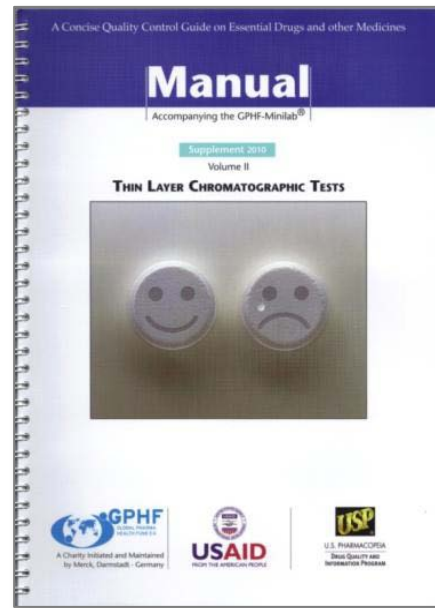


## Cost-effective Quality Control Methods for Second-line Anti-TB Medicines

The portable GPHF Minilab<sup>®</sup> widely used to test first-line anti-tuberculosis (TB), antimalarial, and antiretroviral medicines now also includes test methods for *second-line* anti-TB medicines. With support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Global Health Program for TB, the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) and Global Pharma Health Fund (GPHF) collaborated to develop test methods and reference standards for use with the Minilab<sup>®</sup> to test the quality of second-line anti-TB medicines, including levofloxacin, moxifloxacin, and prothionamide.



Minilabs<sup>®</sup> are portable, easy-to-use test kits used in many developing countries to screen medicines in the field and at the point of use. They have been used effectively in over 30 countries to test medicines for quality, sometimes resulting in the detection of counterfeits among essential medicines in Asia and Africa. With the development of these new test procedures for second-line anti-TB medicines, a medicine sample can be tested for less than \$10.00 as compared to the approximately \$500 per sample it would cost to perform full compendial testing in a quality control laboratory.

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For more information on the use of the portable Minilab<sup>®</sup> to test medicine quality in developing countries, please contact Dr. Patrick Lukulay, Director, Promoting the Quality of Medicines (email: [pqm@usp.org](mailto:pqm@usp.org)).

For more information on USAID programs, please contact Mr. Anthony Boni (email: [aboni@usaid.gov](mailto:aboni@usaid.gov)).

For more information on the GPHF Minilab<sup>®</sup>, please contact Dr. Richard Jähnke, Global Pharma Health Fund (email: [info@gphf.org](mailto:info@gphf.org)).

