



## قرار

### Resolution

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EM/RC63/R.4  
October 2016

Sixty-third Session  
Agenda item 5(b)

#### Strategic framework for strengthening health laboratory services 2016–2020

The Regional Committee,

Having discussed the technical paper on the strategic framework for strengthening health laboratory services 2016–2020<sup>1</sup>;

Recalling resolutions EM/RC61/R.2 on global health security and EM/RC59/R.3 on health systems strengthening;

Acknowledging the essential role of health laboratory services in improving health outcomes, achieving universal health coverage and ensuring global health security and the need to improve access to and strengthen national laboratory capacity to generate safe and quality assured results for both clinical and public health use;

Recognizing that the strengthening of health laboratory services is an important component of both the International Health Regulations (2005) and the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance;

Recognizing also the importance of intersectoral and cross-country collaboration to support the strengthening of health laboratory services;

1. **ENDORSES** the strategic framework for strengthening health laboratory services 2016-2020 and its framework for action (annexed to this resolution);
2. **URGES** Member States to:
  - 2.1 Take the necessary steps to strengthen health laboratory services, with particular emphasis on public health laboratories, based on the strategic framework, adapted to national priorities, regulations and specific contexts;

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<sup>1</sup> EM/RC63/5 Rev.1

- 2.2 Develop or further strengthen national laboratory policies and strategic plans, based on situation analysis and aligned with national health policy and planning;
  - 2.3 Ensure provision of adequate financial, human, infrastructure and technical resources for implementation of the national laboratory policies and strategic plans;
  - 2.4 Build and expand the mechanisms and institutional base for monitoring and evaluation of laboratory performance and of progress towards implementation of the national laboratory policies and strategic plans.
- 3. REQUESTS** the Regional Director to:
- 3.1 Provide support to Member States in strengthening their health laboratory services based on the strategic framework, with particular emphasis on public health laboratories;
  - 3.2 Encourage national and international partners to support Member States in the implementation of the strategic framework;
  - 3.3 Report on progress in the implementation of the strategic framework to the 65th and 67th sessions of the Regional Committee.

**Annex. Framework for action on strengthening health laboratory services 2016–2020**

Priority interventions	Action by countries	Progress indicator
Strengthen leadership and governance of the national laboratory systems	<p>Establish an independent intersectoral oversight mechanism for health laboratory services</p> <p>Conduct a situation analysis for laboratory service delivery</p> <p>Build advocacy among senior management and administrators of the Ministry of Health for the importance of health laboratories in cohesive national health systems</p> <p>Develop and implement a national health laboratory policy and a national laboratory strategic plan</p> <p>Establish a legal and regulatory framework to support implementation of the national laboratory policy</p> <p>Create a national organizational structure for development of standards and guidelines and monitoring of their implementation</p> <p>Establish a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for performance of health laboratory services</p>	<p>Governance of health laboratory services streamlined under unified clear leadership</p> <p>Inter-sectoral dialogue between health laboratory services and other relevant services and stakeholders established and coordinated</p> <p>Gaps, weaknesses and needs of the current laboratory system identified</p> <p>Commitment of senior management to laboratory quality obtained</p> <p>Process for development and implementation of the national regulatory framework for laboratory services properly coordinated</p> <p>Standards and guidelines development bodies are in place to nationally recognize best practices, standards, and guidelines</p> <p>Evidence-based decision-making is facilitated by the availability of data</p>
Strengthen the organization and management of the national laboratory systems towards quality	<p>Streamline the structure and functions of the national laboratory services within the health system to meet country needs, especially public health needs</p> <p>Establish a quality management office and/or quality manager's/officer's position to oversee all quality-related activities</p> <p>Implement a quality management system (QMS) at targeted sites</p> <p>Ensure sustainable laboratory services through dedicated adequate government budget/funding</p> <p>Improve supply chain management, equipment procurement and maintenance processes</p>	<p>A tiered laboratory services referral system that provides public health functions of surveillance, detection and response and supports clinical and research needs of the country</p> <p>Quality management offices are established and available to institutions</p> <p>Public health laboratory activities are funded in an adequate and sustainable manner</p> <p>Reagents and supplies are available at all times to support uninterrupted provision of services</p>
Establish sustainable, sufficient and competent human resources for laboratory service delivery	<p>Develop human resources policies (where necessary and feasible, as part of the national laboratory policy) for sustainable, sufficient and competent staff to manage and operate laboratory services</p> <p>Strengthen management of laboratory services</p> <p>Establish mechanisms for registration or licensing of all categories of laboratory workers, including those in private laboratories, based on mandatory minimum qualification requirements (standards)</p> <p>Develop a system for attraction and retention of staff in laboratory services</p> <p>Ensure that pre-service education and training programmes teach knowledge and skills that meet the needs of country's laboratory services</p> <p>Develop a system for in-service continual professional development and competence building for all categories of laboratory workers, including private laboratories</p>	<p>More effective and efficient personnel management</p> <p>Improved staff competency</p> <p>Improved effective and efficient management of laboratory services</p> <p>All laboratories are operated by the registered/licensed personnel fully qualified for their jobs</p> <p>Improved staff motivation and career plans</p> <p>Improved staff retention and morale</p> <p>Improved quality of in-service training and its relevance to laboratory services being provided</p>

Priority interventions	Action by countries	Progress indicator
Ensure safe and secure laboratory environments	<p>Develop/improve national regulatory frameworks to systematically manage biorisk in laboratory settings</p> <p>Ensure safe and secure working environment and facility to prevent accidental or deliberate release of infectious agents and protect laboratory workers, patients, community and the environment</p> <p>Develop and use appropriate training / competence development programmes and associated materials to understand, adopt and implement biorisk management strategies</p>	<p>National biorisk management policies and procedures/ guidelines established and/or updated</p> <p>Biorisk management systems are in place including biorisk management bodies and biorisk manager/officer positions</p> <p>Improved national regulatory frameworks for the implementation of biorisk management approaches</p> <p>Processes and procedures for risk assessment and risk minimization are improved and systematically implemented</p> <p>Infectious substances are transported safely</p> <p>Staff at various service levels has necessary competences to address and mitigate biorisks</p>
Promote effective, tiered and integrated laboratory referral networks (in-country and among countries) and enhance coordination	<p>Ensure that diagnostic capacity meets national needs, especially public health needs, by assisting resource-limited countries to establish or strengthen nationwide tiered, integrated health laboratory networks</p> <p>Improve cross-sectoral communication and coordination with national authorities for effective control of zoonotic diseases by using the "One Health" approach</p> <p>Support regional and global networks to ensure access to testing capacity when local or domestic capacity is not available, especially for diseases or events of public health concern</p> <p>Strengthen external partnerships for technical and financial assistance</p>	<p>Improved quantity and quality of resources available to strengthen public health laboratory networks in resource-limited countries</p> <p>Strengthened and functional existing networks</p> <p>Improved cross-sectoral communication and coordination for zoonoses</p> <p>Partners facilitate the work of the public health laboratories</p>
Promote rational and evidence-based use of laboratory services	<p>Ensure that health care providers are familiar with evidence-based test selection and interpretation of results and have sufficient information on proper collection, storage and shipment of specimens</p> <p>Build capacity of laboratory personnel to provide consultant advisory service and improve communication</p>	<p>Health care providers have a good understanding of laboratory services and adequate knowledge of evidence-based principles of laboratory test ordering and results interpretation</p> <p>Improved equity and access to laboratory services</p> <p>Improved communication between laboratory services and other health care providers</p>