

**Laboratory African Regional Collaborative (LARC)
First Learning Session
Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, Best Western Plus Colosseum Hotel
August 2nd-4th 2016**

Supporting viral load scale up across sub-Saharan Africa

Overarching Meeting Goal:

- To achieve and maintain HIV VL suppression (the Third 90) by
 - Increasing the uptake of VL testing by improving the elements in the viral load cascade
 - Improving institutional capacity and inter-cadre effectiveness through team building, evidenced-based problem-solving, and progress measurement

Meeting Objectives: The objectives for this Learning Session are:

1. To present, inform, and discuss the six LARC Viral Load (VL) activities being implemented by project teams in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Uganda
2. To incorporate improvement methodologies in LARC country projects to ensure successful outcomes
3. To introduce the LARC Capability Maturity Model (CMM) and receive feedback from the six VL country teams
4. To have each LARC country team benchmark their initial (CMM) stage at the launch of this initiative
5. To develop Action Plan over the next four months

DAY 1 - AUGUST 2nd

9:00 am – Official Greetings

Moderator: Ken Hepburn, Emory University Principal Investigator for the LARC Initiative

- Maestro Evans, Deputy Country Director and currently Acting Country Director, CDC Tanzania Welcome remarks
- Shirley Lecher, Associate Chief and Viral Load Co-Lead, International Laboratory Branch (ILB) – ILB and the PEPFAR’s Viral Load Initiative
- Pat Riley – Overview of LARC’s first Learning Session

- Nancy Ruto/Agnes Waudu - Meeting Organizers: travel logistics, reimbursements, transport, tickets, etc.
- Jill Iliffe – Meeting transcriber, photographer, website designer

9:30 am Introduction of new LARC Team members

Project presentations:

Moderator: David Cross

Each country will present their LARC presentation for 15 minutes followed by 15 minutes Q&A

9:45 am Kenya

10:15 am Malawi

10:45 am-11:00 am – TEA BREAK

Moderator: Katy Yao

11:00 am Mozambique

11:30 am Swaziland

12:00 noon – Group and country team photos by Jill Iliffe

12:30-1:30 pm - LUNCH

Moderator: Pat Riley

1:30 pm Tanzania

2:00 pm Uganda

Moderator: Katy Yao

2:30 - 4:00 pm: *Improvement methodologies that ensure successful outcomes in LARC country projects:*
Barbara McKinney

Moderator: David Cross

4:00 - 4:30 pm: *LARC website – demonstration and participant feedback*
Jill Iliffe

4:30 pm –TEA BREAK

DAY 2 – AUGUST 3rd

Moderator: David Cross

9:00 – 9:30 am: *Project Management tools*

LARC quarterly project narratives & budget reporting requirements - Ken Hepburn

Moderator: Pat Riley

9:30 -10:30 am – *Review of Business Process Mapping* – Kelley Chester

10:30-11:00 – TEA BREAK

11:00 am -12:30 pm – Kelley Chester

- *Review of the Capability Maturity Model (CMM)*
- *Presentation LARC CMM with Participant Feedback*

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm – LUNCH

1:30 -3:30 pm - Kelley Chester

- *Finalization of LARC CMM*
- *LARC project measurement – Documenting project impact*
 - Country team work – Table Discussion: Benchmarking current country's project CMM status and project management
 - LARC faculty will assist country teams with benchmarking process

3:30 -4:30 pm

Amitabh Adhikari

- *Using informatics tools for measuring viral load scale-up*

4:30 pm – TEA BREAK

Day 3 - AUGUST 4th

Moderator: Ken Hepburn/Kelley Chester

9:00 am

- Country teams present to the group where they see their respective project's capability on the CMM; explain their rationale for this designation; and how their project will be executed in their country
 - 15 minutes allotted per country team presentation and discussion

9:15 am – **Kenya**

9:30 am – **Malawi**

9:45 am – **Mozambique**

10:00 am – **Swaziland**

10:15 am – **Tanzania**

10:30 am – **Uganda**

10:30 am – TEA BREAK

Moderator: Pat Riley

11:00 am

- Next steps – Ken/Pat
 - November LARC Learning Session
 - Scheduling LARC T/A visits
 - Meeting evaluation
- Concluding Comments: Shirley Lecher, ILB Associate Chief, and Viral Load Co-Lead

12:00 noon - ADJOURN