Coordination and sustainability: the role of GLI partnerships in optimizing TB Lab services in Africa

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Stop TB Partnership Workgroups

- Implementation Workgroups
  - DOTS Expansion
  - TB/HIV
  - Global Drug Resistant TB Initiative
  - Global Laboratory Initiative
- Research Workgroups
  - New Diagnostics
  - New TB Drugs
  - New TB Vaccines

Global Laboratory Initiative for Africa (GLI-AFRICA)

- **Support countries to achieve quality-assured, accessible and sustainable TB laboratory services in the African region.**
- **The GLI-AFR Secretariat is housed at ASLM in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia.**

GLI and Partnerships

- A GLI strategic priority is to advance laboratory strengthening through global and local partnerships
- GLI Partnership Projects
  - QMS and Accreditation
  - Xpert implementation and evaluation
  - Integration of TB and HIV lab networks
  - Training and Training Materials
  - Country strategic plans
  - Guidance and tools

QMS and Accreditation

- Lack of quality lab services is a barrier to an effective response to HIV/TB, and MDR TB
- Formed a GLI working group on accreditation including IUATLD, WHO, CDC, KNCV, SRLN, TB-CARE, USAID
- Developed roadmaps, checklists, templates, and resources for accrediting TB labs
- Developed step-by-step implementation guide to assist laboratories to become accredited
- Harmonized with existing accreditation efforts of WHO-AFRO, ASLM, SLIPTA, SLMTA

GLI Stepwise Process Towards TB Laboratory Accreditation

Royal Tropical Institute

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

World Health Organization

Tools to Improve Laboratory Services

- Strengthening Laboratory Management towards Accreditation (SLMTA)
  - A toolkit for training and mentoring which supports laboratory quality improvement using quality management principles
- Stepwise Laboratory Improvement Process Towards Accreditation (SLIPTA)
  - A framework for auditing and monitoring which identifies gaps, non-conformities and recommendations for corrective actions
- GLI Stepwise Guide for TB Lab Accreditation
  - Step-by-step guidance for correcting deficiencies

Next Steps

- Further harmonize GLI tool with SLMTA and SLIPTA
- Develop auditing process that leverages the SLIPTA process and assessors
- Modify tool to address needs of peripheral laboratories and networks
- Work with WHO-Lyon to make the tool suitable for any laboratory - WHO Laboratory Quality Stepwise Implementation (LQSI) tool
- Develop criteria for monitoring and evaluating QMS implementation and its impact

Implementation of New Technologies Global Guidance and Resources

- WHO Policy Framework for Implementing TB Diagnostics
- WHO Rapid Implementation of the Xpert® MTB/RIF Diagnostic Test
- TB CARE Xpert Implementation Guide
- GLI Xpert Workshop-in-a-Box training manual
- USG Guidance (CDC, USAID, OGAC)
  - programmatic considerations for phased implementation and in-country validation
  - monitoring and evaluation

