



# Changing the Culture of Laboratory Quality Practices Through SLIPTA in Tanzania

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# Outline



- Background
- SLMTA in Tanzania
  - Why SLMTA
  - SLMTA implementation in Tanzania
- Successes
- Way Forward

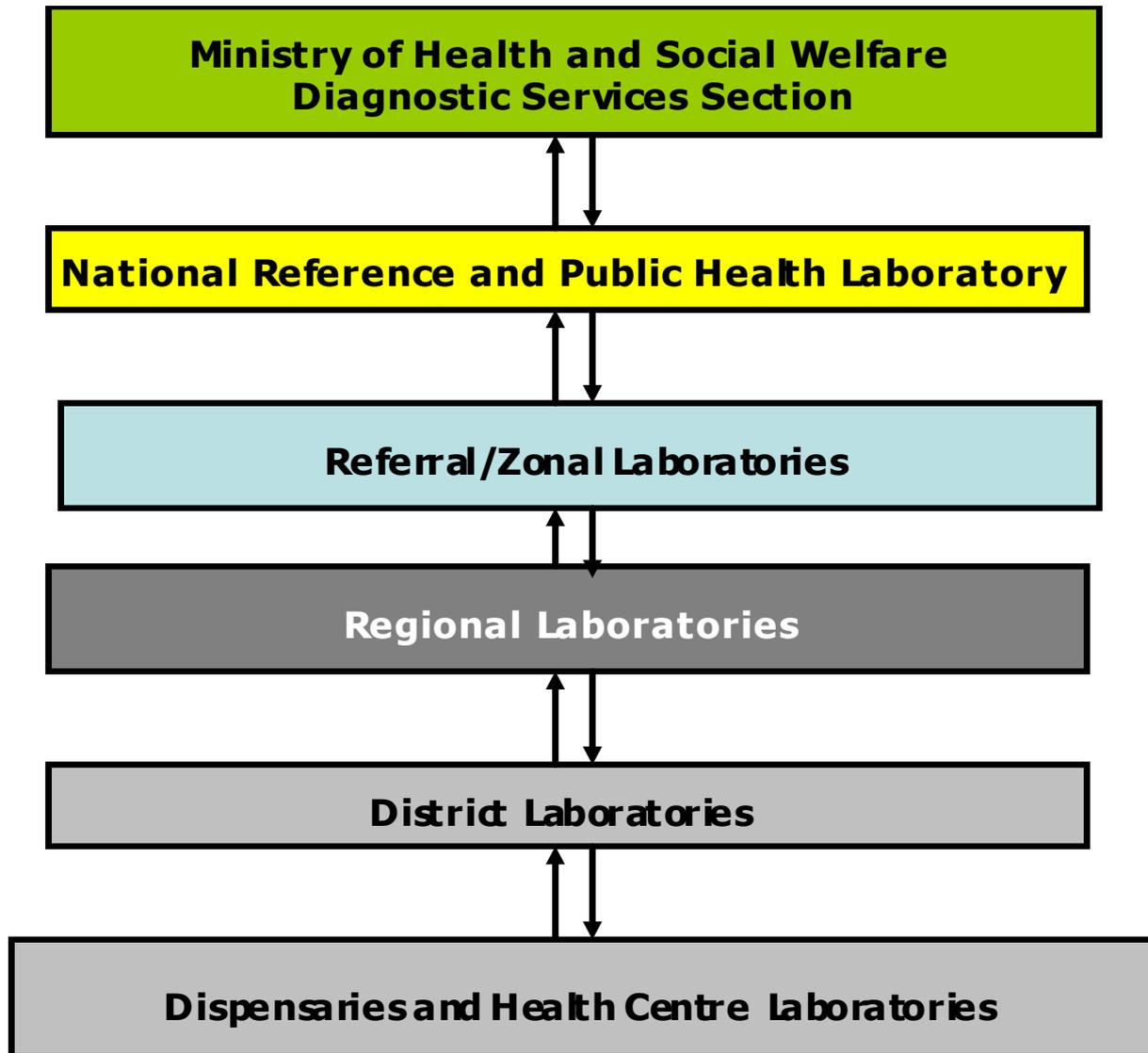


# Background



- There has been a significant effort to improve and strengthen the health laboratory system in Tanzania
- There are still many challenges to be addressed
- Some achievements have been made under:
  - The ongoing Health Sector Reform efforts
  - Laboratory support program through PEPFAR
  - Laboratory development partners support, like ASLM

