

# ASLM

## **High-level advocacy to build support for laboratory accreditation**

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1. **Workforce:** Less than 1 laboratory professional per 10,000 people.
2. **Infrastructure:** Facilities are not adequate for the scope of testing
3. **Equipment and reagents:** Recurrent shortages of reagents and most equipment not serviced and maintained properly
4. **Quality:** Less than 500 laboratories accredited to international standards and 90% are in South Africa.



## ASLM MISSION

To advance professional laboratory medicine practice, science, systems and networks in Africa needed to support preventive medicine, quality care of patients and disease control through partnership with governments and relevant organizations.

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NOSSA MISSÃO  
PARA AVANÇAR AS PRÁTICAS, A CIÊNCIA, OS SISTEMAS E AS REDES DA MEDICINA LABORATORIAL E PROFSSIONAL EM AFRICA NECESSÁRIAS PARA APOIAR A MEDICINA PREVENTIVA, OS CUIDADOS DE QUALIDADE PRESTADOS AOS PACIENTES E O CONTROLO DAS DOENÇAS, ATRAVÉS DE PARCERIAS COM OS GOVERNOS E ORGANIZAÇÕES RELEVANTES.



ADVANCING THE LABORATORY PROFESSION & NETWORK IN AFRICA

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- ASLM is a pan-African professional body that was launched in 2011
- ASLM enjoys tremendous support from several organizations, including:
  - African Union
  - Several African ministries of health and institutions
  - World Health Organization (WHO)
  - United States (US) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)
  - US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)
  - Other international partners
- ASLM has ambitious goals for the continent, which are outlined in its 2020 vision

- ASLM is an implementing partner in the WHO AFRO SLIPTA (Stepwise Laboratory Quality Improvement Toward Accreditation) Programme

Auditor training

Auditing

Certification



## ***2020 Targets***

- ✓ Enroll 2,500 labs in the WHO SLIPTA quality improvement program
- ✓ Enable 250 labs to achieve accreditation

- ✓ ASLM engages MOHs, partners and international organisations
- ✓ Advocacy ways
  - International meetings
  - Regional meetings
  - Incountry meetings

