

Laboratory Strengthening

FHI 360 laboratory science experts work across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the United States to improve laboratory quality, accuracy, reliability and efficiency. Our training and technical assistance includes:

- Achieving International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 15189 and Good Clinical Laboratory Practice (GCLP) accreditation
- Document and equipment management
- Laboratory safety and infection control
- Corrective and preventive action and continual quality improvement
- Diagnostic techniques
- Medical waste management
- ... and many others; contact us for more details



Laboratories are crucial to scientific research and public health worldwide. High-quality laboratories are essential for countries to accurately measure disease prevalence, for health systems to provide accurate diagnoses and for clinicians to guide appropriate treatment. FHI 360 is a global leader in laboratory strengthening, enabling laboratories in some of the most resource-limited settings to achieve internationally recognized standards for quality. We partner with national governments, local health systems and nongovernmental organizations, improving their capacity to deliver quality health services through accurate, efficient and replicable diagnostic services.

FHI 360 experts in laboratory science work across the continents providing capacity building, technical assistance, training and monitoring services to bring laboratories to the highest quality. We enable health systems to better serve patient needs and more effectively respond to diseases such as influenza, HIV, malaria and tuberculosis (TB) and other infectious and noncommunicable diseases. Since 2007, we have conducted over 50 different types of laboratory trainings — from the basic principles of laboratory accreditation to document, equipment and personnel management — in Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Vietnam and Uganda.

Assessment and Auditing

FHI 360 experts conduct assessments and audits to gauge a laboratory's performance and potential. Our assessments compare laboratories against international standards, identify gaps and opportunities for improvements and then supply them with sustainable, efficient solutions to improve their diagnostic services. We focus on priority action items targeting patient and staff safety and then support the laboratories in addressing all issues, allowing them to achieve accreditation. As part of this, we work with both government and clinical stakeholders to create cost-effective, long-term plans that strengthen laboratories according to local need. We have audited laboratories in over 40 countries across Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and the United States and have partnered with ministries of health in many countries, such as Botswana, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal and Vietnam, to improve their national laboratory strategic plans and goals for national laboratory improvement. This work has been supported by



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groups including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the U.S. Agency for International Development and many other national and international donors. In many countries, FHI 360 is an active advisor to the ministry of health on laboratory strengthening matters. For example, in Kenya, FHI 360 is an active member of the health ministry's Laboratory Coordinating Committee, which oversees laboratory improvements across the country.

Accreditation Training

FHI 360 developed a training curriculum based on International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 15189 requirements for quality and competence in medical laboratories. We have delivered this training to more than 1500 laboratory technicians and managers in languages including Indonesian, Mandarin Chinese, Thai and Vietnamese, as well as many African local dialects. This curriculum has been used to enhance the knowledge of laboratory management and technicians in numerous countries across Asia and Africa to enhance their experience and capabilities.

Specialized Training

FHI 360 scientists and technicians help maintain laboratory quality systems that are essential to accurate and timely testing. More specialized training addresses special needs such as laboratory biosafety when working with respiratory pathogens, including avian influenza, multidrug resistant TB and extra-drug resistant TB. We also provide trainings on safety measures, including how to handle biohazardous chemicals, how to handle radioactive materials and how to protect laboratory staff, clients and laboratory results from inadequate working conditions or preventable human errors.

Expansion of Laboratory Space and Services

With the support of donors such as the U.S. Agency for International Development, FHI 360 has provided technical assistance to establish and redesign laboratories and to expand testing services in existing facilities. Our work has contributed to the opening of a new Nepalese laboratory that conducts rapid HIV testing and to the introduction of early infant HIV diagnosis in Zambia. FHI 360 has also guided renovations of laboratories to guarantee that facilities have the space required to offer new testing services.

Taking Aim at Tuberculosis and Malaria

FHI 360 staff play key roles in opening laboratories that can detect TB in high-need countries. Our experts guided the creation of the first biosafety level-3 laboratory in Nigeria, enabling technicians to work in a controlled environment that reduced the risk of contracting the airborne bacteria that causes TB. Our skilled technicians have also trained staff in countries such as Brazil, Ethiopia, India, Peru, the Philippines and Uganda in the use of malaria microscopy.

For more information on FHI 360's Laboratory Strengthening services, please contact Janet Robinson, Director, Research and Laboratory Services at (tel) +66.2.263.2300 or (email) jrobinson@fhi360.org.

About FHI 360: FHI 360 is a nonprofit human development organization dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions. Our staff includes experts in health, education, nutrition, environment, economic development, civil society, gender, youth, research and technology — creating a unique mix of capabilities to address today's interrelated development challenges. FHI 360 serves more than 60 countries, all 50 U.S. states and all U.S. territories.