

# Towards TB-FREE Philippines

## THE 2018-2022 TB LABORATORY NETWORK STRATEGIC PLAN

A Sub-plan of Philippine Strategic TB Elimination Plan Phase 1 (PhilSTEP1)

at a glance

### INTRODUCTION

Laboratories play an important role not just in finding the missing people with tuberculosis (TB) but ensuring that they receive timely, appropriate, and quality TB care. TB laboratories are important is not just in prevention and treatment but also in establishing supportive systems and enhancing TB research capacities.

The Laboratory Network Strategic Plan (LNSP) of 2018 - 2022 provide directions and a roadmap outlining the activities that need to be undertaken to successfully implement the plan ensuring the delivery of high-quality assured laboratory services as defined in the PhilSTEP1.

The LNSP is intended on the use of national, regional, provincial and local implementers in planning and implementing TB laboratory network related activities and monitor their accomplishments. It will assist the TB Laboratory stakeholders in determining priorities, approaches, strategies and allocation of resources, to achieve their goals and fulfill their mandates. The plan will also serve as a guide and reference in the preparation of their annual laboratory plan and investment health plan.

### LNSP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The laboratory network strategic plan was developed by the National TB Reference Laboratory through a consensus-building and consultation with the National TB Control Program (NTP), stakeholders, development partners and implementers.

### VISION

TB-free Philippines through a cohesive, collaborative and internationally-recognized network of laboratories that provide quality-assured, accessible and patient-responsive services for TB diagnosis

### MISSION

To provide quality assured laboratory services for rapid detection of TB and strengthen the national TB laboratory network to support the NTP

### OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

#### 1 To improve access to quality-assured TB and DRTB diagnostic services



**Increase availability and accessibility of WHO-Recommended Diagnostic Tests (WRDs), Line Probe Assay (LPA) and culture/Drug Susceptibility Test (DST) services**

95% of presumptive TB cases are tested using WRD

100% of Rifampicin Resistant-TB cases are tested using Second Line LPA and phenotypic DST



**Strengthen the implementation of specimen referral and transport system**

Policy on specimen referral and transport system approved and implemented

100% of specimens referred to laboratories are tested

90% of referred specimen are tested within standard laboratory turnaround time (TAT)

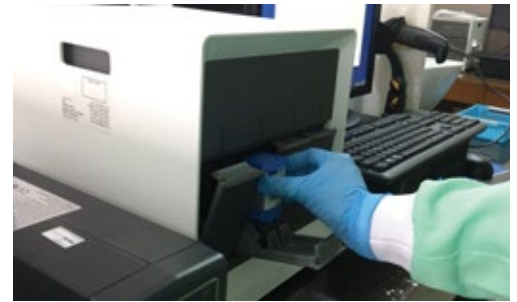
95% of referring facilities have sustainable specimen transport mechanism



**Expand private sector engagement for TB laboratories**

100% of private TB laboratories in the locality are with the NTP laboratory network

100% of engaged private TB laboratories are reporting



Department of Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III, MD, MSc, signing the Laboratory Network Strategic Plan (LNSP) of 2018 - 2022 last January 24, 2020.

## 2 To ensure continuous availability of TB diagnostic services



**Ensure good management of laboratory supplies and commodities**  
No stock-outs of laboratory supplies and commodities



**Sustain operations of TB laboratories**  
100% of TB laboratories have sustainable operations  
Human resource plan and programs for TB laboratory services implemented

## 3 To strengthen the quality management system of TB laboratories



**Develop and maintain Quality Management Systems (QMS) for all TB laboratories**  
95% of all TB laboratories are under a well-functioning Quality Assurance system  
At least 50% of TB laboratories performing culture, LPA and phenotypic DST are implementing formal QMS



**Improve TB laboratory biosafety, biosecurity, and waste management**  
100% of TB laboratories meet biosafety, biosecurity and waste management standards

## 4 To improve the utilization of TB laboratory information and conduct of TB research



**Improve laboratory information and data management systems**  
100% of TB laboratory reports are generated on time using case-based electronic data  
100% of TB laboratories participating in data quality check and data reviews



**Strengthen monitoring, supervision, and evaluation for TB laboratories**  
All priority TB laboratories are monitored and supervised on-site at least once a year and periodically/quarterly via remote monitoring by the Regional and/or Provincial/City Health Office



**Develop operational research capacity**  
100% of Centers for Health Development conducting or participating in operational researches

### MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)

The LNSP M&E plan includes benchmarks for tracking and assessing implementation progress, operational research and achievement of the LNSP objectives. Information from the M&E system measures the extent to which activities are properly implemented and contribute to the achievement of national targets and that funding is expensed as planned. LNSP indicators are aligned with PhilSTEP 1 and the M&E framework is based on the WHO Framework of Indicators and Targets for Laboratory Strengthening.