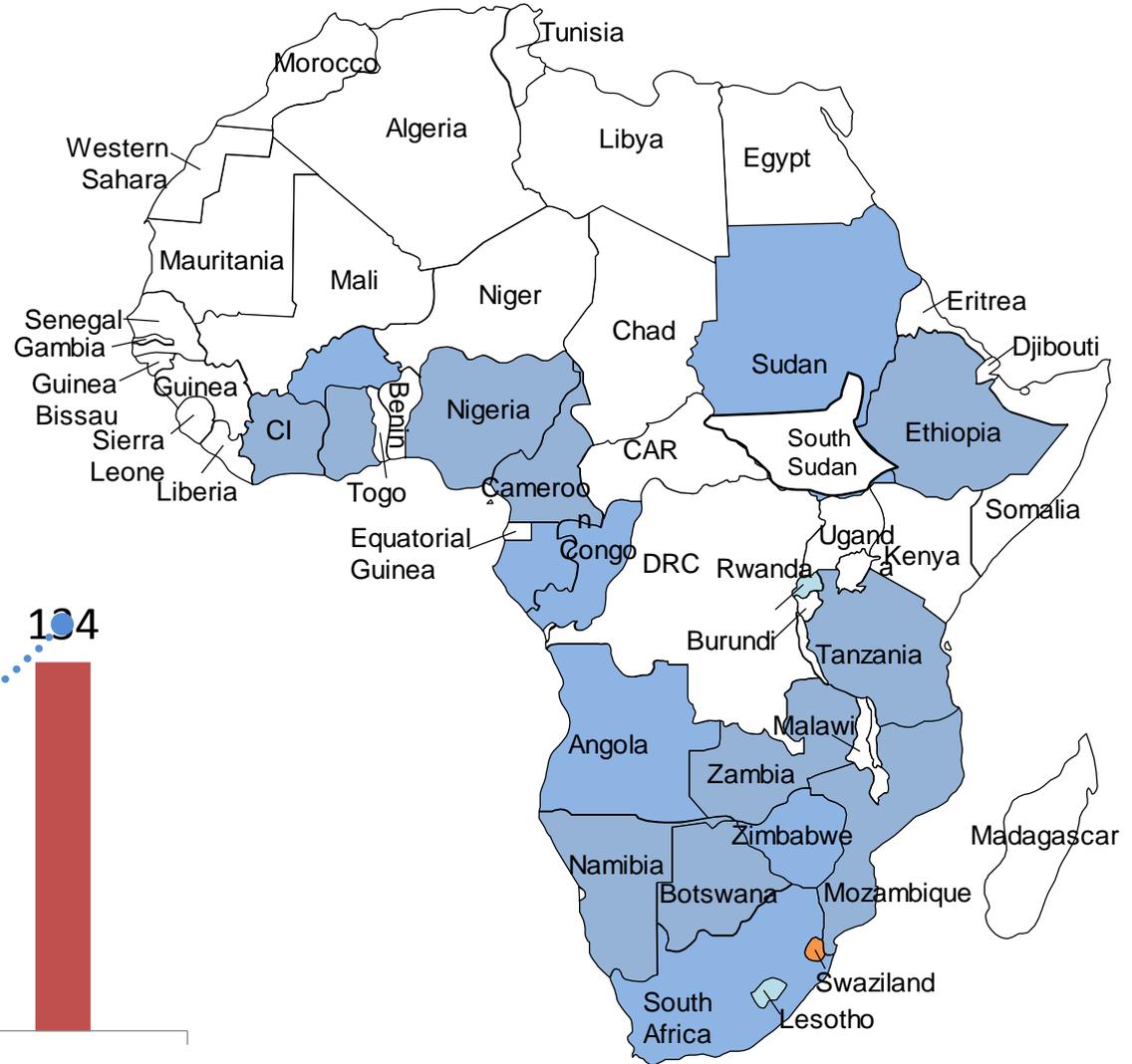
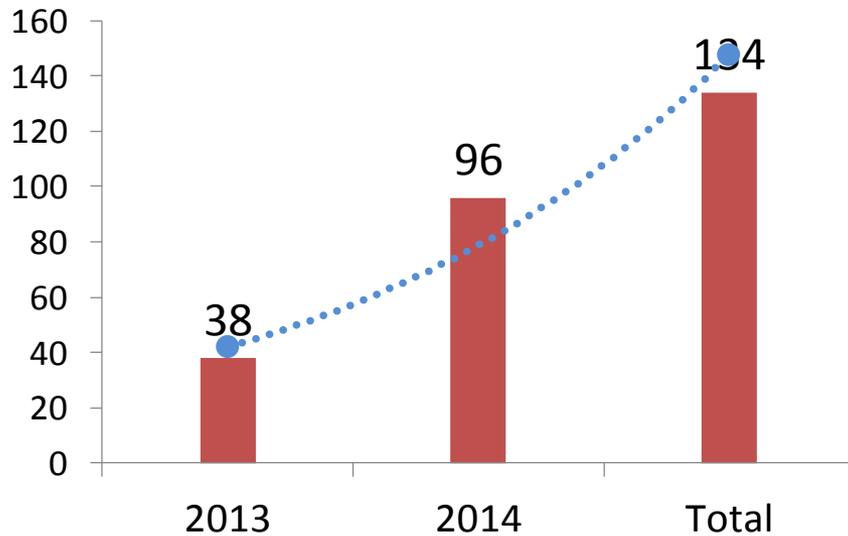
# APPROACH USED

- ✓ ASLM planned advocacy meetings on every SLIPTA audit visit to countries
- ✓ Invitations to attend the meetings were sent to MOH and partners prior to the arrival of the audit team.
  - Ministry senior officials
  - CDC representatives
  - WHO AFRO representatives
  - Lab Directors and Managers
  - Partner representatives
  - Lab Associations
- ✓ During this period, all the teams were led by at least one ASLM Senior Program Specialist
  - Role: To advocate for in-country labs at the highest level
  - Time: Debrief or exit meetings

