Partnerships in strengthening laboratory systems: Experience of the East African Public Health Laboratory Networking Project

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Presentation outline

• Background

• About the EAPHLN Project

• Building on partnerships to improve quality systems

• Our major partnerships in improving laboratory systems and other health systems

• Main Outcomes
Partnerships health laboratory systems

- Sustainable investment in laboratory improvement requires strong partnerships;

- Partners provides contributions to the overall health services delivery (including laboratory services, disease surveillance, clinical care etc) supporting to improve technical operations, governance, effective and efficient management of resources and quality of care;

- Ministries, regional and international Institutions needs to work in collaboration to achieve more in strengthening health care.
The East African Public Health Laboratory Networking Project

Shared vision and collective action: Prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases in the Eastern Africa region by raising quality of diagnostic and surveillance services

- **LEADERSHIP**: Countries taking lead in promoting innovations and sharing experiences; Regional bodies support knowledge sharing

- **PARTNERSHIP**: Synergy with key actors (GLI/WHO, CDC, TB Union, UNITAID, USAID/KNCV, GFATM, ASLM, AMREF, etc)

- **PROMOTING EXCELLENCE**: Adhering to regional standards established by WHO, ISO and CDC etc
Building on Partnerships to improve quality systems

- Training
- EQA
- Mentorship support
- Outbreak confirmation
- SLMTA
- Infrastructure
- Equipment and commodities

East Africa Public Health Laboratory Network Project
Controlling the Spread of Communicable Diseases in Eastern Africa through Improved Diagnostic and Surveillance Capacities
SLMTA supported by CDC and other partners

- baseline and post-assessment visits;
- training workshops;
- supportive onsite supervisions/mentorship;
- intensive mentorship by dedicated scientists; and
- sensitization meetings for hospital management
Partnership in the design and development of state of the art laboratories

- **Uganda** - New NTRL -
  - CDC - design
  - The Bank project - Construction;

- **Kenya** - National Public Health Laboratory Services (NPHLS)
  - CDC with PEPFAR funding - construction of a new laboratory complex (HIV and TB lab)
  - Bank - Rehabilitation of NPHLS at the same location

- **Rwanda** - the Satellite laboratories and new NRL
  - CDC support in review of designs and BoQs

- **Tanzania** - NHLQATC
  - CDC contracted
  - Bank supporting regional training at the centre
Building capacity of laboratory and other health professionals

- Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP) - Over 40 FELTP residents
- Mentorship training - CHAI and AFENET
- Training of Auditors - ASLM
- SLMTA
- Lab surveillance - AMREF
- Biorisk Management - Makerere University
Laboratory improvement efforts

- Strengthening **specimen transport** and referral mechanisms - CDC and other partners
- Support for **laboratory equipment**, commodities and supplies - CDC/GF and other partners
- Roll out of **Xpert** MTB/RIF testing network and has procured a number of GeneXpert machines across the EAC countries -
- **ICT** infrastructure improvements
- **Laboratory Information** Management systems developed - CDC/APHL
Operational research and operational advice

• Project reviews - CDC, WHO
  – Implementation support missions
  – MTR

• Operational research
  – Economic impact model (CDC)
  – Multi-country studies (KEMRI, NIMR, MOH)
Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response

- Strengthening disease **surveillance** activities - EAC, UNOCHA, CDC

- Design of **eIDSR** system - CDC

- Scale up of **IDSR** training activities,

- Establishment of outbreak management and response committees
Main outcomes

• Introduced and applied a unique and cost effective peer review mechanism by which the 5 EAC member states assess annually each other’s performance using the SLIPTA checklist, ensuring objectivity and promoting cross country learning.
  
  – Substantial quality improvements with impressive gains - SLIPTA composite scores (at least 80% of 32 sites attained 2 stars by 2013),
  
  – Instilled culture of continuous quality improvements and setting facilities on a path towards international standards;

• Piloting of Performance Based Financing as a complementary strategy to link incremental improvements in the SLIPTA composite scores to financial incentives with lessons from Rwanda;

• Capacity building of mentors and laboratory auditors with support of CHAI, AFENET and ASLM;

• Implemented SLMTA in all countries with support of CDC and other partners;

To establish a network of efficient, high quality, accessible public health laboratories.
Peer laboratory audits

Auditors: Uganda, Kenya

Auditors: Uganda, Tanzania

Auditors: Kenya, Tanzania

Auditors: Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi

Auditors: Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania

Auditors: Uganda, Kenya
Findings of regional peer audits

Proportion of satellite laboratories with at least 2 stars

Overall: 47% Baseline, 80% 2012, 80% 2013
Burundi: 23% Baseline, 20% 2012, 20% 2013
Kenya: 80% Baseline, 80% 2012, 80% 2013
Rwanda: 80% Baseline, 80% 2012, 80% 2013
Tanzania: 80% Baseline, 80% 2012, 80% 2013
Uganda: 80% Baseline, 80% 2012, 80% 2013
Findings of regional peer audits

Kenya

- Kitale
- NTRL
- CML
- Machakos
- Busia
- Malindi
- Wajir

% score in regional peer audits

Baseline score (%), Dec 2012 assessment, Nov-13

Rwanda

- NRL
- Byumba
- Nyagatare
- Gisenyi
- Kibungo
- Githundwe

% score in regional peer audits

Baseline score (%), Dec 2012 assessment, Nov-13

Tanzania

- Mnazi Mmoja
- Musoma
- Kibong'oto
- Muhimbili
- Kigoma
- Rukwa
- Ntanda

% score in regional peer audits

Baseline score (%), Dec 2012 assessment, Nov-13

Uganda

- NTRL
- Lacor
- Mbale
- Arua
- Mbarara
- Mulago

% score in regional peer audits

Baseline score (%), Dec 2012 assessment, Nov-13
Findings of regional peer audits

Burundi

% score in regional peer audits

NPHL  CHUK  Kayanza  Makamba  Muyinga  Rumonge

Baseline score (%)  Dec 2012 assessment  Nov-13

East Africa Public Health Laboratory Network Project

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Other key achievements

- Strengthened cross-border collaboration
- Supported the training and capacity building
- Regional training programs
- Coordinating with the EAC Laboratory Councils and Boards the harmonization of training of curriculum
- Operational research (HRH, PPP, Economic impact studies & multicountry studies)
Key factors contributing to improvements

- Mentorship
- Facility Improvement Funds
- Human Resources
- Management Support
- SLMTA
- Performance Based Financing
- Partnerships

Strong Laboratories

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Knowledge and experience sharing

Thank you