, Eritrea, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Seychelles, Somalia, Angola, Ethiopia & Liberia.

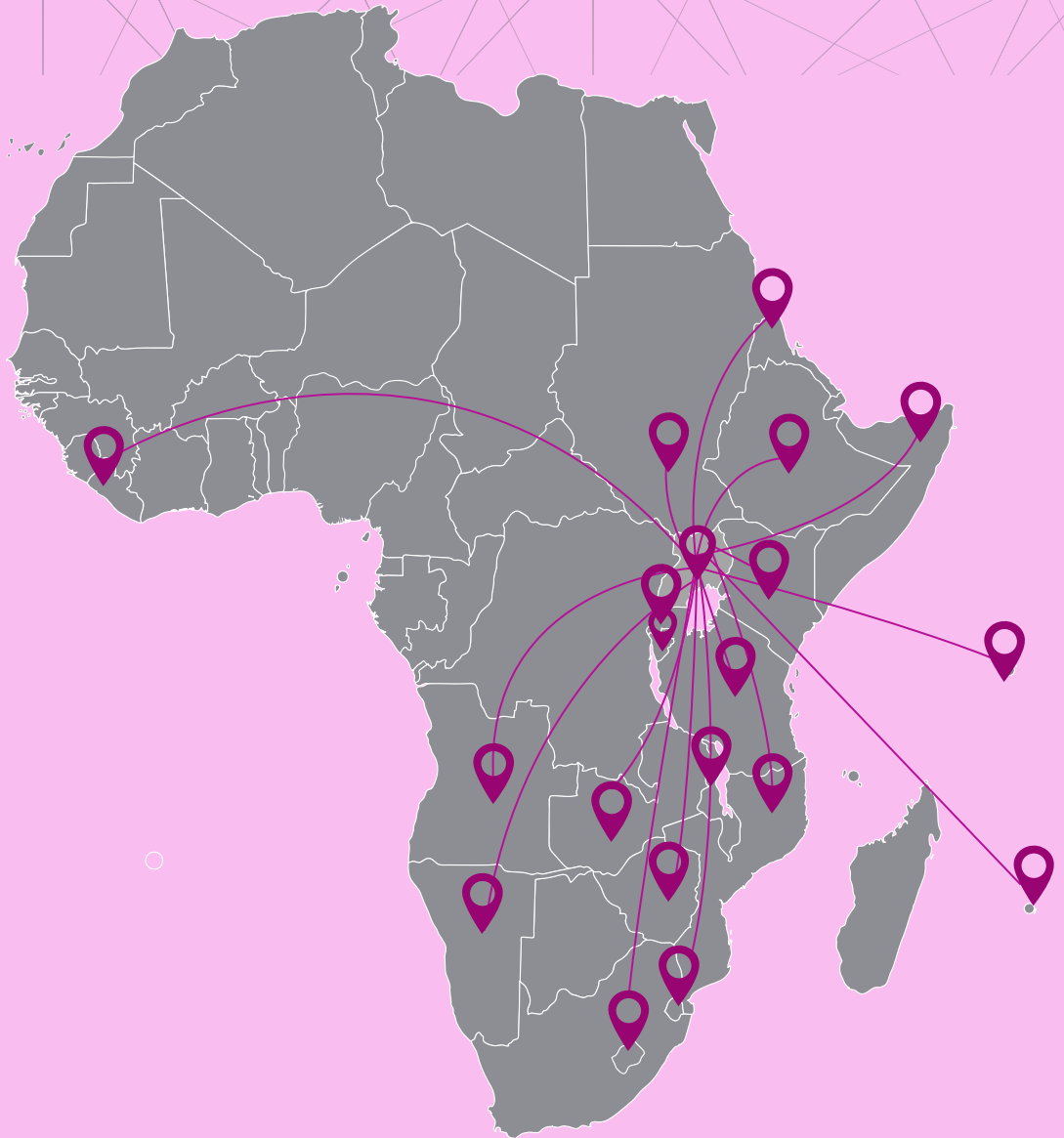
Our African Footprint

ECOSA Member States

- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Eswatini
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Non - ECOSA Member States

- Burundi
- Botswana
- Eritrea
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Rwanda
- South Sudan
- Sychelles
- Somalia
- Ethiopia
- Angola
- Liberia



Our Partners

While we are a government department, our friendships and partnerships over the years have greatly contributed in helping us achieve our statutory mandate. We are proud to associate with a growing list of valued partners and collaborators.



THE WORLD BANK



International Standards Accreditation

International accreditations are generally a mark of an organisation's excellent internal processes and how they manage their continuous improvement processes for quality assurance purposes. We are gratified to have achieved international recognition for our world class Laboratory services in TB diagnosis.





CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

NATIONAL TUBERSULOSIS REFERENCE LABORATORY

Co. Reg. No.: N/A

KAMPALA, UGANDA

Facility Accreditation Number: **M0521**

is a South African National Accreditation System accredited facility provided that all conditions and requirements are complied with

This certificate is valid as per the scope as stated in the accompanying schedule of accreditation, Annexure "A", bearing the above accreditation number for


MEDICAL TESTING LABORATORY TUBERCULOSIS AND MOLECULAR TUBERCULOSIS

The facility is accredited in accordance with the recognised International Standard

ISO 15189:2012

The accreditation demonstrates technical competency for a defined scope and the operation of a quality management system

While this certificate remains valid, the accredited facility named above is authorised to use the relevant accreditation symbol to issue facility reports and/or certificates



Mr R Josias
Chief Executive Officer

Effective Date: 23/May 2018
Certificate Expires: 01 September 2021





CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

In terms of section 22(2) (b) of the Accreditation for Conformity Assessment, Calibration and Good Laboratory Practice Act, 2006 (Act 19 of 2006), read with sections 23(1), (2) and (3) of the said Act, I hereby certify that:-

UGANDA NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS REFERENCE LABORATORY

Facility Accreditation Number: **PTS0011**

is a South African National Accreditation System accredited Proficiency Testing Scheme Provider provided that all SANAS conditions and requirements are complied with

This certificate is valid as per the scope as stated in the accompanying schedule of accreditation Annexure "A", bearing the above accreditation number for


PROFICIENCY TESTING BY INTERLABORATORY COMPARISONS

The facility is accredited in accordance with the recognised International Standard

ISO/IEC 17043:2010

The accreditation demonstrates technical competency for a defined scope and the operation of a laboratory quality management system

While this certificate remains valid, the Accredited Facility named above is authorised to use the relevant SANAS accreditation symbol to issue facility reports and/or certificates


 Mr R Josias
 Chief Executive Officer

Effective Date: 03 October 2018
 Certificate Expires: 02 October 2022





A lab scientist at the SRL Uganda Lab, Kampala

UGANDA

Supranational[®] Reference Laboratory

Timely Accurate Diagnostics for a TB-Free Africa



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

NATIONAL TB REFERENCE LABORATORY

Plot 106-1062 Butabika Road, Luzira | Opp. Butabika National Mental Referral Hospital

P.O. Box 16041, Wandegaya, Kampala | Fax: +256-414-533 033

Tel: +256- 414-236 250 | Toll Free: 0800111133

Email: info@ntrl.or.ug | Website: www.ntrl.or.ug



NTRL