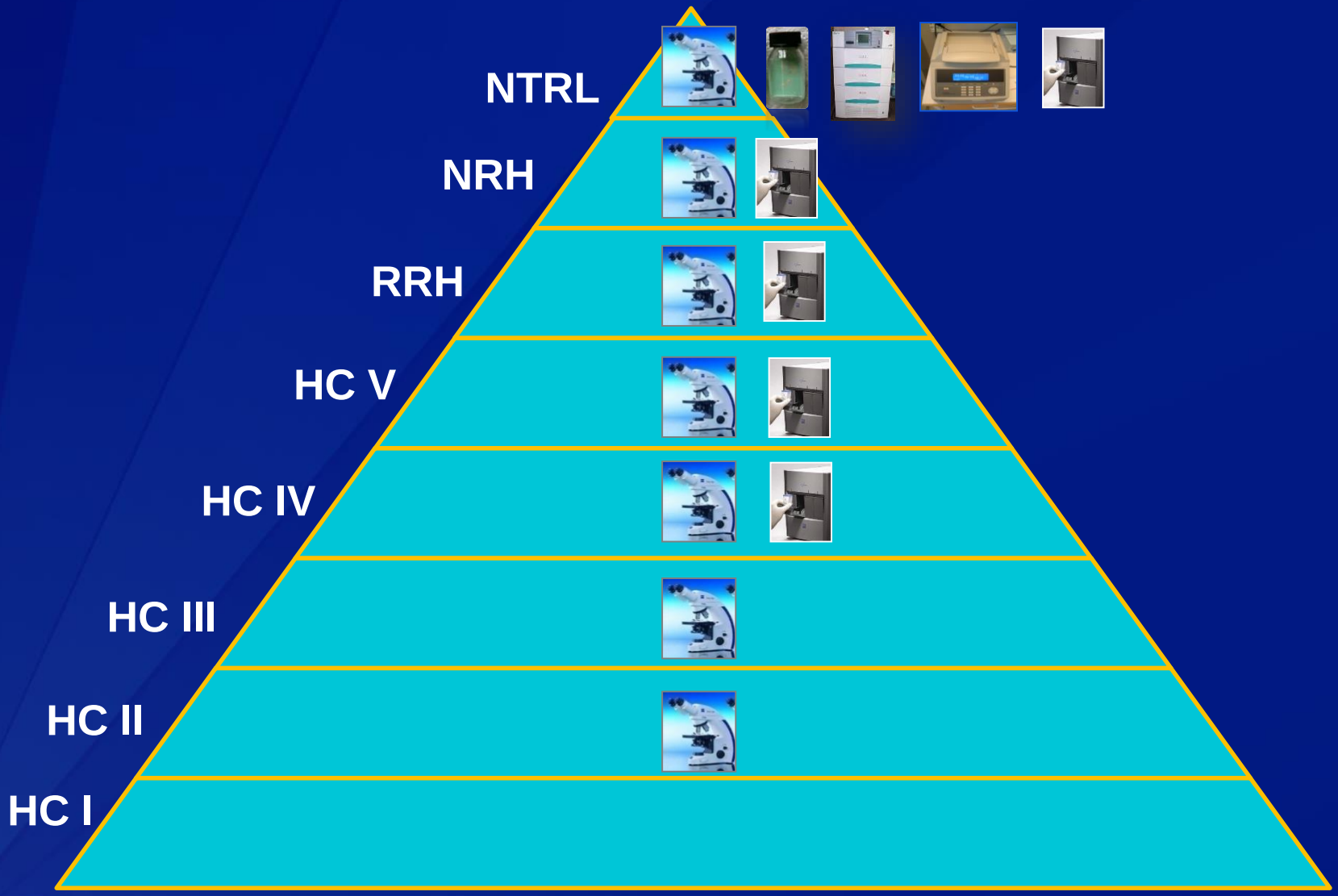
Implementation of New Technologies In-Country Partnerships

- Decided by Ministries of Health
  - Coordination of partners and funding to avoid duplication and maximize resources
  - Must strengthen entire diagnostic cascade to maximize impact
- Phased approach as part of national strategic plans for laboratory and program
- Linked to drug access and program capacity
- Based on local epidemiology

Xpert Implementation - Uganda

- A strategic plan was developed
  - Ministry of Health
  - National TB and AIDS Programs of Uganda
  - National TB Laboratory
  - Central PH Laboratory
  - CDC-Atlanta, CDC-Uganda, USAID-Uganda,
  - WHO, FIND and other partners
- Plan activities:
  - Development of algorithms
  - Site selection criteria
  - Data handling – laboratory forms

Xpert Improves Access



Integration and Access to Services Uganda

- CDC-Uganda, NACP, and MOH are establishing the laboratory hub system (EID Project)
  - Up to 100 hubs servicing all parts of Uganda
    - CD4 counts, viral load, clinical chemistries
  - Motorcycle couriers for specimen transport
  - Rapid reporting by SMS/cell phones
- Placing Xpert testing at these sites should improve access to TB services and demonstrate benefits of integration

Hub Network to Improve Access

Boda boda for sample and result delivery

PL

Integrated sample referral

PL

HUB

PL

Rif-R isolate

Post office

NTRL LPA culture

PL

Courtesy of Dr. Moses Joloba, Uganda

Using Xpert, the hub network, and electronic reporting system, we were able to report a case of MDR TB in a rural area to the clinician, Regional MDR TB Treatment Program, National TB Program, National TB Laboratory and Emergency Operations Center within 24 hours of specimen collection.

Summary

- Partnerships are essential at all levels
- At the global level, partnerships help ensure uniformity of policies, guidance, and technical assistance
- At the local level, coordination of efforts prevents duplication and provides opportunities for leveraging resources
- By emphasizing integrated technologies, access to services, and timely flow of specimens and information, all disease programs can contribute to health sector strengthening

Thank You

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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.