ALERRT Clinical Characterisation Protocol (CCP) active knowledge exchange: sharing, use, and re-use of scientific protocols

Leonard Numfor[1,2,8*], Bonny Baker[1], Christine Kirima[1], Palmer Masumbe Netongo[2,3,9], John H Amuasi[5,12,13,14] Anani Badje[4,11], Sylvie Kwedi[2], Karifa Kourouma[16], joseph Bonney[5,12], Bai Lamin Dondeh[15], Bernard Kikaire[6,7], Trudie Lang[1]

[1]The Global Health Network, Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health, Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom, [2]University of Yaoundé I, Yaoundé, Cameroon, [3]Initiative to Strengthen Health Research Capacity in Africa (ISHReCA), [4]Programme ANRS Coopération Côte d'Ivoire (Programme PAC–CI), Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, [5]Department of Emergency Medicine, Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Kumasi, Ghana, [6]Eastern Africa Consortium for Clinical Research (EACCR), Entebbe, Uganda, [7]Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI), Entebbe, Uganda, [8]Fondation Congolaise pour la Recherche Medicale (FCRM), Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, [9]School of Science, Navajo Technical University, Crownpoint, New Mexico, United States of America, [11]Université de Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France, [12]Global Health and Infectious Disease Research Group, Kumasi Center for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine, Kumasi, Ghana, [13]School of Public Health, Department of Global Health, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana, [14]Bernhard Nocht Institute of Tropical Medicine, Hamburg, Germany, [15]Medical Research Council Gambia at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, [16]Centre National de Formation et de Recherche en Sante Rurale (Jean SENECAL)-Maferinyah, Republique de Guinee

THE GLOBAL HEALTH NETWORK

Enabling research by sharing knowledge

Background

The African coaLition for Epidemic Research, Response and Training (ALERRT), is a clinical research and response network for epidemic infections in sub-Saharan Africa that aims to reduce the public health and socio-economic impact of disease outbreaks. With the onset of the global pandemic in 2020, this agile network pivoted efforts to respond, implementing the ALERRT COVID-19 Clinical Characterisation Protocol (CCP), with key resources made open-access to support wider uptake.

Figure 1. Training sessions conducted at various health centers on how to use the CCP tools effectively with the participation of healthcare professionals and researchers recruited for the COVID-19 CCP study

Result

Engagement with the ALERRT network [https://alerrt.tghn.org/] remains robust, boasting 7,038 registered members (from 1 March 2018 – 25 June 2024) registered members, and a wide user base spanning 171 countries. Access to these validated resources was monitored, showing 4,057 page views for the ALERRT CCP resources and 1,209 playbacks of the CCP videos. Additionally, other sites used the SOPs and classroom training to assist in rolling out the study effectively. Tailored support was also established through a dedicated email account: ncov@isaric.org

Method

The ALERRT COVID-19 CCP was implemented in sites across Ghana, Senegal, Cameroon, Uganda, Malawi, Kenya and Guinea. Core resources were developed in multiple languages including: i) a series of short video tutorials to support implementation of the CCP, ii) a toolkit with step-wise guidance for operationalising the protocol, and iii) study profiles offering detailed study documentation from each of the sites.

