Has Botswana Reached a “Tipping Point” In Lab Accreditation

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Introduction

Population: 2 million
Size: 581,730 sq km
Health Facilities: 29 health districts
Number of Labs: 52
Levels of Labs: 4 levels
Level 4
- National Health Lab
- National Reference Labs (Speciality Specific)
  - 4 in the Country

Level 3
- Referral Hospital Labs
  - 3 in the country
    - South and North and Mental Hosp

Level 2
- District Hospital Laboratories
  - 9 Laboratories

Level 1
- Primary hospital and Clinic Labs
  - 36 Labs
QMS Journey

- Started QMS implementation in 2001.
- The Laboratory Services Developed five year QMS Implementation strategy
  - Appointment of National Quality Manager
  - Engagement of Consultants to assist laboratories to document and implement QMS
  - Development of National QMS plan prioritizing labs for accreditation
What Has been achieved so Far
## Laboratory Accreditation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Accredited</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2 lab being prepared for accreditation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 labs have applied to SADCAS, awaiting assessment</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 2     | 9      | 1          | • 1 lab recommended  
|       |        |            | • 3 applied for accreditation  
|       |        |            | • 4 enrolled for SLIPTA |
| 1     | 36     | 0          | • At different levels of implementation  
|       |        |            | • 7 enrolled for SLIPTA |
| Total | 52     | 5          | |
National Strategic Plan

- The National Laboratory Strategic Plan developed 2009–2014
  - Signed in 2010
  - Signed QMS implementation in all laboratories
  - Ten laboratories earmarked for accreditation by the year 2014
  - Intensified QMS training program
  - Roll out of SLMTA to all laboratories
National Strategic Plan 2009

2009
- Developed NSP
- 10 labs earmarked for accreditation

2010
- SLMTA in 8 Labs
- 1st 2nd Lab Accredited
- 3rd and 4th Lab accredited
- SLMTA in 10 labs

2011
- SLMTA in 9 Labs
- Appointed NQM

2012
- SLMTA 12 labs
- SLMTA ToT 24 Participants (21 Local)
- Training QC & MV – 2
- Safety Training – 3 in ACILT

2013
- 5th Lab accreditation
- 6th Lab recommended
- Reviewed NSP
- Safety Training– 27
- QC and MV – 4
- ASLM Audits for 11 Labs

2014
Revised Strategic Plan 2014 – 2019

- Develop a standardised QMS documents
- Implementation strategy for remaining labs
- Strengthen National EQA Scheme
- Accredit 15 more labs
  - Include 5 that are carried over from Previous NSP
- Enrol 30 labs into WHO SLIPTA
  - Already 11 have enrolled
MoH Support Due to Lab Efforts

- **Equipment Calibration:**
  - Equipment calibration and maintenance is being included in the national budget.
  - A national equipment officer has been appointed to coordinate equipment related issues.

- **Lab space:**
  - The ministry has undertaken improvement of laboratory space in affected areas.

- **Inclusion in MoH Corporate Plan:**
  - Laboratory accreditation included in Ministry Corporate Plan and as one of the reportable activities to the HE President. This made Lab accreditation a Ministry priority.
The country applied and enrolled 11 laboratories for SLIPTA audits by ASLM in 2014.

The process was very helpful in that it acted as a much needed advocacy to MoH.

It was also a motivating and wakeup call for both individual laboratories as well as the national program.

This was because key gaps in the program were identified which were a much needed input into the planning process.
National QMS Documents and Implementation

- Strategy to develop centralised national QMS documents. These documents include:
  - Quality Manual
  - Safety Manual
  - Specimen collection Manual
  - System Procedures

- A technical working group has been selected to work on developing these documents by end of financial year (March 2015).

- The documents will be piloted in 4 laboratories representing the different levels of the laboratory system in the country.
Hospital Accreditation

- The ministry of health has adopted a strategy to accredit all major hospital
  - Council for Health Service Accreditation of Southern Africa (COHSASA) standards.

- Has brought in much needed momentum to laboratory accreditation in the form of:
  - Hospital and Ministry management buy-in
  - Understanding and buy-in from other hospital staff
  - Laboratory staff designated process leaders
Involvement of pre-service lecturers

- The majority of laboratory personnel in the country are produced by the Institute of Health Sciences.

- Of recent the country has included in its trainings members of the academic staff from the IHS. These trainings include:
  - SLMTA TOT – One lecturer was included in the SMLTA ToT and has been grafted into in-country team rolling out SMLTA as a facilitator.
  - Laboratory Safety Training – one lecturer trained and expected to train other lecturers in Laboratory safety. IHS was used as a practical lab during the training and a safety audit was conducted as part of training practicum.
  - Method Validation and QC – One lecturer was included in the group that attended Method validation and QC training in South Africa conducted by CDC.

- The academic staff are trained as part of the QMS program in the light that they are expected to include QMS training within the IHS curriculum.
Has Botswana reached a tipping point???