



Sub-Saharan Africa Healthcare Initiative

**State-of-the-art comprehensive anatomic
and clinical pathology and radiology services**

SSAHIPATH is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) Public Charity Organization
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Africa needs high-quality laboratory and radiology services

The vast majority of medical decisions are based on results obtained from a medical laboratory or radiology report. The availability and quality of medical laboratory and radiology services in Africa are critical for high-quality and safe health care. However, many medical laboratories in Africa are ill-equipped to adequately service a growing population with a disproportionate burden of disease¹. **Thirty-seven of 49** countries in sub-Saharan Africa do not have an accredited medical laboratory (figure 1)².

Excluding South Africa, there are only 35 laboratories in Sub-Saharan Africa that meet international standards of laboratory accreditation (figure

2)². Only 5% of medical and research laboratories in Kampala, Uganda met the World Health Organization Regional office for Africa's 5-tier Stepwise Laboratory Improvement Process Towards Accreditation (SLIPTA) in a recent study³. Laboratory and imaging equipment are often out of date and lack service contracts. Additionally, laboratory protocols and standard operating procedures are usually out of date.

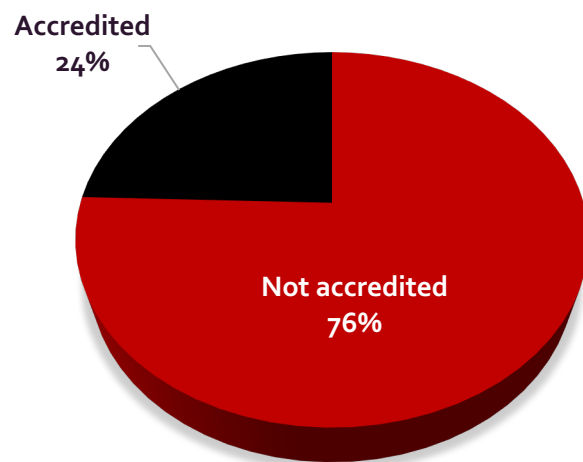


Figure 1. Accreditation status of laboratories in sub-Saharan African countries. Data from Schroeder et al. AJCP 2014 141:791

¹Morhason-Bello et al. Lancet Oncol 2013 14:e142; ²Schroeder et al. AJCP 2014 141:791; ³Elbireer et al. PlosONE 2013 e64661