CCP Video Tutorials

Figure 2: A series of short video tutorials were designed to cover the overview, key steps and considerations for implementation of the CCP study by research teams globally
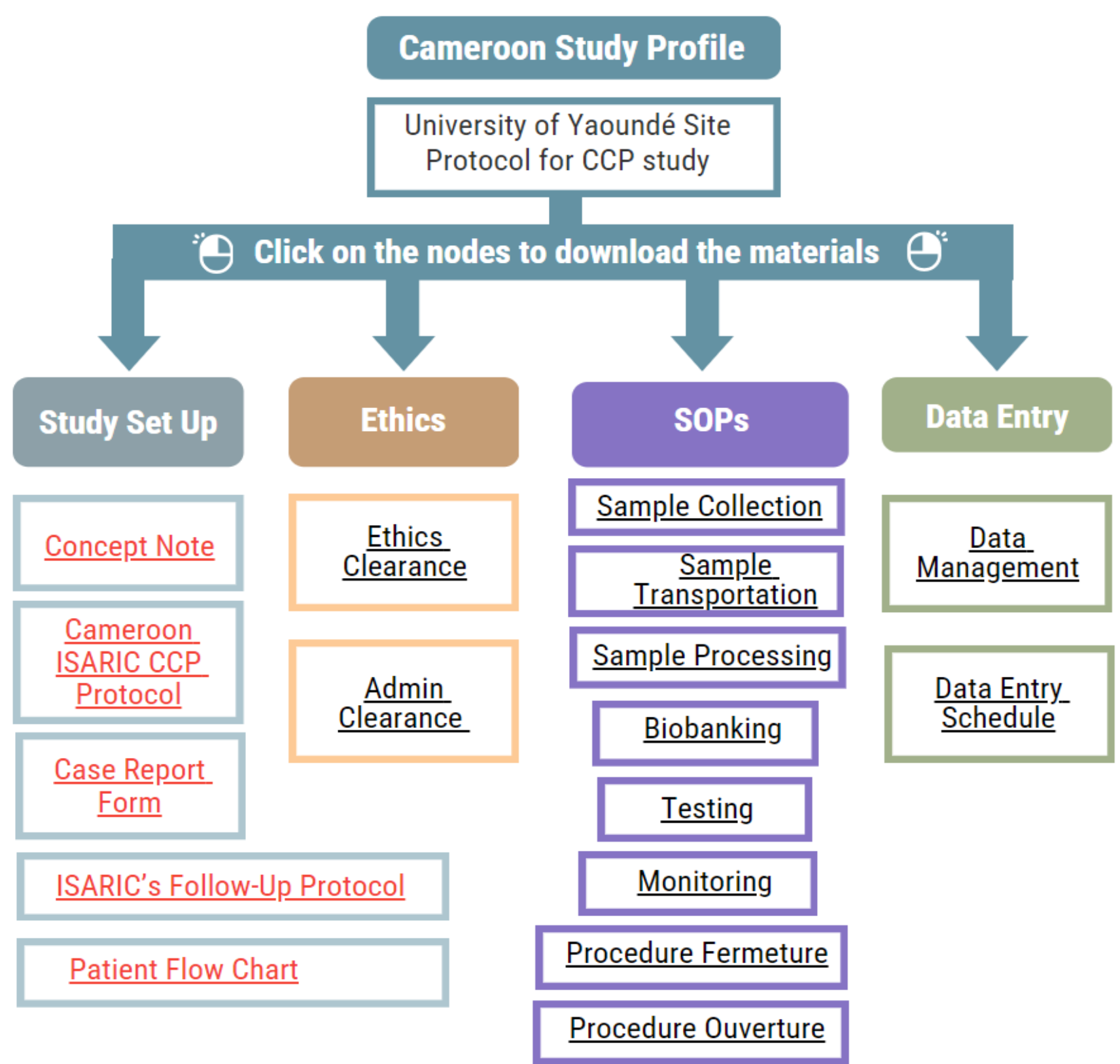

Figure 3: Example of Cameroon Study Profile – Teams provided open access to the SOPs and documentation developed to support the CCP study at their sites

Conclusion

In convening these core CCP tools, the clinical and laboratory research preparedness and response network actively supported broader uptake of the CCP study to regional and international research teams thereby strengthening collaboration and coordination in clinical research preparedness and response.

| Clinical Characterisation Protocol (CCP) | COVID-19 ALERRT CCP Toolkit | Healthcare Workers Survey | COVID-19 video tutorials for healthcare workers |

Figure 4: Example of free tools on TGHN platform

ALERRT — African coaLition for Epidemic Research, Response and Training.

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