



Photo credit: Riruta Health Center

# LARCcqi.org

*The Laboratory African Regional Collaborative (LARC) in Kenya integrates continuous quality improvement interventions for HIV service delivery through laboratory-clinic interface.*

## WHAT IS LARC?

LARC is a learning collaborative initiative designed to enhance HIV service delivery by facilitating multidisciplinary teamwork in health facilities using the continuous quality improvement (CQI) approach. The program’s purpose is two-fold:

- **Strengthen the laboratory-clinic interface** across the viral load cascade to achieve better patient results using proven CQI methodologies and tools.
- **Improve institutional capacity and effectiveness** through training, mentoring, and enhanced inter-cadre collaboration and communication.

## WHAT MAKES LARC UNIQUE?

While the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) tools and methodologies are **not** unique to LARC, what makes LARC unique is this set of methodologies being applied to solving a real-world significant clinical problem, aided by with step-by-step guidance and coaching throughout the entire process.

In addition, the on-site “Smart Start” session utilizes guided process mapping to allow the team to actually see and understand the problem.

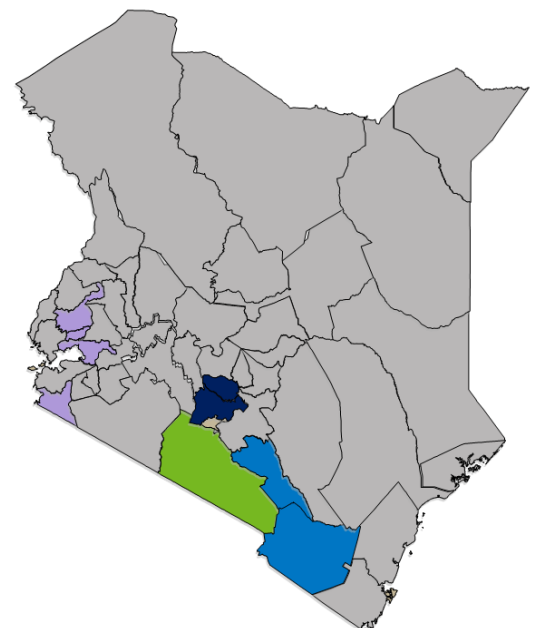
## LARC IN KENYA

LARC was brought to Kenya to implement a continuous quality improvement collaborative at the laboratory-clinic interface employed in the HIV viral load cascade. The goal of this implementation was to measurably improve HIV viral load service delivery and embed a culture of continuous quality improvement in the healthcare facilities.

LARC does not merely teach quality improvement methodologies, but implements a collaborative approach, encouraging communication across cadres, and inspiring continuous quality improvement. These quality improvement methodologies, if adopted, improve lives—the lives of the patients served and the lives of the healthcare service team.

**Key**

- Global Information Systems
- Family Health International 360
- Amref
- University of Maryland Baltimore



*Implementation partners in Kenya*

## Next steps: take LARC country-wide!

Our recommendations to bring LARC to all of Kenya include:

1. **Health facilities should embrace that healthcare is most effectively delivered through professionally integrated teams.** Through the LARC model, different cadres in a health care setting collaborate to improve communication and address gaps in the provision of quality care.
2. **County health management teams and health facility teams should assemble quality improvement teams and assign roles in your settings.** Such an approach makes the business case for continuous improvement efforts by focusing on the needs of health care users, process improvement and the use of data to improve services.
3. **The LARC model is not limited to HIV and can be tailored to evolving demands.** County health leadership should promote this type of quality improvement initiatives across different disease areas, as these approaches are scalable to other health system needs.
4. **The buy-in of health facility management for the piloting of LARC was a key contributor to the program's success.** County health leadership should promote the implementation of LARC-like approaches in health facilities to systematically address health system challenges across different settings.



*LARC learning session in Kenya*