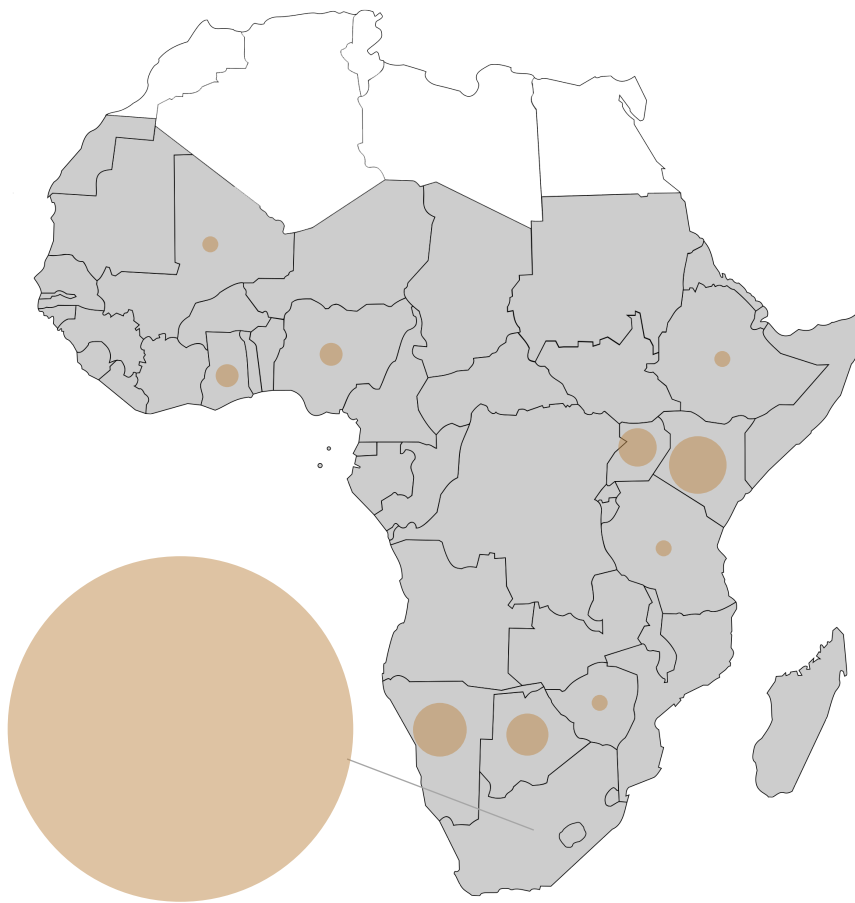


Figure 2. Location of laboratories in sub-Saharan Africa that meet international accreditation standards. Size of circle is reflective of the number of accredited laboratories. Modified from Schroeder et al. AJCP 2014 141:791

Even more troubling is the fact that **there is only 1 pathologist per 1 million people living in sub-Saharan Africa**⁴⁻⁶.

Furthermore, 58% of laboratory professionals in Addis Ababa don't have adequate staff to cover laboratory services⁷.

Compounded to this problem is the lack of resources and adequate technology in many laboratories in Africa to provide

up-to-date high-quality healthcare services.

I mproving quality and sustainability of medical laboratory & radiology services

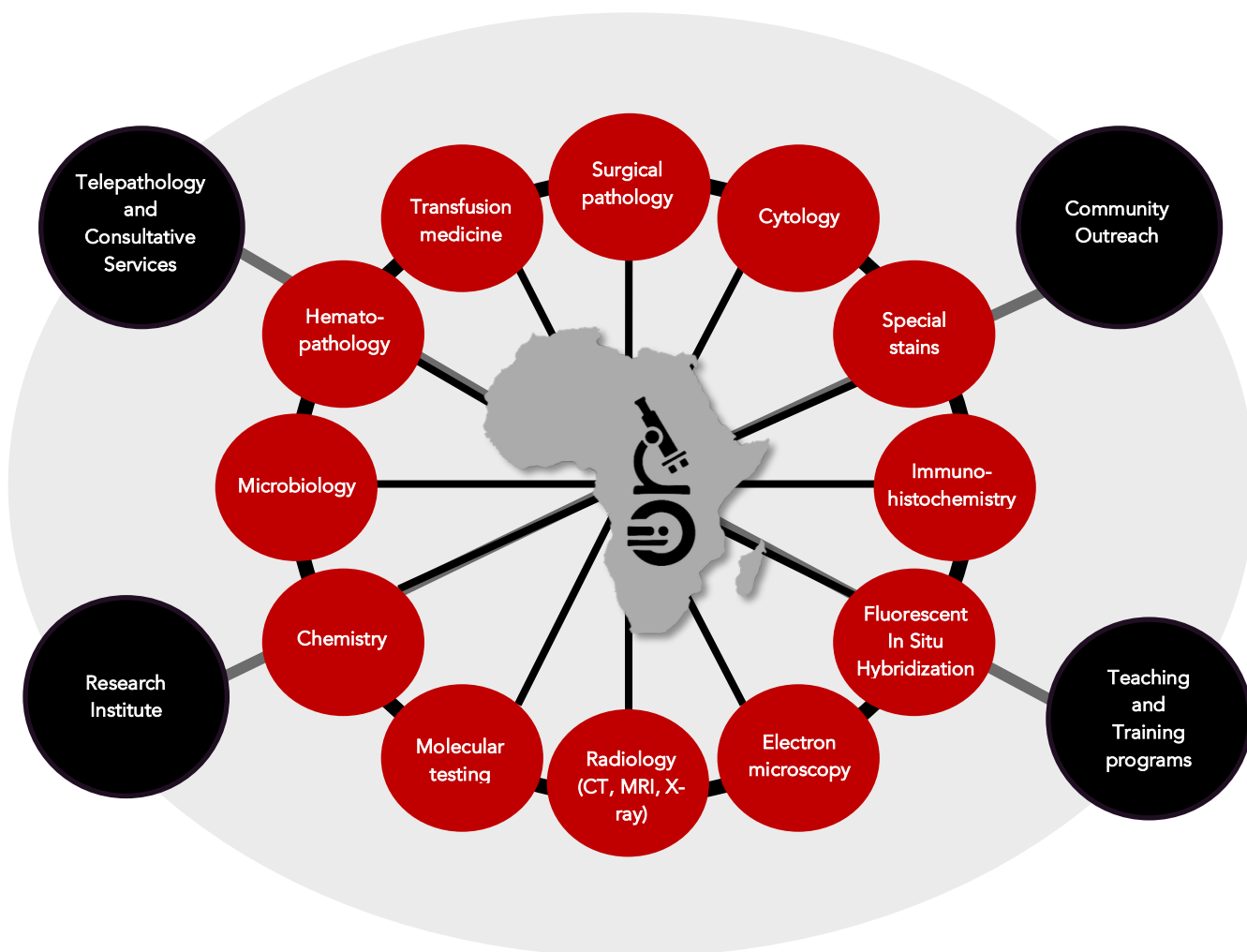
The Sub-Saharan Africa Healthcare Initiative (SSAHI) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working to fill this dire need in medical care in Africa. We envision a network of comprehensive, state of the art clinical and anatomic pathology as well as imaging services with the