# RESULTS

# The reach of advocacy in Africa

16 countries

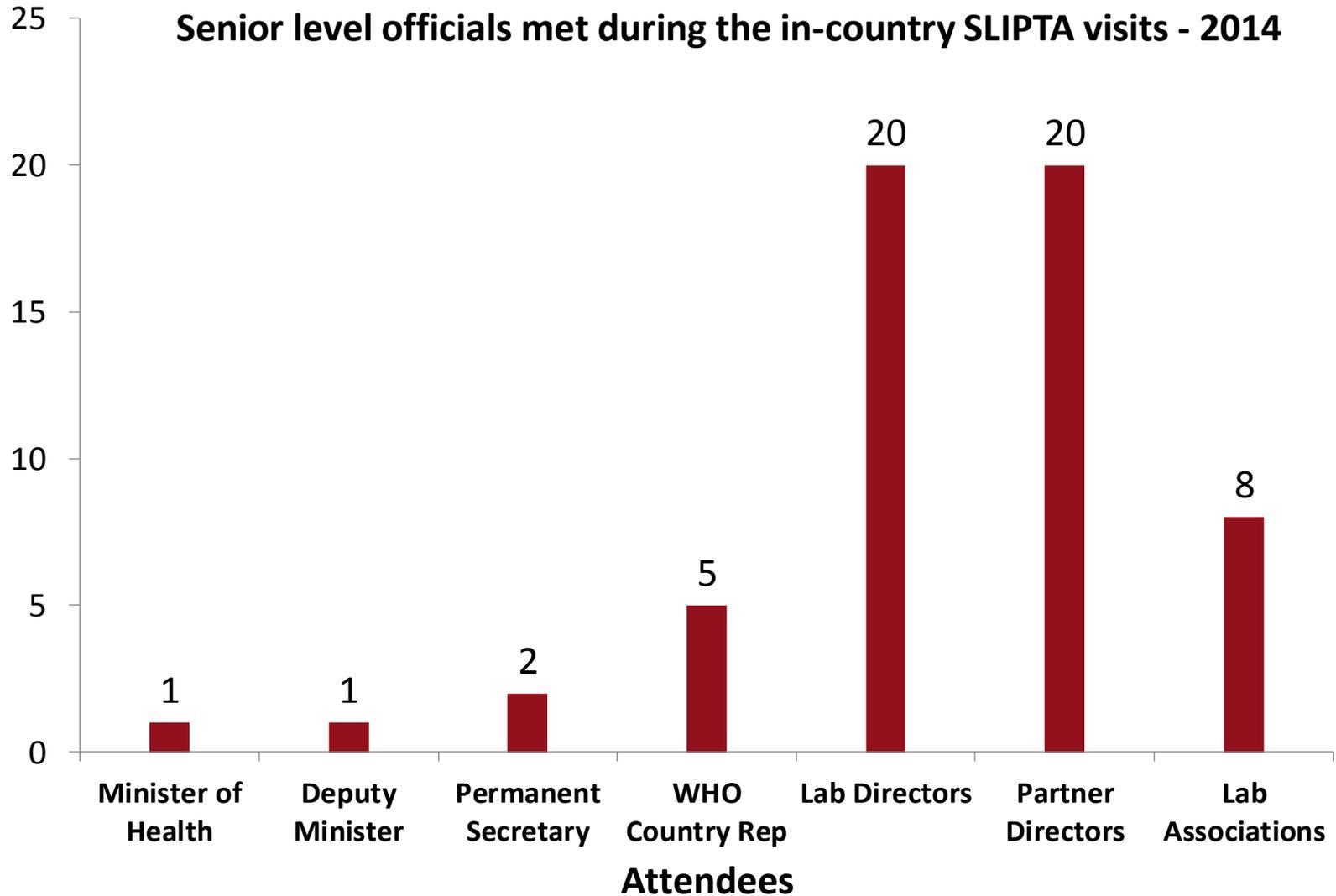


## Advocacy meetings

Closed sessions = 13

Open events covered by the local media = 1



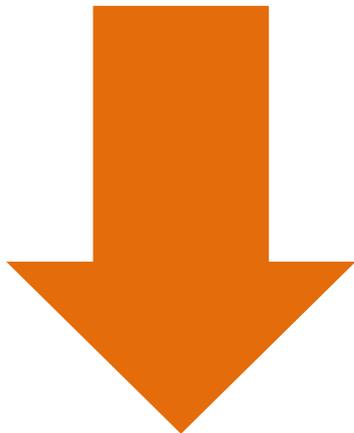


✓ Power-point presentations and discussions



**Performance of laboratories**

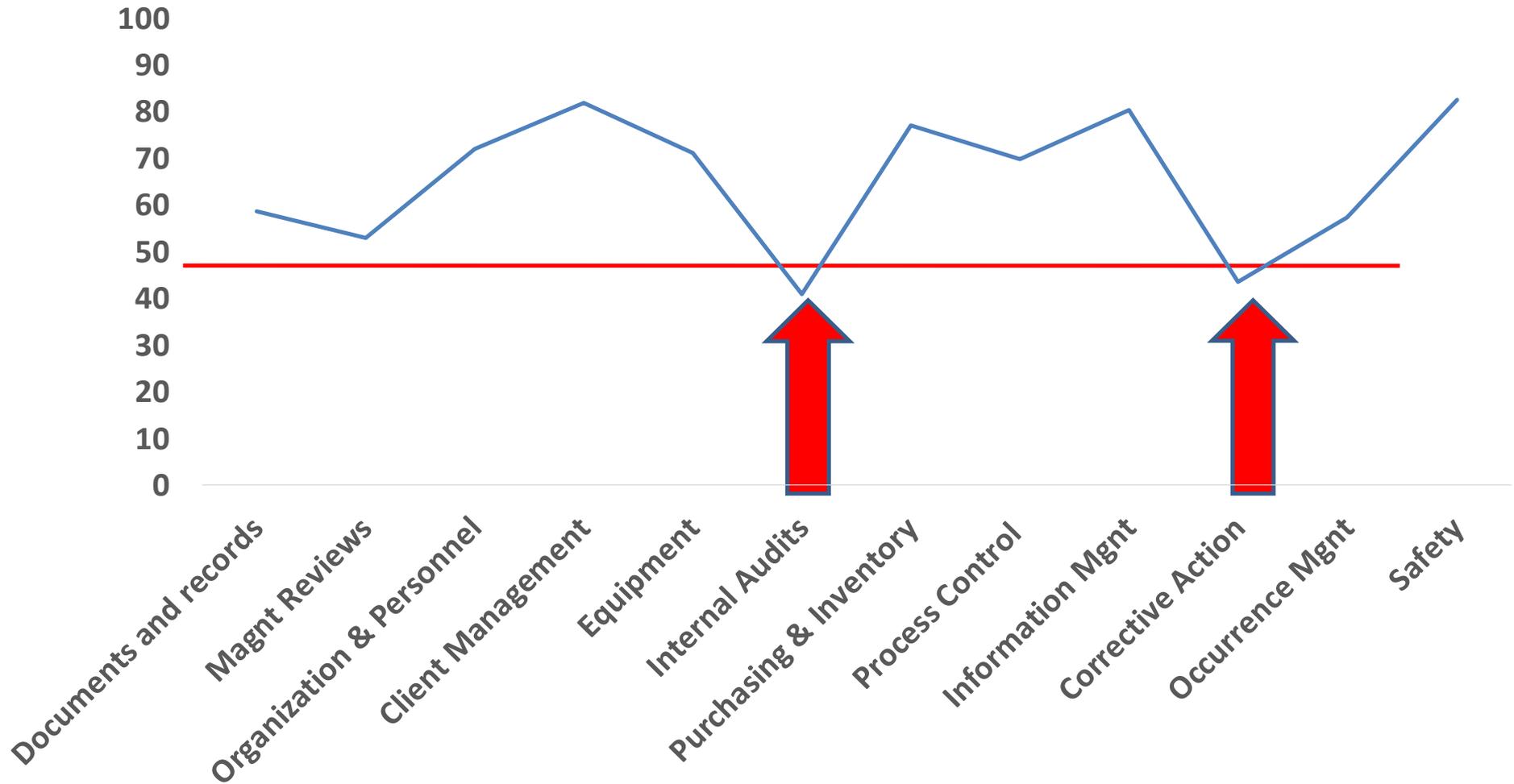
- 1) Stars awarded to laboratories
- 2) Areas well addressed by laboratories



**Systems-level gaps and challenges**

- 1) Infrastructural challenges
- 2) Staffing levels and training needs
- 3) Procurement: Reagent supplies
- 4) Equipment servicing and maintenance

# Average performance of the 134 Laboratories in Africa



- Zambia:
  - ✓ MOH supported lab staff to
    - Attend auditor training (Govt funds)
    - Approved a visit to an accredited laboratory.
  
- Mozambique:
  - ✓ Laboratories received MOH support to submit applications for international accreditation.
  - ✓ Commitment and prioritisation to support the TB Laboratory to apply for accreditation (Already assessed)

- Botswana
  - ✓ Director of Labs made a commitment for 3 labs to be supported for accreditation (Govt funds)
  - ✓ Gaps shared incorporated into laboratory operational plans
  - ✓ Provided the momentum
  
- Cameroon
  - ✓ Minister advocated for all labs to be enrolled in SLIPTA
  - ✓ Increased lab visibility: creation of sub-directorate for laboratory accreditation
  - ✓ Quality awareness: Labs requesting for SLMTA program
  - ✓ Pushed forward the mandate of the strategic plan

- Tanzania:
  - ✓ Created peer pressure/ competition at Regional Medical officer level
  - ✓ At hospital level, laboratories allowed to control some funds generated
  
- Nigeria:
  - ✓ Preparation for application in seven laboratories

# High level commitment to support lab strengthening



**14  
Ministers  
of Health  
signed**

*“We, the undersigned Ministers of Health from African countries, attending and meeting at the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference of the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), Cape Town, South Africa, December 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 under the theme ‘Accurate Laboratory Diagnostics – A Pillar of Quality Health Care’”*

## Presentation of SLIPTA results including

- ❑ systems level gaps and
- ❑ challenges that need to be addressed to high level MOH and partner representatives

can enhance institutional support to laboratories preparing for accreditation.

**Thank you.**

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**2014**

**Innovation and Integration of Laboratory and Clinical Systems:**  
*Reshaping the Future of HIV, TB, Malaria and Emerging Pathogens in Africa*

**NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 4, 2014**

**Cape Town, South Africa**

**CAPE TOWN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE**

