

Overview of the WOAAH Twinning Programme and Veterinary Laboratory Focal Points' role

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World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal



Background

- Created in 2006 - solidarity based, technical assistance and training programme
- The projects aim to **increase veterinary laboratory expertise in underserved areas and increase compliance with WOAHS Standards**
- Partners are a WOAHS Reference Centre (Parent), and a Candidate laboratory (national laboratory, university, private laboratory, government agency, etc.)
- Cannot make infrastructural investments in the Candidate laboratories (does not pay for equipment, staff or construction)
- 2 or 3-year projects, median project duration of 3 years, fixed reporting schedule
- Projects can be self-funded or WOAHS-funded (by a donor) median budget 90K EUR
- Both WOAHS Delegates and both laboratory directors must support the project
- Not all projects aim to result in new Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres



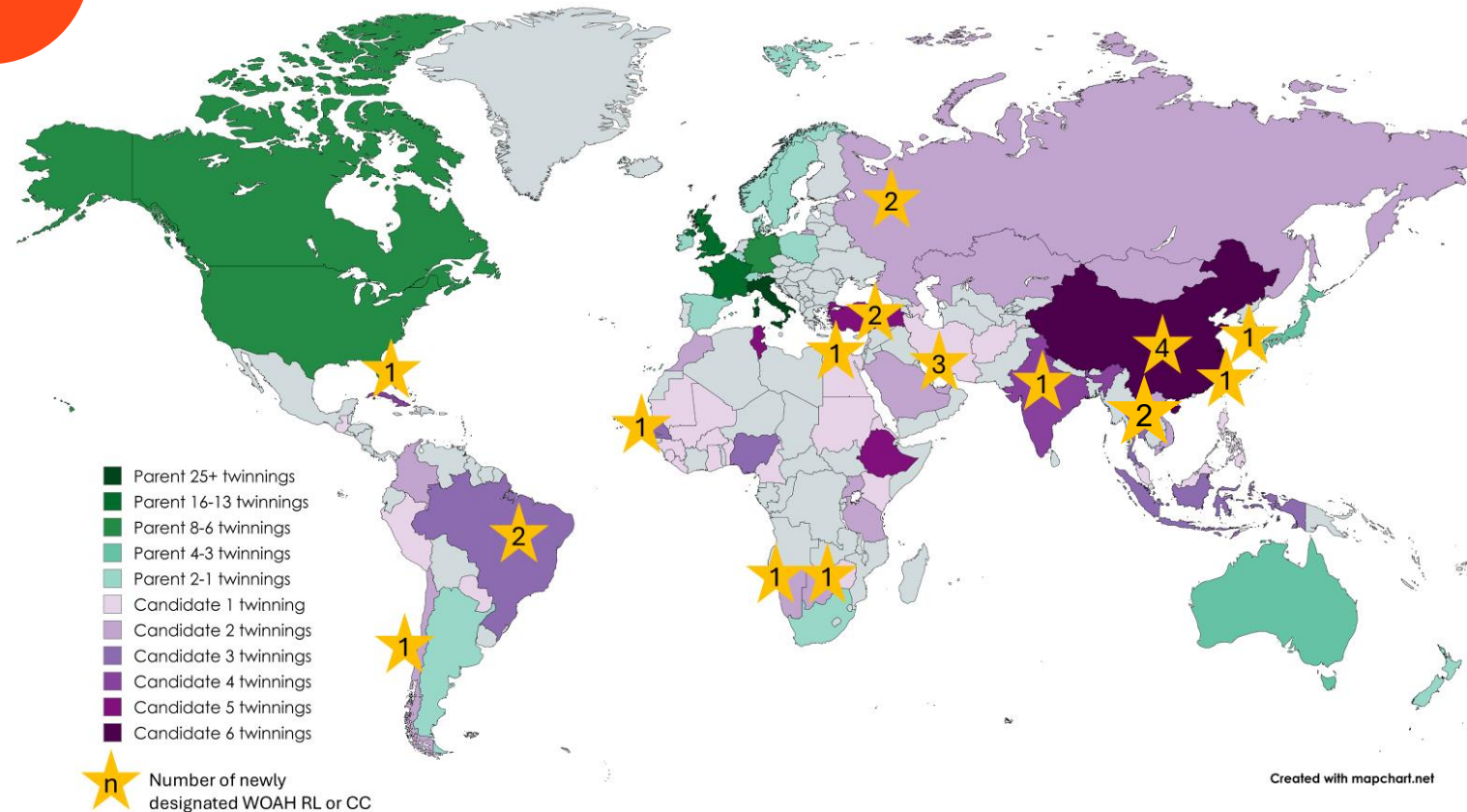
Global implementation

July
2025

Completed
100

Underway
16

New
RLs/CCs 24



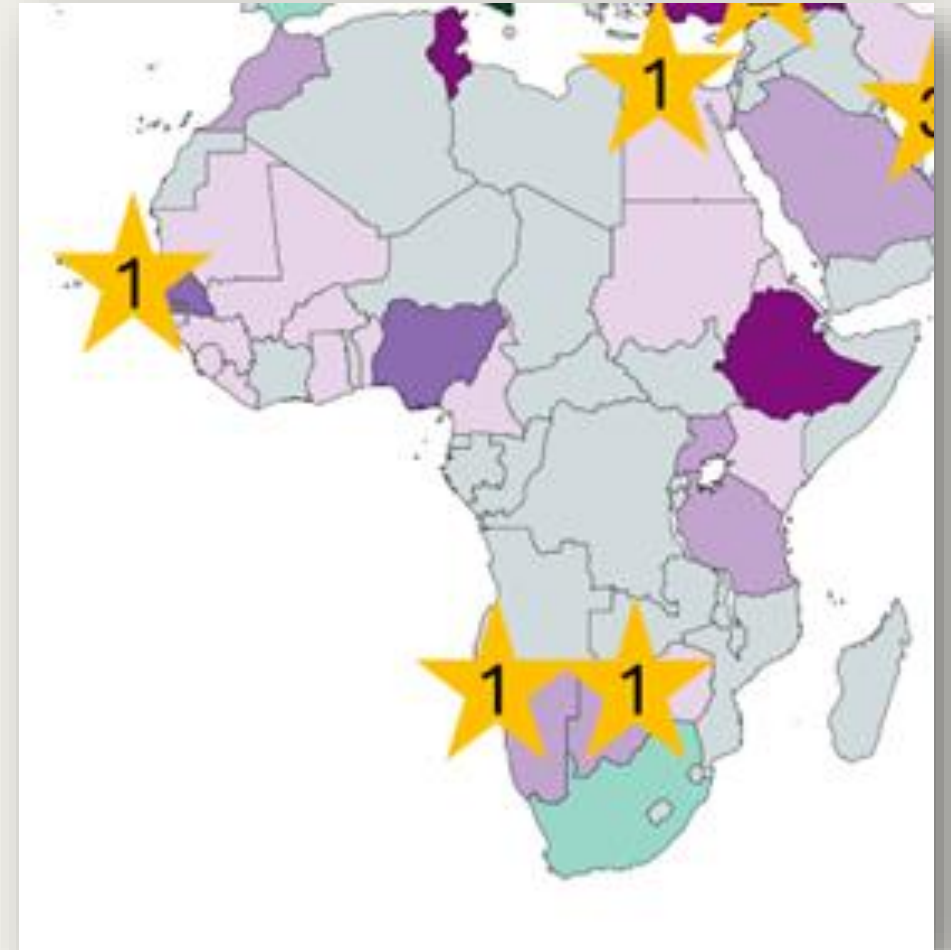


Implementation in Africa