⁴Adesina et al. Lancet Oncol 2013 14:e152; ⁵<http://www.pathologyinafrica.org>; ⁶Rambau. Arch Pathol Lab Med 2011 135:191;

⁷Mesfin et al. eJIFCC 2017 28:205

aim of delivering high-quality, efficient, and affordable services to patients in Africa under standards that meet or exceed international accreditation expectations. We are also committed to providing consultative services to help other laboratories in Africa implement laboratory standards that meet WHO and other international accreditation organizations' guidelines.

We understand the need for and importance of community engagement, research, as well as teaching and training a workforce in all aspects of pathology, laboratory medicine, and imaging. Our long-term goal is to build the infrastructure needed for these aspects of medicine, science, and outreach to flourish alongside the laboratory and imaging services we provide to the African community.



1st Project: The Cancer Institute of Libreville, Gabon

Established in 2012 as a partnership between the Ministry of Health, the Sylvia Bongo Ondimba Foundation, and the Lalla Salma Foundation of Morocco, the Cancer Institute of Libreville (ICL) was envisioned as the reference laboratory for the treatment and prevention of cancer.

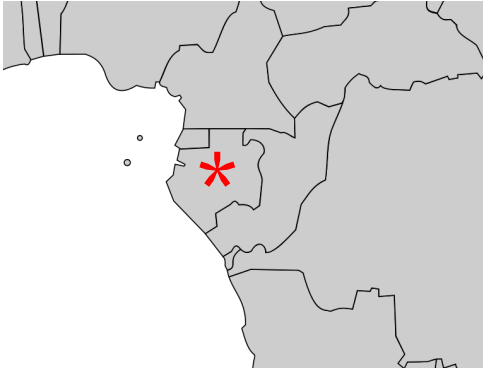


The anatomic pathology and medical laboratory for ICL was opened in February 2013 under the supervision of two pathologists as a reference laboratory to support the activities of ICL with a special focus on molecular diagnostics and translational research.

The laboratory provided services for an average of 470 patients per year between 2012 and 2016 with cervical and breast cancer being the most common cancers diagnosed at the institute. However, provision of routine services by the laboratory has stalled due to nonfunctioning equipment, lack of reagents, technical difficulties, and limited staff.

SSAHIPATH has partnered with ICL and the Ministry of Health in Gabon to provide laboratory and radiology services for ICL. Based on our needs analysis, our initial pathology and radiology services will focus on gynecologic and breast cancers. We aim to have the laboratory up and running by October 2019.

About Gabon



Gabon is home to about 2 million inhabitants and is located along the Atlantic coast of Central Africa. The average age is 26 years and the country has an average annual growth rate of 2.9%. Gabon has a universal healthcare coverage program as well as private

insurers and options for out-of-pocket services.

There are more than 10 hospital in Gabon but as with many countries in Africa, majority of the hospitals have inadequate laboratory services with limited resources and staff.

SSAHIPATH strongly believes that the quality of healthcare people receive should not depend on where people live. We are therefore dedicated to establishing state-of-the-art high-quality pathology and radiology services as well as research institutions throughout Africa and to strongly support the community in improving health.



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Helping Africa be at its best in healthcare

