



# NEWSLETTER CENTRAL TUBERCULOSIS REFERENCE LABORATORY

July, 2024 / Vol 1

## A WELCOME WORD

### NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS AND LEPROSY PROGRAMME



**Dr. Riziki Kisonga**  
Programme Manager



Dear reader,

Continuing our mission to eliminate Tuberculosis (TB), I am proud to share the progress within our TB Diagnostic Network. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our team at Central Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory (CTRL) for their commitment to providing excellence in the TB care cascade. We are persistent in improving our processes and expanding our reach to ensure no one is left behind. Together, we can significantly impact public health and work towards ending TB.



**In this newsletter you will find:**

Latest projects, workshops, and more. Keep Reading!



## Dr. Basra Doulla Head of CTRL

As the Head of CTRL, I am pleased to share significant progress in our ongoing efforts to combat and ultimately end Tuberculosis. Our work over the past years have seen notable advancements across several key areas, driving us closer to our goal of eliminating this devastating disease.

We have made substantial strides in improving TB diagnostics. The adaptation of molecular WHO-recommended rapid diagnostics, to mention; TrueNat and Gene Xpert MTB/XDR have revolutionized our ability to detect TB and more drug-resistant strains quickly and accurately. These advancements enable earlier intervention and more effective treatment strategies, significantly reducing the transmission of TB.

**"YES! We can end TB"**

## CTRL Value Statement

1. Authenticity
2. Confidentiality
3. Ethics
4. Trust
5. Teamwork
6. Passion
7. Loyalty
8. Integrity
9. Openness
10. Continuous improvement
11. Adaptability
12. Communication







MEET THE TEAM

2024 GLOBAL TB ELIMINATION CHAMPIONS

The Tanzania CTRL Team: Hussein Ngare, Bryceson Malewo, Abdallah Buliani, Amri Kingalu, Saidi Mfaume, Maryjesca Mafie, Jabir Muhsin, Dr. Basra Doulla, Regan Shayo, Saidi Omary, Sluma Faud, Edward Shogolo, Emmanuel Mgendi, Dauson Coloda, and Edgar Luhanga.

Pictured in 2023

➤➤➤ CDC WORLD TB DAY 2024

In Tanzania, the Ministry of Health and the CTRL have significantly improved TB testing by introducing TrueNat machines to 37 facilities since May 2023. This initiative has facilitated 2,572 TB tests, detecting 234 TB cases, including seven drug-resistant TB cases. By reviewing policies, developing training materials, and ensuring test quality, CTRL plays a crucial role in the achievement of this programme. Their efforts include enrolling facilities in proficiency testing and securing machine procurement through the Global Fund. CTRL's dedication to TB elimination earns them recognition as TB Elimination Champions.

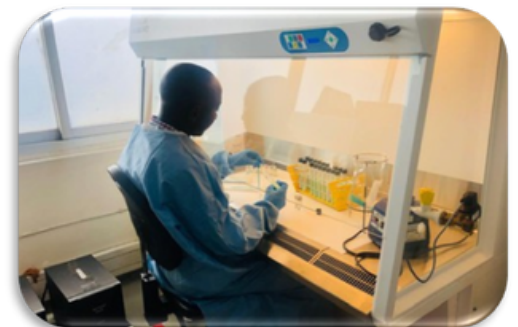


CDC TANZANIA TEAM AT CTRL

DRUG SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING <<<

The Lowenstein Jensen (LJ) method is considered the gold standard for Drug Susceptibility Testing (DST) due to its robustness and reliability in detecting drug-resistant TB. We have improved the preparation of the LJ medium and standardized inoculation techniques to minimize variability and enhance the drug resistance detection sensitivity. Our laboratory now tests a wider range of drugs using the LJ method, including both first-line and second-line anti-TB drugs, providing comprehensive susceptibility profiles that inform effective treatment plans.

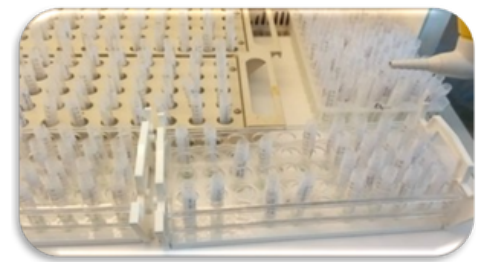
The BACTEC 960 MGIT system offers a significant advantage in terms of speed and automation. It detects bacterial growth through oxygen consumption, providing DST results in a matter of days compared to the weeks required for the LJ method.



## ➤➤➤ PROFICIENCY TESTING (PT) SCHEME

The CTRL initiated a GeneXpert MTB/Rif Proficiency Testing (PT) Scheme to offer Technical Assistance to other laboratory staff in the network, providing insights into their laboratory's performance and benchmarking it with other participant laboratories.

As per our schedule, PT panels are provided twice annually; Round 1 in May and Round 2 in November. In this year's provision, we have succeeded in distributing to 227 enrolled and registered GeneXpert testing sites. This marks an increase of 90% in the number of sites compared to the year 2023, which were 120 sites.



## SUPPORTIVE SUPERVISION <<<

### RUKWA REGION, TANZANIA



Supportive supervision is a critical component of our strategy to enhance laboratory performance, ensure quality control, and improve TB diagnostic and consequently treatment outcomes. Here are some key elements and recent advancements in our SS initiatives:

- Quality Assurance
- Capacity Building
- Performance Monitoring
- Resource Optimization (Equipment, reagents, and personnel)

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- **New 75 Gene Xpert XDR and 110 TrueNat machines deployment**
- **Proficiency Testing panel provision Round 2**
- **Continuous Medical Education**



Training on updated TB Diagnostic Algorithm to Regional TB and Leprosy Coordinators (RTLCS)