Strengthening Laboratory Management Toward Accreditation (SLMTA)

Talkmore Maruta (FIND)
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What is SLMTA?

A training and mentoring program ...

developed to effect immediate, measurable improvement in laboratories in resource-limited settings using their existing resources
### Basic SLMTA Facts – Content

#### 10 Modules

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- Lab management tasks taught: **66**
- # of training activities: **45**
- # training hours: **50+**
- # of tools and job aides: **100+**
Basic SLMTA Facts – Implementation

Baseline Assessment

Workshop #1
(3 months)

Improvement Projects

Workshop #2
(3 months)

Improvement Projects

Workshop #3
(3 months)

Improvement Projects

Behavioral Changes & Laboratory Improvement

Site Visits

Exit Assessment

Baseline Score [BEFORE] – Exit Score [AFTER] = SLMTA Impact
SLMTA: What Makes it Unique and Powerful
**SLIPTA**: A framework to encourage, support and recognize the implementation of QMS in medical laboratories in a stepwise manner.
SLMTA Expansion (2009-2012)

- # participants trained in SLMTA:
  - 2009: 0
  - 2010: 389
  - 2011: 865
  - 2012: 1038

- # labs enrolled in SLMTA:
  - 2009: 0
  - 2010: 143
  - 2011: 22
  - 2012: 35

- # countries rolling out SLMTA:
  - 2009: 0
  - 2010: 11
  - 2011: 283
  - 2012: 398

SLMTA Updates
# SLMTA Labs “Reaching for the Stars”

**SLMTA Labs**

- # labs enrolled: 398
- # Labs w/ Exit Audit: 179
- # labs ↑ at least 1 star: 133

**Breakdown of the 133 laboratories**

- National (48)
- Regional/Zonal (31)
- District/Primary (40)
- Military (4)
- Private/NGO (10)
Spread of the SLMTA “Movement”

**South East Asia (N=2)**
- Vietnam
- Cambodia

**Latin America and the Caribbean Region (N=14)**
- Guatemala
- El Salvador
- Belize
- Honduras
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Costa Rica
- Haiti
- Dominican Republic
- Bahamas
- Jamaica
- Barbados
- Trinidad

**Africa (N=19)**
- Nigeria
- Cameroon
- Central African Rep
- Democratic Rep Congo
- Uganda
- Kenya
- Rwanda
- Tanzania
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe
- Angola
- Lesotho
- Swaziland
- Botswana
- Tanzania
- Malawi
- Mozambique

**Rollout**
- Yellow: 2010
- Green: 2011
- Blue: 2012
Cameroon

Sample collection and reception moved from corridor to separate rooms for reception and collection.
What did these results tell us?

1. SLMTA’s practical content, structured improvement approach, and its interlocking relationship with the SLIPTA checklist, make it an excellent tool to build laboratory preparedness toward accreditation.

2. Laboratories at different levels from resource-limited settings can achieve remarkable improvement as measured by the SLIPTA checklist. Accreditation is not beyond reach.
Additional Observations

SLMTA shines a spotlight and exposes the true state of a laboratory with an objective assessment.

SLMTA acts as a catalyst for improvement not only for labs but for the entire health system.

Anga Epafra (Tanzania)
Where do we go from here?

How do we expand the depth and breadth?

How do we sustain the gains?
Steering Committee

1. John Nkengasong, CDC
2. Trevor Peter, CHAI
3. Tsehaynesh Messele, ASLM
4. Jean-Bosco Ndihokubwayo, WHO-AFRO
5. Emmanuel Idigbe, MOH-Nigeria
6. Michael Wanga, MOH-Kenya
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9. George Alemnji, CDC-Caribbean
10. Ana Malla de Abreu, Dominican Rep
11. Luciana Kohatsu, CDC
12. Vireak Voeurng, Cambodia MOH
The Sound of SLMTA
lyrics by Cheri and Elde Paladar

There’s a kind of movement that is spreading all around

It’s a special kind of training t’wards a special kind of lab

There’s a sound of SLMTAnes singing and it’s ringing loud and clear

It’s about accreditation, the SLMTA train is coming here!

There’s a kind of movement that is spreading all around
Working on improvement projects, working all year ‘round
With the workshops, mentor’s visits and commitment to improve
Achieve tangible improvement, onward upward we will move!

There’s a kind of movement that is spreading all around
Let us act now together, we are accreditation bound
We are ready and committed, noble profession to reclaim
We will surely reach our target, better patient care our aim!

There’s a kind of music that I’m hearing all around
It’s a special kind of music with a special kind of sound
It’s the sound of SLMTAnes singing and it’s ringing loud and clear
It’s a song of hope we’re singing, our 5 stars will soon be here!
By any means necessary we will get there !!!!

Our Motto

Photo Courtesy of Talkmore Maruta (CHAI, Lesotho)

12/15/2009