# Levels of Health Laboratory Services

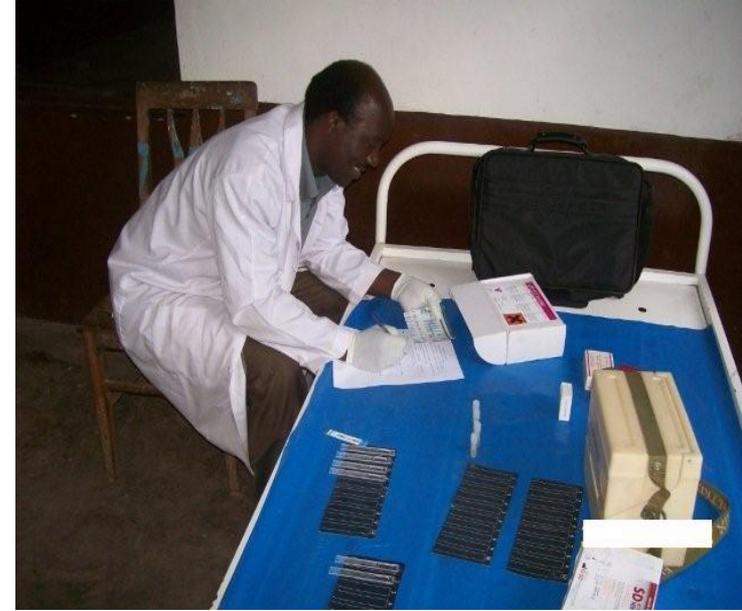




# Challenges facing laboratories



- Lack of laboratory policy
- Unfunded mandates and areas of laboratory services
- Inadequate Human resources
- Attitude and culture of Staff
- Inadequate and irregular availability of supplies and reagents
- No capacity for maintenance of equipment
- Can SLMTA help Tanzania to address this?





# SLMTA



- Strengthening Laboratory Management Towards Accreditation
- A Structured Laboratory Improvement Training Program
- Accelerating the process toward WHO-AFRO Step-wise Improvement Process towards Accreditation





# Why SLMTA



- Assist labs to strengthen their Quality Systems based on the 12 Laboratory Quality Systems Essentials (QSE)
- Support laboratory staff to develop:
  - Culture of quality
  - Documentation related to quality
- Help Labs to identify Gaps and work towards improvement
- Perform interim assessment using the WHO-AFRO checklist to measure progress
- Prepare the labs to attain the final goal of accreditation



# SLMTA Implementation in Tanzania



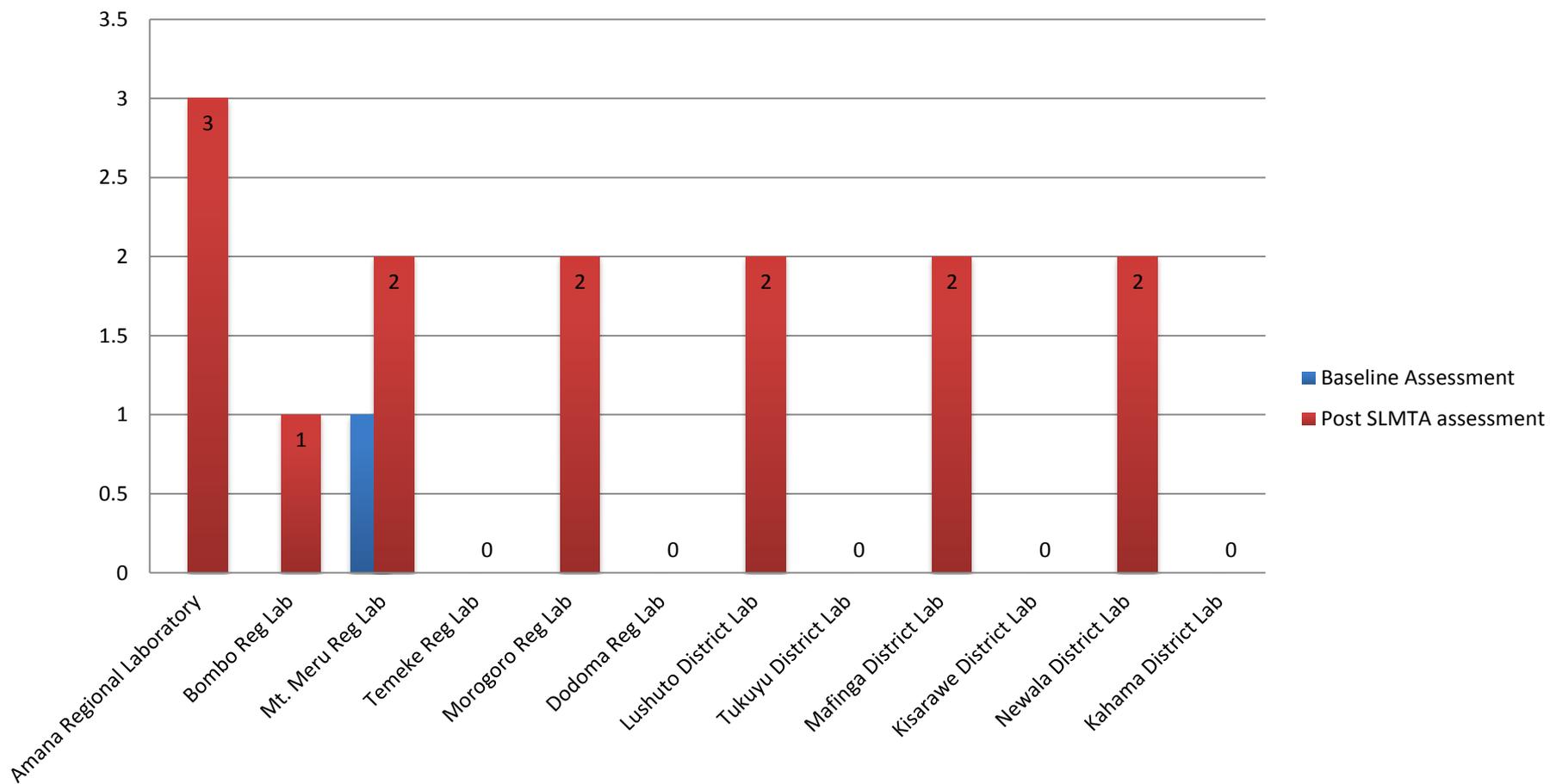
- After the Launching in 2009
  - Four SLMTA Trainers joined the TOT in 2009
  - First Cohort of Labs (12) between 2010/2011
    - 6 Regional Laboratories
    - 6 District Laboratories
  - All except 1 Regional Lab scored 0 Star at baseline
  - 7 laboratories scored a star post assessment



