

Laboratory Sciences in Asia

FHI 360 works with laboratories in research and public health programs in Asia.

FHI 360's lab training programs are available in Mandarin Chinese, Indonesian, Thai, and Vietnamese.

FHI 360 is an Associate Member of the Asian Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) for work in laboratory strengthening.

Summary

FHI 360 Laboratory Sciences Unit provides laboratory strengthening to clinical research studies and public health programs globally. Our quality assurance laboratory specialists work with laboratories to improve services through needs assessments, program enhancements, and training. Our technical expertise and understanding of local limitations make it possible for us to strengthen laboratories in some of the most challenging settings.

Laboratory Strengthening

FHI 360 provides quality assessment services, establishing and supporting External Quality Assessment Schemes (EQASs) for laboratory testing programs and clinical trials. When needed, FHI 360 can link laboratories to appropriate accredited programs or help establish local or national EQAS programs. Through these services, laboratories can verify the reliability of their results and take appropriate corrective action if results are unsatisfactory.

FHI 360 offers laboratory strengthening services for clinical research and public health programs including diagnostic testing and therapeutic monitoring for HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, TB, and other infectious diseases. FHI 360:

- Provides technical assistance to achieve ISO 15189 accreditation;
- Establishes technical and management laboratory quality systems;
- Selects suppliers for reagents and equipment ensuring cold-chain requirements are met;
- Establishes reliable internal quality control systems and/or record keeping systems; and
- Performs pre-accreditation inspections and assists with developing quality improvement programs for accreditation.



Past Experience:

- Strengthened rural and mobile 'laboratories' to provide malaria diagnosis by microscopy
- Provided laboratory support to 14 laboratories under US NIH's South East Asia Clinical Research Network to achieve ISO 15189 accreditation
- Identified laboratory needs and public health gap assessments to more than 80 commune- and district-level primary health posts in Vietnam
- Provided technical assistance to the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit in Vietnam to validate RT-PCR assay and laboratory to meet USFDA standards for an investigational Dengue treatment drug
- From FHI 360's laboratory in Bangkok, provides RT-PCR for the early infant diagnosis of HIV
- Renovated and re-designed a complete HIV laboratory testing suite for the National Public Health Laboratory in Nepal
- Prepared laboratory engineering drawing and equipment plans to upgrade the National TB laboratory in Cambodia to BSL3 status

ISO 15189 Training

FHI 360's ISO 15189 and biosafety training curricula have been used to train laboratory technicians and management personnel. We have developed and delivered laboratory training programs to more than 500 laboratory technicians and management personnel at the local and national levels in China, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Technical Assistance

FHI 360 has been involved in the development of standard guidelines for routine testing and offers services to help select appropriate testing methodologies. In addition, we have assisted with establishing internal and external monitoring systems and facilitating collaboration and efficient reporting systems between laboratories.

Past Experience:

- Established an EQAS for rapid HIV diagnostics in voluntary counseling and testing centers in Nepal and Pakistan
- Renovated and established a new HIV laboratory (conducting rapid tests through PCR) in the Nepal National Public Health Laboratory
- Assisted the Center for Standardization and Quality of Medical Laboratories in Vietnam to ensure the quality of all 300 public medical laboratories in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- Worked with the Ministries of Health in Indonesia, Nepal, and Vietnam to develop national laboratory strategic plan as part of the global PEPFAR program



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