

YOUR PARTNER IN TB LABORATORY SERVICES

DTLab OBJECTIVES

- To improve the quality of national laboratory networks for sputum smear microscopy
- To strengthen the capacity to deliver reliable culture and DST services
- To strengthen managerial capacity of national central reference laboratories including quality management, procurement, MIS, planning, biosafety
- To support introduction of innovative diagnostic tools
- To support operational and translational research on laboratory issues
- To advocate the role of TB laboratory services in TB programs

HOW TAILOR-MADE DOES DTLab WORK

One contact point for every client: we will channel your request to the most appropriate DTLab partner(s). Once you contacted one member, you will receive a proposal from the three members together on how we can address your needs.

Selection of laboratory experts is not restricted to DTLab's member organizations: we can tap from our own organizations, or recruit from other organizations, including those from developing countries.

All three members have years of experience in TB-control in various countries and cultures.

WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED FROM DTLab

As a point of departure, DTLab focuses on capacity building of laboratories and the systems in which they operate. It is doing this in both a pro-active way by generating ideas as well as in a re-active manner by responding to any requests. DTLab's interventions are tailor-made, evidence-based and are designed to maintain and enhance local ownership and sustainability.

Specific strategies are:

- Delivering leadership to (inter-) national working groups and laboratory services in high endemic countries by providing up-to-date expertise and delivering up-to-date tools and guidelines
- Facilitating quality TB laboratory services as part of general laboratory systems in a comprehensive manner, tailor-made according to identified needs
- Delivering services in line with the Stop TB Strategy, in close collaboration with international initiatives and based on state-of-the-art evidence
- Building capacity through in-service and pre-service training and knowledge exchange interventions, making use of the implementation of existing tools and modern/innovative laboratory and IT techniques.

MORE INFORMATION

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Royal Tropical Institute



TUBERCULOSISFOUNDATION



DTLab

A DUTCH PARTNERSHIP ON
WORLDWIDE STRENGTHENING
OF TB-LABORATORY SERVICES

DTLab (Dutch Tuberculosis Laboratory partnership) provides technical and system-services for international TB-control.

DTLab is

- **KIT** Royal Tropical Institute
- **KNCV** Tuberculosis Foundation
- **RIVM** National Institute for Public Health and the Environment

DTLAB PROVIDES ASSISTANCE IN LABORATORY STRENGTHENING

The need for laboratory expertise increases

To reach the global TB targets of 70% case detection and 85% cure, the need for a worldwide easily accessible, efficient and quality assured laboratory network is paramount. Laboratories have a pivotal role in the rapid diagnosis of TB cases, the monitoring of treatment and the surveillance of epidemiological trends. Reliable identification of the more severe types of drug resistant strains, culture and drug susceptibility testing (C/DST) services are imperative for countries where MDR-TB and XR-TB are prevalent. New laboratory techniques are necessary, but are technically and operationally difficult, therefore countries face huge challenges in adequately implementing them.

In the Netherlands there is a significant amount of TB laboratory expertise available. KIT, KNCV and RIVM all have long-time and complementary experience in international TB-control. Together they are able to support a large range of specific components in the field of TB laboratory services.

KIT > QUALITY LABORATORY SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGIES

KIT supports countries in strengthening their health systems, including (TB) diagnostic laboratories. KIT has broad expertise in disease control, human resource development, health economics and operational research, and an ISO15189 accredited laboratory. KIT is at the forefront of diagnostic development (e.g. LED-based fluorescence microscopy) and provides participatory assistance consisting of workshops/trainings, monitoring and assessment visits to improve diagnostic test implementation. Furthermore, it assists MOH and control programmes in formulating laboratory policies, and laboratories in implementing quality systems. KIT participates in international laboratory strengthening initiatives (TBCAP, GLI). KIT's diagnostic and research laboratory has specific microbiological, molecular and epidemiological expertise on microscopy, culture, resistant TB and (molecular) typing.

KNCV > LINKING TB CONTROL WITH LABORATORY SYSTEMS

KNCV supports TB control services in approximately 40 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America as well as The Netherlands. KNCV takes on a broad, comprehensive perspective: KNCV expertise includes management and leadership strengthening, monitoring and

evaluation including TB surveillance, HRD, ACSM, TB/HIV, MDR-TB, TB infection control, community mobilization, operational research and laboratory strengthening. In recent years, KNCV has supported specific laboratory strengthening activities in the majority of the countries. KNCV is also represented with GLI and collaborates with USAID to develop and implement global, regional and country focused TB laboratory strengthening projects.

RIVM > REFERENCE LABORATORY AND TECHNOLOGIES

RIVM, This national Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory is part of the Dutch Centre for Infectious Disease Control; identification, drug susceptibility testing and molecular typing is conducted routinely for all TB cases in The Netherlands using classical and modern, molecular techniques. Also the clinical relevance of non-tuberculous mycobacteria is studied. Molecular epidemiology is a key component of the research. The RIVM is supra-national laboratory of the WHO and has a large expertise on biosafety; in the course of the year 2010 a new state of the art Biosafety Level 3 facility will be utilized. The RIVM co-ordinates an ECDC project on the international spread of MDR and XDR-TB in Europe.

In addition to its reference laboratory function, the RIVM co-ordinates an EU project with 11 international partners. This project focuses on the evolutionary adaptation of M. tuberculosis to BCG vaccination and treatment by anti-tuberculosis drugs. The RIVM also co-ordinates a ECDC project (from February 2009) on the international spread of MDR and XDR-TB in the whole of Europe. The RIVM has a long tradition in the organization of courses for the WHO for trainees from developing countries and receives many guests from all over the world.

HOW DTLab WORKS

DTLab bases its activities on the Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI) components:

- Global policy guidance on appropriate laboratory technology and best practices
- Laboratory advocacy and resource mobilization
- Laboratory capacity development and coordination
- Interface design with other laboratory networks to ensure appropriate integration
- Standardized laboratory quality assurance
- Effective knowledge sharing; and
- Coordination of technical assistance

DTLab VISION

Good quality and evidence-based laboratory services are mandatory for effective and efficient TB control.

DTLab MISSION

To contribute in a collaborative manner to the challenges on all components of TB laboratory diagnosis services.