SESSION CHAT QUESTIONS

Driving Efficiency and Cost Assessment in Laboratory Waste Management

Launch of the Waste Cost Assessment Framework (WCAF) v2.0 Tool

19th Feb 2026

#	Question	Asker Name	Asker Email	Answer	Answer Name
1	Question 1 Given the realities of limited funding in many public laboratories especially some secondary health institutions in Nigeria, how can the Waste Cost Assessment Framework (WCAF) v2.0 practically support laboratories to forecast and manage waste disposal costs without increasing the financial burden on already under-resourced facilities? Do have any template or checklist you can share on that? Question 2 In settings where waste segregation systems,i treatment facilities (e.g., functional incinerators), and regulatory enforcement are weak, how adaptable is WCAF v2.0 for low-income laboratories, and does it provide guidance for phased	Anonymous Attendee		Great questions! 1) The WCAF v2.0 helps laboratories manage waste disposal costs without adding financial burden by focusing on planning and optimization. It enables evidence-based budgeting by estimating waste volumes based on projected testing, allowing costs to be anticipated rather than handled reactively. The tool also supports scenario modeling, helping labs compare disposal options and select the most cost-effective approach. By integrating with existing IPC and biosafety programs, WCAF reduces duplication and leverages current resources instead of creating new systems. Finally, it strengthens funding proposals by providing clear, data-driven cost estimates, making resource allocation decisions more transparent and efficient. 2) WCAF v2.0 remains a valuable tool for planning and advocacy. While it does not prescribe phased implementation steps or minimum compliance standards, its core strength lies in generating accurate forecasts of waste volumes and associated disposal costs. These data points enable laboratories and health authorities to identify gaps, model cost implications of improved segregation or treatment practices, and prioritize investments. Importantly, insights from WCAF utilization can inform the development of practical waste management guidance, shape policy frameworks, and support compliance strategies.	Monte Martin
2	Did you consider it According to Recent UPDATED ISO 15189:2022.	Melkamu Kassaw	melkye618@gmail.com	Kindly throw some more light on this question and our presenters will deal with it during the Q/A	Francis Ocen
3	Is this tool possibly scalable to our testing platforms?	Innocent Twebaze	twebacent@gmail.com	Yes. If your testing platforms are contained in the tool	Louis Ekome
4	Can the tool be used for an Environmental laboratory that tests for AMR and priority zoonotic diseases as well as chemicals of Public Health Interest?	Tibale Ngwata	tngwata@gmail.com	Thank you for raising this point. Currently, the WCAF v2.0 focuses on high-volume diagnostic platforms such as Abbott, Cepheid, Hologic, Molbio, and Roche running HIV VL, EID, COVID-19, TB, and Hepatitis assays. However, we recognize the importance of expanding functionality for environmental laboratories and other testing areas, including AMR and chemicals of public health interest. We will take this into consideration for the next iteration of the tool to ensure broader applicability across diverse laboratory contexts. Your feedback is valuable and will help guide future enhancements.	Monte Martin
5	What if the tests run in my laboratory isn't on the list?	Victor Emeka	emekavictorchigozie@gmail.com	WCAF v2.0 is available for use by any laboratory that operates molecular diagnostic platforms such as Abbott, Cepheid, Hologic, Molbio, and Roche. It supports assays for HIV viral load, early infant diagnosis (EID), tuberculosis (TB), hepatitis B and C, human papillomavirus (HPV), and COVID-19.	
6	I would like to know if the Central African Republic is part of your areas of operation? If not, how can I join? Thank you	Flavien KOINAM	flavienrk@yahoo.fr	Thank you for your question. The Central African Republic is not specifically listed among the initial countries where WCAF v2.0 was piloted, but the tool is not restricted by geography. Any country or laboratory can utilize WCAF v2.0 as long as they have molecular diagnostic platforms such as Abbott, Cepheid, Hologic, Molbio, or Roche, and are running assays like HIV viral load, EID, TB, Hepatitis B & C, HPV, or COVID-19.	
7	Is this app specific for just infectious diseases tests? Is there a part that quantifies waste generated during genomic sequencing using Illumina or Nanopore?	Victor Emeka	emekavictorchigozie@gmail.com	live answered	Louis Ekome