# SLMTA Cohort 1



## SLMTA Cohort 1





# SLMTA Scale Up

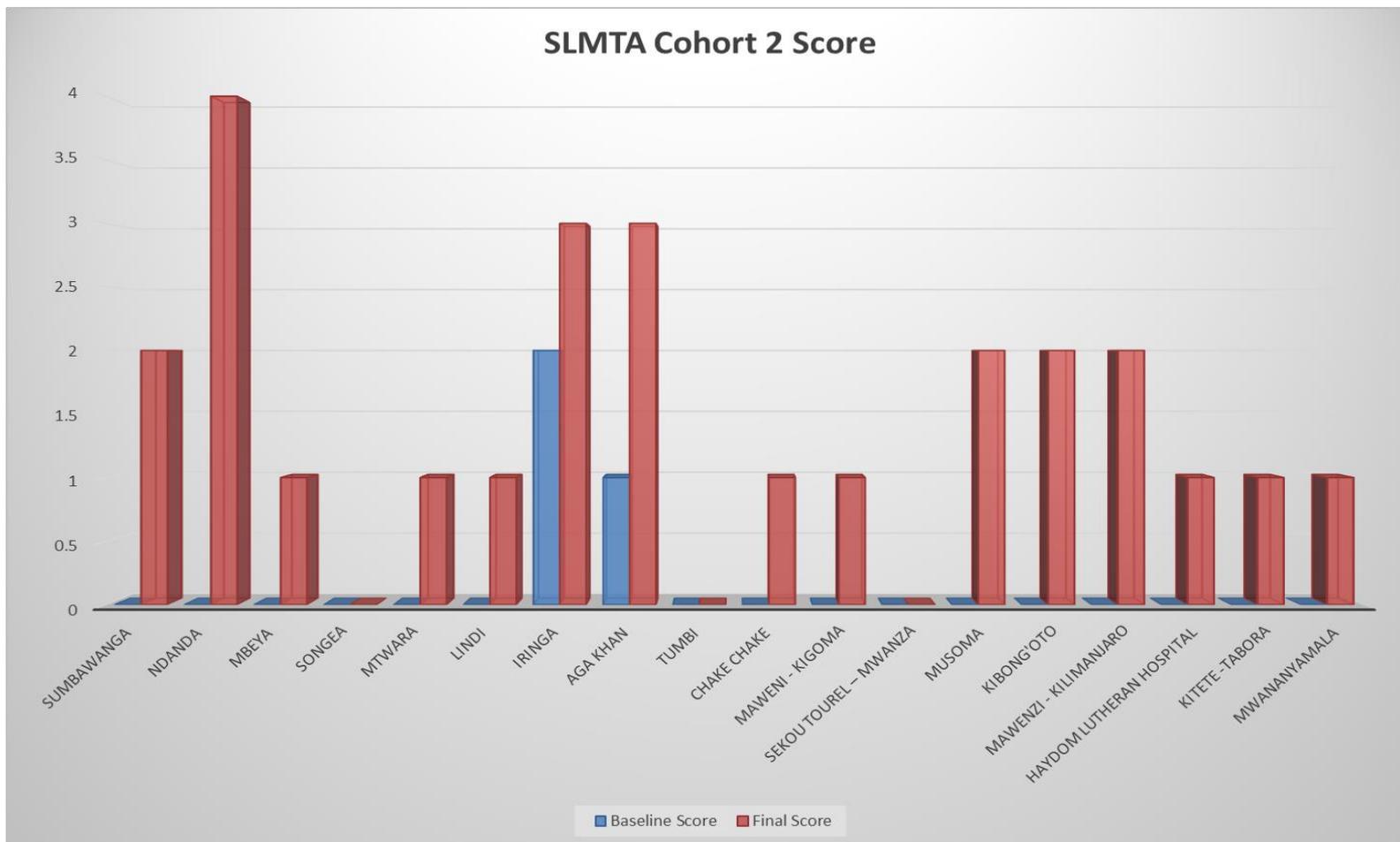


- In Country TOT Training 2012
  - 24 TOT Trained
- Appointed National SLMTA focal person at MOH
- Formulated SLMTA/ Accreditation task force
- SLMTA cohort 2 (18 Labs)
- SLMTA cohort 3 (18 Labs)



