Compliance involved at various levels in the interventions below:

1. Initial status: Using the WHO Stepwise Laboratory Improvement Process Towards Accreditation (SLIPTA) baseline assessment carried out in 56 laboratories in 3 regions (Sikasso, Ségou and Mopti) showed that the average level of compliance at the baseline was 18%. On this average, 69 laboratories failed to meet the requirements of the global clinical laboratory accreditation system (CLIA) as well as that of the ISOL/A2M criteria. 21 laboratories also failed to meet the requirements of the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) in Mali.

The mentors visited each region and gave technical support to the laboratories. They discussed the results of the baseline assessment with laboratory managers and proposed remedial actions to improve the level of compliance. The mentors also provided in-situ technical training on the most common deficiencies identified in the assessment.

After the mentoring visit, a second SLIPTA assessment was done in the laboratories supported by the project. The results of this second assessment showed that the average level of compliance rose from 18% to 61%.

The mentors also supported the laboratories in setting up a quality approach that meets the requirements of international standards. This included setting up a quality management system (QMS) in accordance with ISO 9001:2015 standards for laboratories in the SLIPTA and CHSL laboratories. In addition, they addressed the most common deficiencies of each laboratory to improve their levels of compliance.

On the other hand, 52% of the laboratories had received training in the most common deficiencies identified in the baseline assessment. The mentors also provided technical support to the laboratories in setting up a quality management system (QMS) in accordance with ISO 15189:2012 standards for laboratories in the SLIPTA and CHSL laboratories. In addition, they addressed the most common deficiencies of each laboratory to improve their levels of compliance.

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