8	Hello Monte / Francis / Louis / CDC–Roche–ASLM team, Benin does not appear among the pilot countries for WCAG v2.0. We would like to understand the selection criteria and propose a national pilot. The Ministry of Health/a pilot laboratory can provide data and access for an evaluation (direct observation, weigh-ins, interviews). Can you tell us how to submit a request for inclusion and what documents are needed?	Dossou Boris GANLAKY	ganlakyboris@gmail.com	Thank you for your interest in piloting the Waste Cost Assessment Framework (WCAF) v2.0 in Benin. The initial selection of pilot countries was based on several criteria, including: *CDC Country Office and Ministry of Health interest and engagement *Higher testing volumes for VL/EID and other priority platforms *Existing infrastructure for waste management assessments *Feasibility for data collection (direct observation, weigh-ins, interviews) Please note that the selection, development, and implementation of WCAF v2.0 during the initial pilots were guided by a detailed scientific protocol agreed upon by participating entities, including CDC HQ, CDC country offices, Ministries of Health, and implementing partners. While Benin was not part of the initial pilot, WCAF v2.0 is available for any country or laboratory to use, provided they have molecular diagnostic platforms such as Abbott, Cepheid, Hologic, Molbio, or Roche, and are running assays like HIV VL, EID, TB, Hepatitis B & C, HPV, and COVID-19. If you would like to pilot the tool at the national level in Benin, we recommend	Monte Martin
9	Does WCAF integrates with LIS or existing hospital/laboratory systems?	Victor Emeka	emekavictorchigozie@gmail.com	Thanks for your question. WCAF v2.0, is not designed to directly integrate with Laboratory Information Systems (LIS) or other hospital or laboratory systems. We will take this into consideration with the next iteration of the tool.	Monte Martin
10	The digital balance used for waste measurment unable to measure less than 0.5kg.	Anonymous Attendee		There were two different models of scales used for the measurements: CP010 30kg Ondyne scale and CP013 150kg Ondyne scale. The CP010 model can measure to 1 gram in terms of graduation accuracy.	
11	Can WCAF be adaptable for high-throughput molecular laboratories?	Victor Emeka	emekavictorchigozie@gmail.com	Yes	Louis Ekome
12	How can one assess the tool,	Samuel Conteh	samuelconteh216@gmail.com	Waste Cost Assessment Framework (WCAF) v2.0: Strategic Web-Based Tool for Laboratory Waste Management - ASLM	
13	Does the tool allow disaggregation of costs by waste type, laboratory section, or testing platform?	Samuel Conteh	samuelconteh216@gmail.com	Yes. As long as it if for the infectious diseases listed	Louis Ekome
14	Kindly share link where to download WCAF V2.0	florence Nambaziira	fnambaziira@gmail.com	https://aslm.org/resource/waste-cost-assessment-framework-wcfa-v2-0-strategic-web-based-tool-for-laboratory-waste-management/	
15	Thank you for the opportunity to attend such a conference. Will this waste management tool v2.0 will replace the already existing methods set in place to manage laboratory waste? Will this tool not be to expensive for private labs who's profit making role is higher or more prominent?	Dr Ndip Rita AYUK	ayukrita5@gmail.com	It is not waste management tool but a waste cost calculator helping you to calculate the cost of the wastes generated in your infectious disease lab	Louis Ekome
16	they was a suggestion that the tool should include other sources of waste from POC, from the presentation you foccused on lab waste only, what about other POC	OBINO TAI	fredtai1988@gmail.com	There was TrueNAT and Genexpert	Louis Ekome
17	Is there any one who can do research collaboration with me in ethiopia?	Melkamu Kassaw	melkye618@gmail.com	If you would like to pursue a pilot or research collaboration in Ethiopia, we recommend reaching out to the CDC in-country office and the Ministry of Health to ensure coordination and engagement of all stakeholders. This approach will help align efforts, facilitate data collection, and support integration of findings into national waste management strategies.	
18	IS THERE A FRENCH VERSION?	MOUSLIHOU DIALLO	MUSLIU@YAHOO.COM	Not at this time, but we will take your question into consideration for future iterations of the tool.	
19	I am in Burkina Faso and would like to start managing HIV viral load waste and early diagnosis. What advice can you give me to ensure the success of this activity? Fundraising and human resources?	Yacouba SAWADOGO	yac_saw@yahoo.fr	Good question. You can start by coordinating with the CDC in-country or regional office and the Ministry of Health to ensure stakeholder engagement and alignment with national priorities. Utilize the WCAF v2.0 to forecast waste volumes and disposal costs, which will help guide planning, resource allocation, and advocacy. Strengthen human resources through targeted training in biosafety and waste handling, and use WCAF data to build a strong case for fundraising from government, donors, and partners. Pair these efforts with	

20	How can WCAF be used in research labs where various plaforms are being used?	Davis Kuchaka	dclayk@gmail.com	If your goal is to calculate the cost of wastes, the tool will be helpful. , WCAF v2.0 is available for any country or laboratory to use, provided they have molecular diagnostic platforms such as Abbott, Cepheid, Hologic, Molbio, or Roche, and are running assays like HIV VL, EID, TB, Hepatitis B & C, HPV, and COVID-19.	Louis Ekome
21	Sorry, I logged in late. I'd like to know how to acquire this tool?	Adama SIMPORE	adams.simpo@yahoo.fr	Waste Cost Assessment Framework (WCAF) v2.0: Strategic Web-Based Tool for Laboratory Waste Management - ASLM	
22	Is it possible, for example, to have containers with GTC disposal products that could be made available in laboratories? If so, how can these disposal products be obtained?	Yacouba SAWADOGO	yac_saw@yahoo.fr	This question needs more information. Please reach out directly to Monte Martin and David Bressler for further clarification.	
23	Is there a usage period?	Djilali GUESSOUM	guedjilali@gmail.com	There is no fixed usage period for WCAF v2.0. The tool is freely available and can be used continuously by any laboratory or country as long as they have the required molecular platforms and assays. It is designed as a planning and costing tool, so you can apply it whenever you need to forecast waste volumes,	
24	Can the tool quantify chemical wastes?	Tafesse Koran	kotafesse2012@gmail.com	It quantifies solid and liquid wastes from infectious disease testing on molecular platforms as indicated within the tool.	Louis Ekome
25	What I have learned is that, WCAF estimates just a subset of waste produced in the labs. Am I right?	Davis Kuchaka	dclayk@gmail.com	Yes, you are correct. WCAF v2.0 estimates waste generated from molecular diagnostic testing only, specifically for platforms such as Abbott, Cepheid, Hologic, Molbio, and Roche, and assays like HIV VL, EID, TB, Hepatitis B & C, HPV, and COVID-19. It does not account for all laboratory waste streams, such	