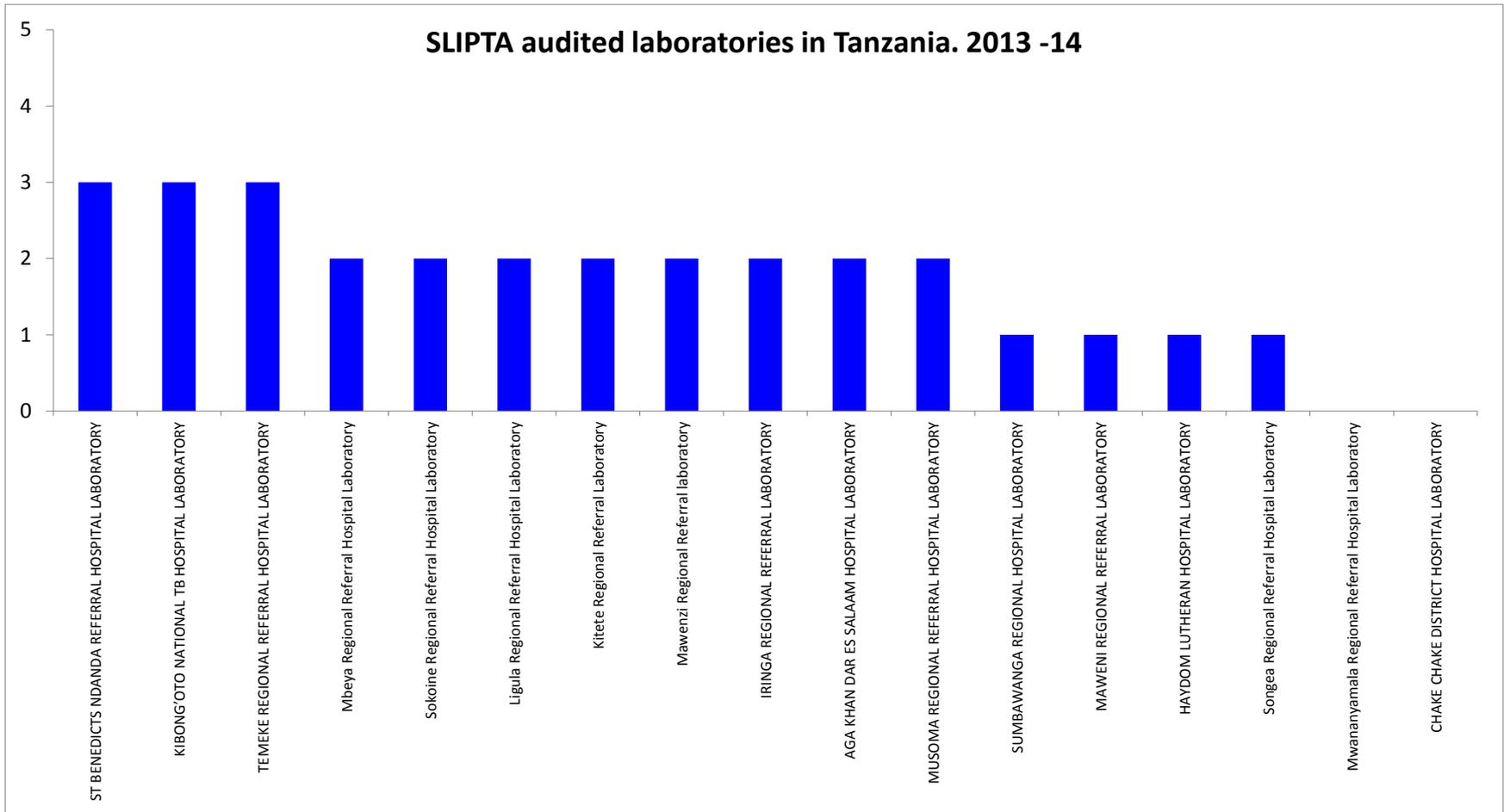


# SLMTA cohort 2





# SLIPTA Assessment 2013/2014





# Training Workshops





# Reasons for successes



- Sensitization meetings to the hospital management teams
  - To get management commitment and support
- Training of TOTs
- Training of Assessors and Mentors
- Regular supportive supervisions
  - Supportive supervision checklist was adopted
  - Reinforcement to the lab managers and quality officers
- Competitive enrollment into SLMTA



# Sensitization meeting to Hospital Management Team





# Mentorship Program



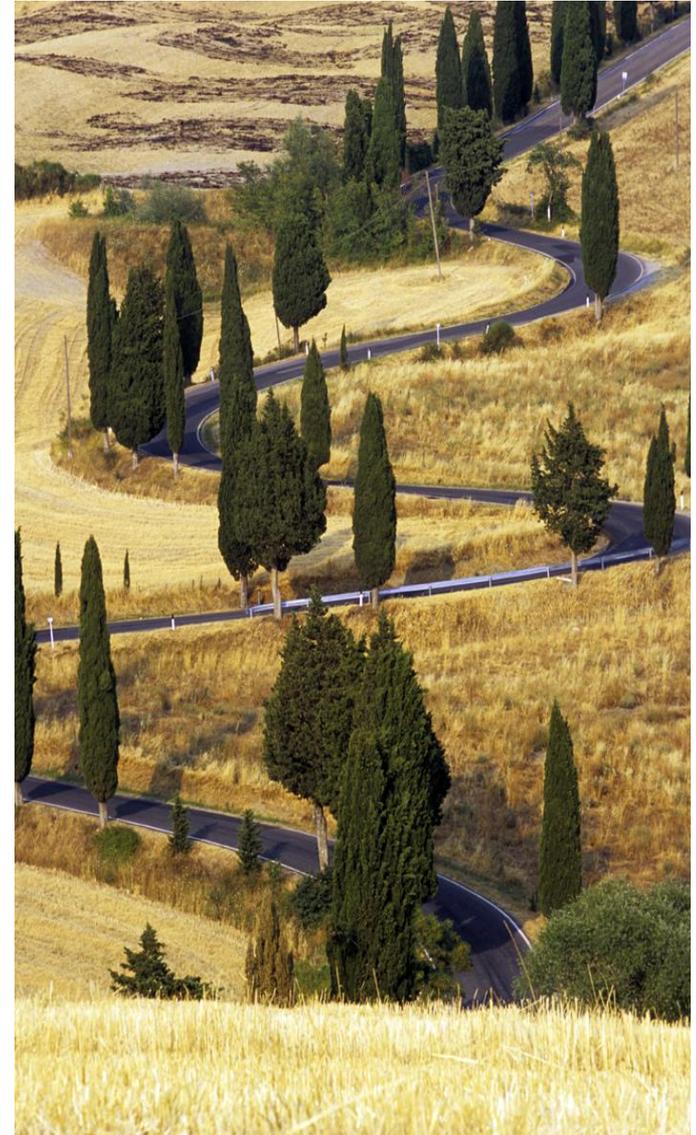
- Mentorship program was designed to support the sites to implement laboratory quality management systems (QMS)
- Locally trained laboratory mentors were used to support SLMTA sites
- Mentors stayed at their sites for two consecutive weeks in every circle
- Mentors presented progress report to the Hospital Management Team



# Way Forward



- The journey toward accreditation is long
  - How can we sustain the achievements
- Inadequate management and leadership commitment
- Reluctance of staff to change their attitudes and behavior
- Shortage of human and financial resources
- Service interruption due to:
  - Equipment breakdown
  - Reagent stock outs





# Acknowledgment



- PEPFAR
- Laboratory development partners
- CDC
- ASLM
- World Bank