43 completed
projects

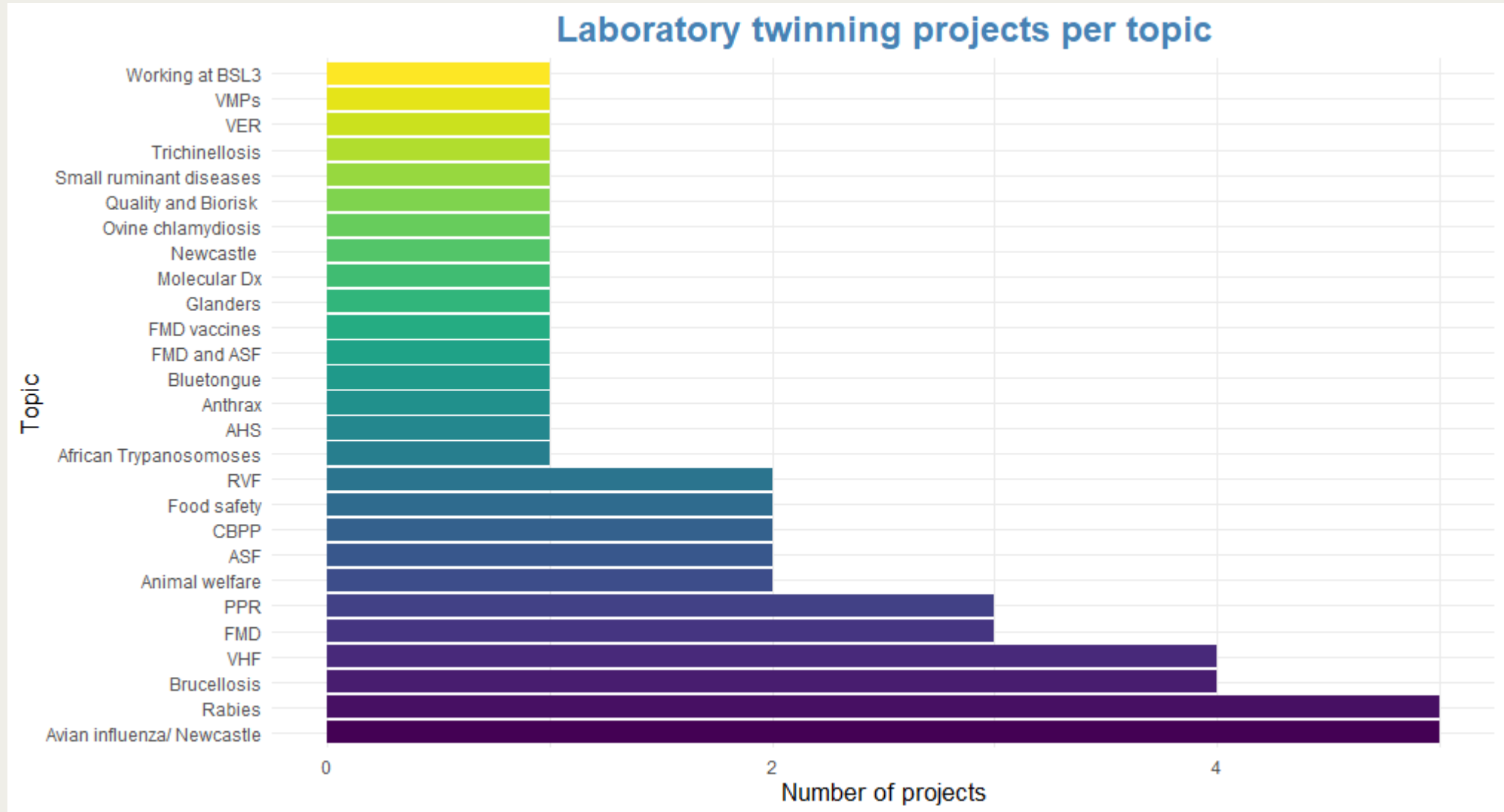
7 ongoing
projects

4 new
Reference
Centres



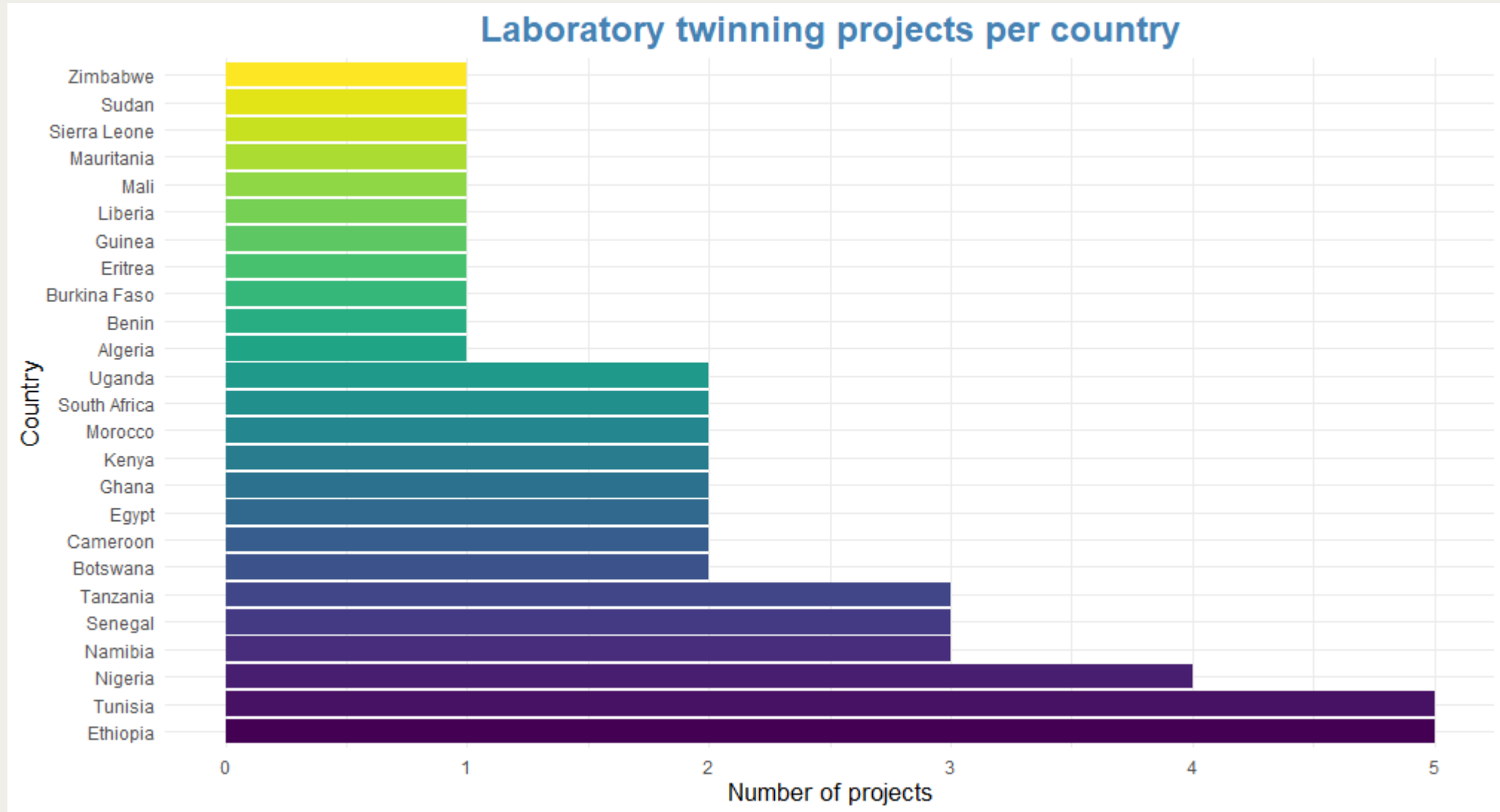


Implementation in Africa



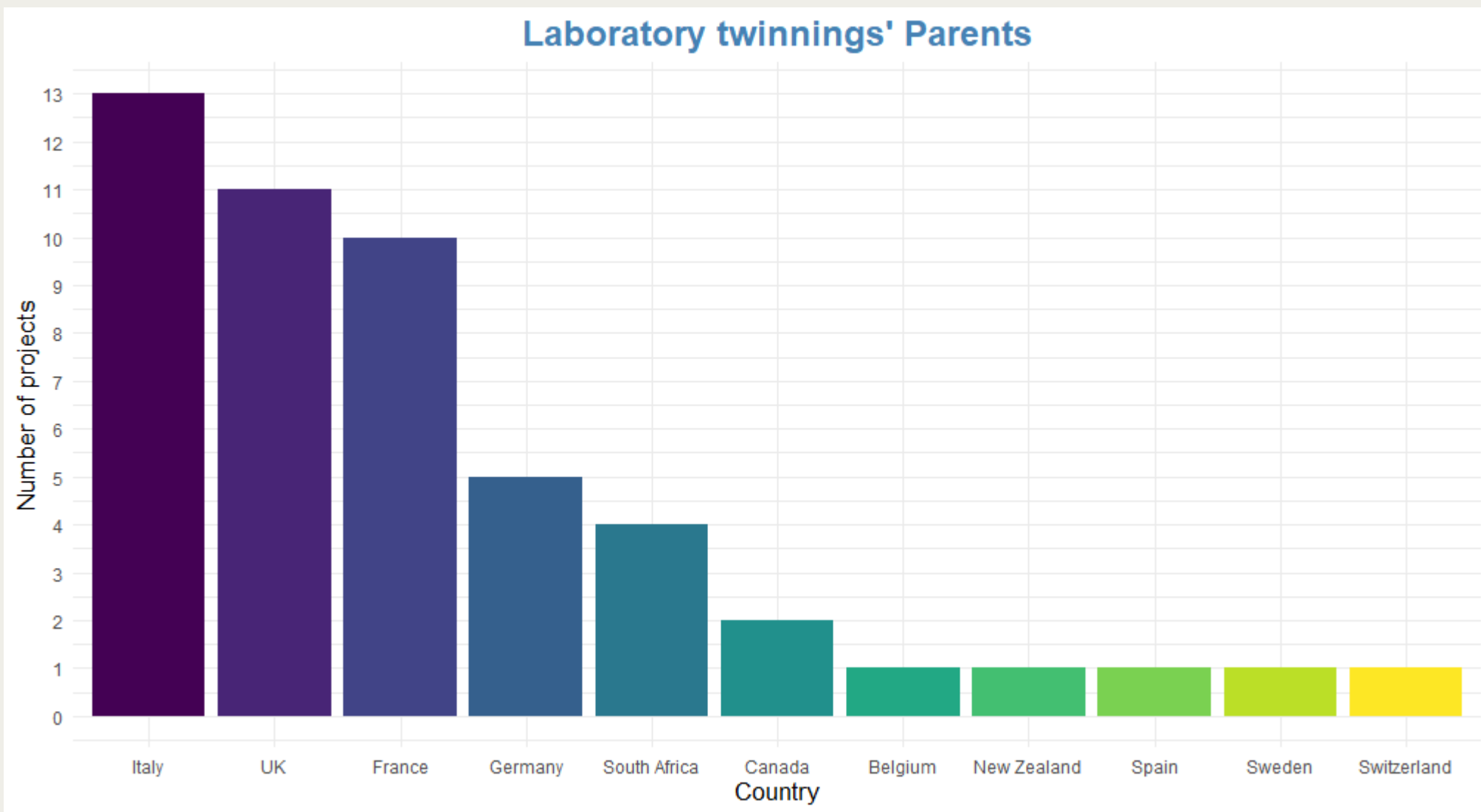


Implementation in Africa



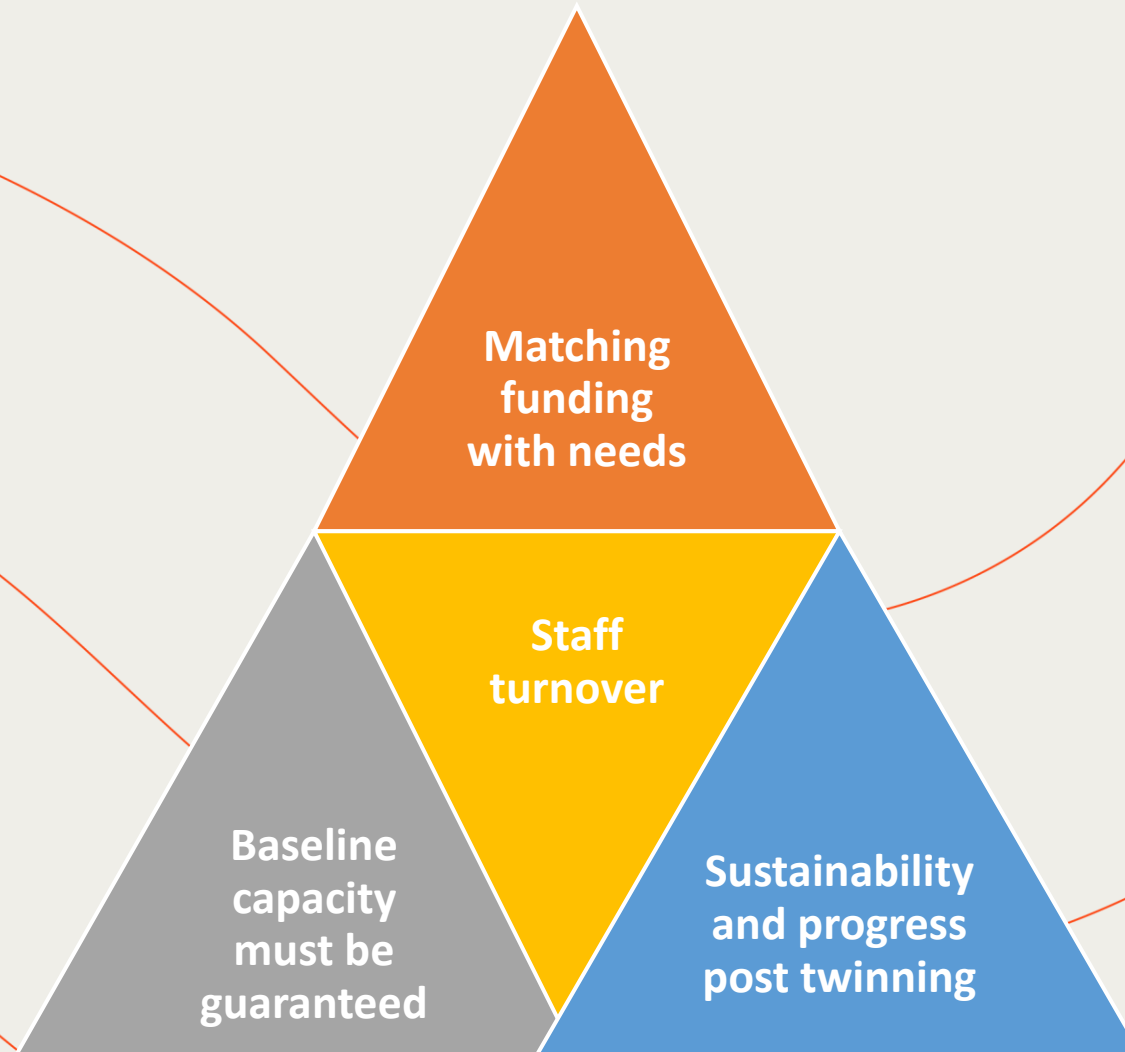


Implementation in Africa





Region-specific challenges





Role of Laboratory NFPs

Lab NFP Terms of Reference:

3. to serve as focal point for the WOAHA in topics related to the National Veterinary Laboratories, including contributing to determining the training and other capacity building needs for the National Veterinary Laboratories in the country;

