



## The East African Consortium for Clinical Research (EACCR)



### The Republic of Uganda

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## BROCHURE FOR THE EAST AFRICAN CONSORTIUM for CLINICAL RESEARCH (EACCR)

### **VISION**

*Controlled burden of Poverty Related Diseases (PRDs) and better wealth for East Africans*

### **MISSION**

To create and maintain a self-sustaining network of excellence able to initiate, conduct and communicate high-quality research on relevant Poverty Related Diseases in the region in order to accelerate development of new or improved drugs and tools for better treatment and prevention through integrated approaches to capacity building and networking.

**Our values-** Innovation, Excellence, Networking, Integrity and Sustainability

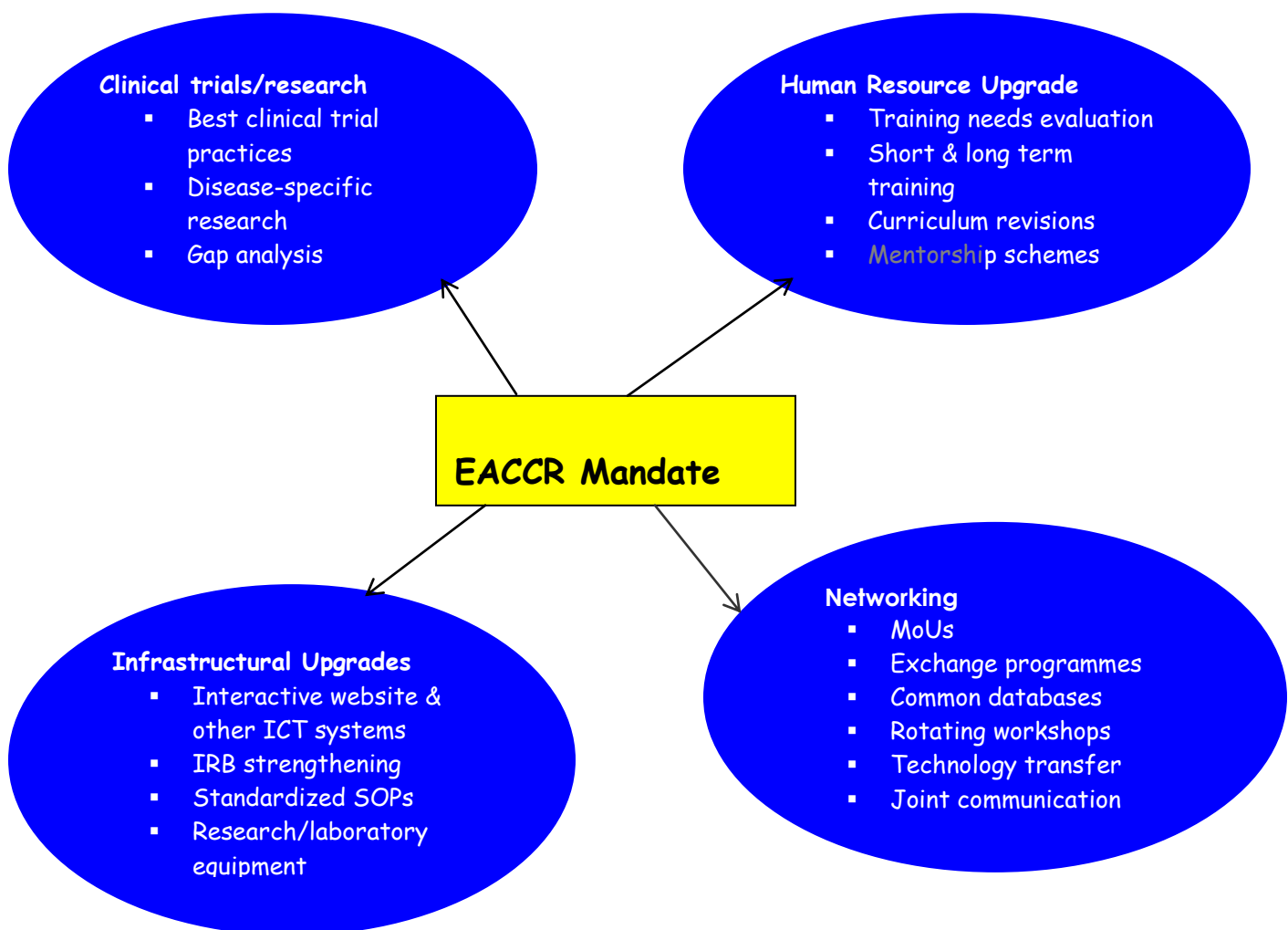
**What is EACCR?** It is an East African-led network of: at least 30 regional partners from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan and Ethiopia networking with 6 northern partners to strength capacity to conduct internationally acceptable clinical trials and research on several diseases (such as HIV, TB and Malaria) under best shared practices. EACCR is a robust convergent platform for:

- a) Ensuring an indigenous research and health agenda driven by national and regional needs
- b) Coordinating intraregional multi-disease control interventions
- c) Information exchange on research for health, training and other capacity strengthening activities
- d) Enhancing both south-south and north-south partnerships
- e) Connecting sectors e.g. Public health, academia, industry and business
- f) Coordinating multi-centre research

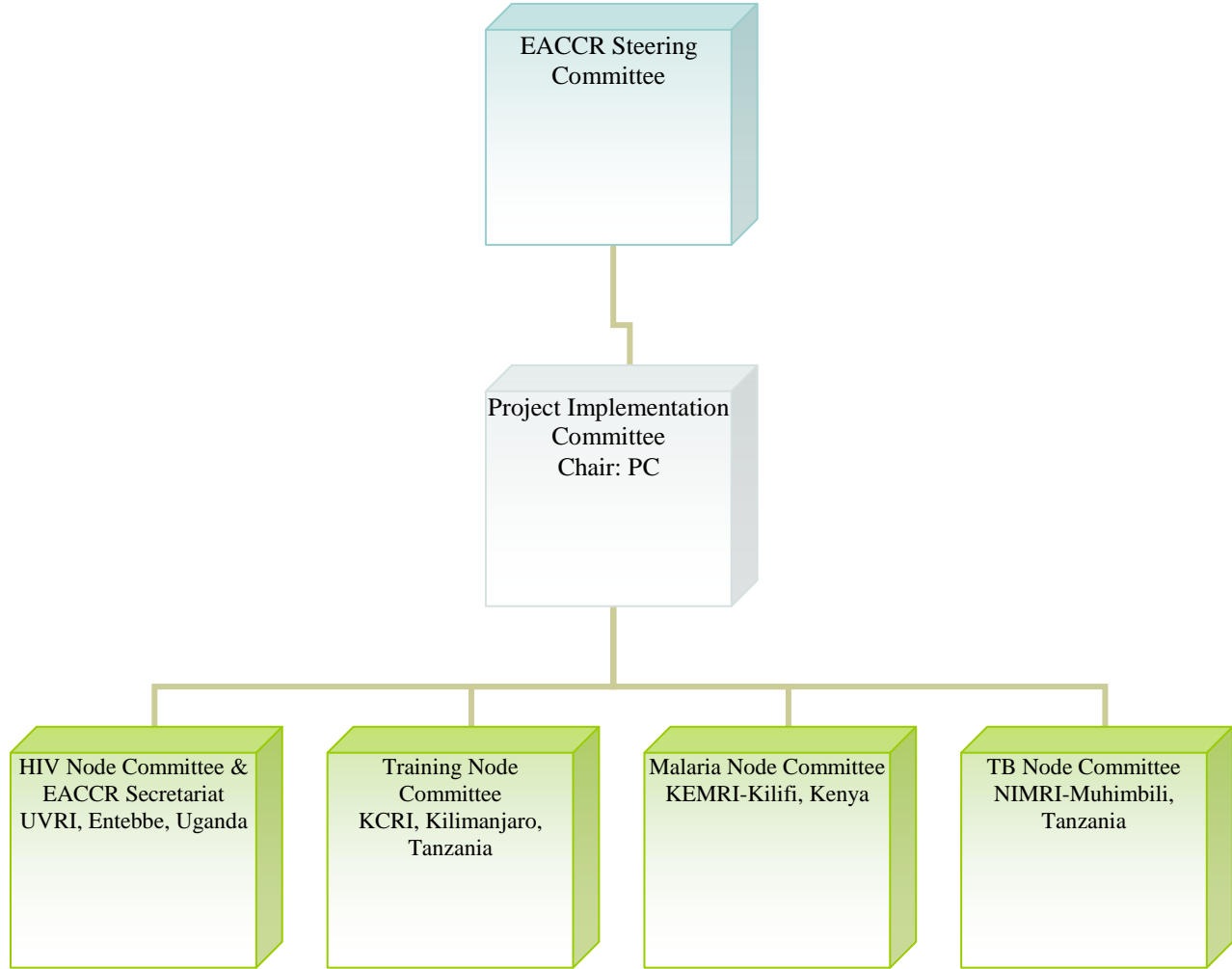
**EACCR aims to:-**

- a) Strengthen short & Long-term training as well as mentoring done in the region to address critical staff needs.
- b) Organise exchange visits to share information on best practices of clinical trials/research and capacity strengthening initiatives among staff.
- c) Establish an interactive website for training, better communication and advocacy for evidence based research & enhanced networking.
- d) Establish a common database with disease-specific and clinical trial information across the network for better dissemination and advocacy.
- e) Develop expertise that will enable less developed sites within the network to improve their capacity to participate in multi-centre clinical trials through mentorship and collaboration.

## Conceptual framework



## Governance structure of EACCR



PC=Overall Project Coordinator

### EACCR partner institutions:

- ❖ Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI), Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute (KCRI), Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)-Kilifi, KEMRI-CDC, KEMRI-WRP, MRC/UVRI Uganda Research Unit on AIDS, Infectious Disease Institute-Mulago National Referral Hospital, National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR)-Muhimbili, NIMR-Mwanza, NIMR-Tanga, Mbeya Medical Research Programme (MMRP), Ifakara Health Research & Development Centre (IHRDC), Kenya AIDS Vaccine Initiative (KAVI), Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI)-Ethiopia, Institute of Endemic Diseases-Sudan.
- ❖ Southern universities of Makerere, Nairobi, Maseno, Khartoum and Muhimbili University of Health & Allied Sciences.
- ❖ 17 level 1 & 2 sister institutions in region.

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- ❖ 6 Northern universities of Bergen (Norway), Munich (Germany), Karolinska (Sweden), Goteborg (Sweden), KNCV TB foundation (Netherlands) and Radboud (Netherlands)
