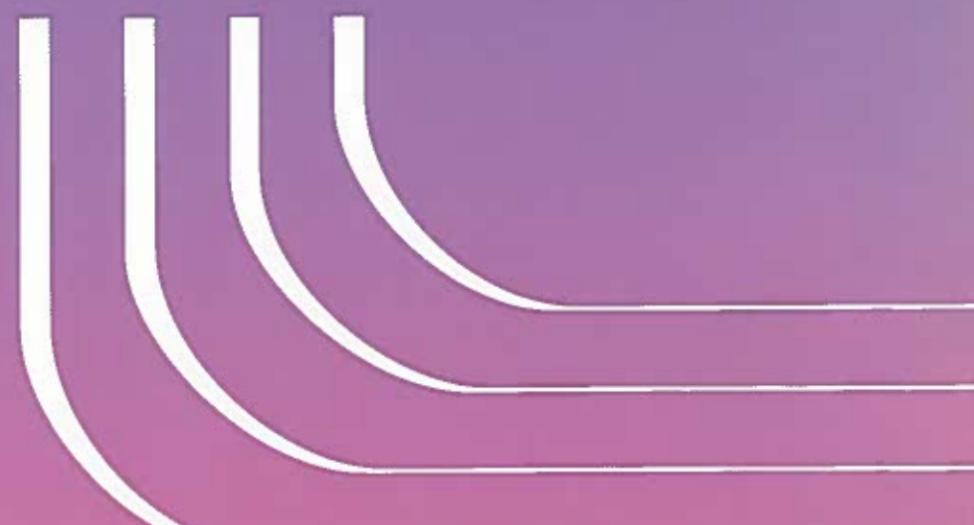




Health Laboratory  
Services *in support of*  
Primary Health Care  
in South-East Asia



**World Health Organization**  
Regional Office for South-East Asia  
New Delhi

# Health Laboratory Services

in Support of Primary Health Care

in the South-East Asia Region

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# **Health Laboratory Services**

## **in Support of Primary Health Care in the South-East Asia Region**

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## Foreword



The World Health Organization has been continuously striving to develop and expand laboratory services; promote the safety and adequacy of laboratory products and the application of appropriate and cost-effective diagnostic procedures that are essential for the provision of quality health care. The role of laboratories is now recognized as essential for competent clinical and laboratory services. Utilization of laboratory services is expected in establishing accurate and monitoring the response to treatment.



In 1994, WHO brought out the first edition of this publication to assist Member Countries in their national health laboratory services as well as in their implementation, development and networking of laboratories at various echelons of health services and assuring general results by the laboratories.

As with other disciplines of the sciences, health laboratory services have undergone improvements during the past five years. The second edition of the publication, with a new title, Health Laboratory Services in Support of Primary Health Care in the South-East Asia Region, is being published to provide updated information on various aspects of this discipline. It contains expanded and revised knowledge on rapid, sensitive and field-friendly diagnostic procedures that are becoming available at affordable prices for utilization at various levels of primary health services. The publication highlights the need to ensure biosafety and describes in detail effective measures that have to be instituted to guarantee risk-free operation of laboratories. It dwells in detail about the establishment of a quality assurance programme for blood and plasma services in developing countries to ensure safe blood.

Though the revised edition contains the latest technical information, the emphasis is on contemporary requirements of the countries of the South-East Asia Region that are pursuing their efforts in rationalizing and strengthening health laboratory services.

The first edition of this publication received appreciation from all quarters, and I am confident that the second edition will also go a long way in disseminating appropriate technical information on health laboratory services that have assumed a vital role in quality primary health care.

  
**Dr Uton M.**  
Reg

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