

Perceptions and Attitudes Toward **SLMTA** amongst Laboratory and Hospital Chief Executive Officers' in Ethiopia



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Presentation outline

- Background
- Objective
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusion and Recommendation
- References
- Acknowledgements



Background

- Laboratory services are an integral part of clinical decision-making. *Nkengasong N. Am J ClinPathol. 2009;131(6):774.*
- Laboratories in developing countries were under-resourced and marked by poor performance.
- WHO AFRO suggested step wise approach toward accreditation
- Ethiopian Public Health Institute developed its first master plan in 2005 with a focus on building laboratory systems



Cont'd

- One of the strategic objectives was to expand and strengthen the national LQMS.
- To accelerate the implementation of LQMS, Ethiopia adopted the SLMTA programme.
- SLMTA is a competency based management training program to bring immediate and measurable improvements
- In 2010–2012, Ethiopia implemented the SLMTA programme in two cohorts with a total of 45 laboratories
- Since its introduction in 2009, SLMTA has been implemented in 617 laboratories in 47 countries.



Cont'd

- Management commitment and awareness is the key to successfully implement SLMTA
- Therefore, assessing health professionals' views of SLMTA provides feedback to inform program
 - Planning, implementation and evaluation of SLMTA's training, communication and mentorship components.
- **Objective**- To assess laboratory professionals' and hospital chief executive officers' (CEOs) perceptions and attitudes toward SLMTA programme implementation in Ethiopia



Research methods and design

- Cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted in march 2013 using structured questionnaires and Focus group discussions
- 17 facilities were selected
- All facilities survey had participated in the Ethiopian Hospital Management Initiative



Results

- Ethiopian lab professionals at all levels had a supportive attitude toward the SLMTA programme
- They believed SLMTA
 - Improved laboratory services
 - Catalyst for healthcare reform
- Sample referral linkage
- Data management
- Supply chain
- Equipment down time decreased and improved communication



Cont'd

- Irreversible laboratory revolution
- Sparked an institution-wide revolution in safety and infection prevention practices throughout their hospitals.



Challenges

- Turnover of trained personnel
- Lack of regular mentorship
- Inadequate laboratory infrastructure



Hospital CEO perception

- 10 (59%) understood the importance, requirements and desired outcomes
- Impressed with the programme that they were using the laboratory as a model for transforming their entire hospital system.
- whilst seven (41%) were uncertain



Conclusion

- Lab professionals had a positive attitude toward SLMTA implementation, seeing it as a driving force for substantial improvements
- Stronger engagement and advocacy with hospital administration is crucial to sustain the program.



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