- ❖ Others: London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (UK), Wellcome Trust (UK) & others keen to join the network.....

### **EACCR's Achievements/progress**

- ❖ EACCR has harnessed a successful multi-centre grant application process and prepared its concrete business plan.
- ❖ The network has already activated its governance structures and formalized some key south-south partnerships.
- ❖ It has conducted over 5 cross-cutting and disease-specific short courses.
- ❖ It has selected about 20 Master's degree students in the region for both conventional and online courses.
- ❖ 2 candidates from its partner institutions were awarded competitive peer-reviewed EDCTP-sponsored senior fellowships in December 2009.
- ❖ 2 Post-Doctoral senior fellowship applications were submitted to EDCTP in June 2010.
- ❖ EACCR has populated its interactive website with information for health research, capacity building, networking and advocacy. It will be in the public domain in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2010.
- ❖ We are networking with other partners such as the Western, Southern & Central African Networks of Excellence (WANETAM, TESA & CANTAM); the African AIDS Vaccine Program (AAVP), the Initiative to Strengthen Health Research Capacity in Africa (ISHReCA) and the African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics Innovation (ANDi).
- ❖ EACCR's seed grant from EDCTP has attracted more co-funding opportunities through the Medical Research Council-UK and Netherlands-African Partnership for Capacity development and Clinical interventions Against Poverty-related diseases (NACCAP).

### **The next steps?**

- ❖ EACCR will continue to implement and evaluate its approved work plans.
- ❖ Network harmoniously with other networks of excellence & capacity building Programmes.
- ❖ Establish a strategic direction for sustainability of the network's operations.

### **Contacts**

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**Sponsors-**

- ❖ European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP):
- ❖ Netherlands-African Partnership for Capacity development and Clinical interventions Against Poverty-related diseases (NACCAP)
- ❖ Medical Research Council-UK