(...)

9. to prepare proposals for participation of National Veterinary Laboratories in the WOAHA Laboratory Twinning Programme when relevant.

Coordination



How to apply?

1. Expression of interest

One or both partners discuss expression of interest with WOAHA with the involvement of the Candidate's Delegate

WOAH will assess the expression of interest and, if deemed feasible, will work on the Identification of funds to support the project



2. Development of the project proposal

The WOAHA template for the project plan is filled out by the partners in a collaborative manner with Mariana's help. A pre-twinning visit may be organized to the Candidate institute prior to the finalization of the proposal if the partners don't have experience in working together.

The budget is drafted and submitted in accordance with the contents of the project plan/ The Twinning Financial Coordinator (Ingrid) will exchange with the partners to ensure that the budget respects the [Guide to WOAHA Laboratory Twinning projects](#)



3. Dossier + Presentation to the WOAHA Biological Standards Commission

Once the project plan and budget are finalized and agreed by WOAHA, the proposal can be submitted to the Biological Standards Commission. The Commission meets twice per year, in September and February.

While waiting for the Commission to assess the project, 4 support letters should be prepared: 2 WOAHA Delegates and 2 lab directors, plus the CVs of the lead scientists from both sides.



4. Contract signature

Once the project has the support of the BSC and all 4 letters are received, the partners can proceed with signing the project contract. The signatures can be digital, and the WOAHA DG signs last, marking the start date of the contract.



Thank you

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