

NEWSFLASH #16

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SYSTEMATIC APPROACHES TO INCREASING PROFESSIONALISM IN HEALTH SCM : A WEBINAR ON EXPERIENCES FROM THE LAC REGION

On May 27, 2015, nearly 30 participants from nine countries participated in a PtD webinar in Spanish that discussed health supply chains in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region. Presenters from the LAC region shared their experiences improving access to HIV/AIDS commodities through interventions in the areas of human resources, finance, policies, and information systems. The session also highlighted tools developed by and available from the PtD Initiative for HR in health supply chain management that have been successfully used in the region.



Photo Credit: CapacityPlus 2013/El Salvador

Stan Terrell, Acting Director of LAC Programs at IntraHealth International opened the webinar with a welcome followed by Sonia Brito-Anderson, Country Director for Dominican Republic, IntraHealth International, who presented an overview of the PtD Initiative and its activities in LAC.

Country case studies from El Salvador, the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua were presented by representatives from the Ministry of Health El Salvador, Ministry of Health Dominican Republic, and the JSI/USAID|DELIVER PROJECT in Nicaragua. Sonia Brito-Anderson gave the final presentation on tools and guidelines for country application and Milka Dinev, from ForoLAC, Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition (RHSC) with Nora Quesada from John Snow, Inc. (JSI), Colombia led an engaging discussion session on key themes and issues raised throughout the webinar.

After the webinar, it is evident that there is a need for a common space/forum where experiences can be shared regarding health supply chains in the LAC region. Also, in light of a global scenario, where the LAC region may no longer be a key priority for investment and international cooperation, this forum can gather visible evidence from the region as a technical reference point for countries who are still developing their health supply chains. The aim for this would be to share experiences and lessons learned, share tools for strengthening/assessing health supply chains and to provide technical expertise in health supply chain management from the region so that the development process in other countries can be shortened.

To listen to the webinar recording (in Spanish), please click [here](#)

A series of webinars on health supply chain management for the LAC region is being planned. Please follow the PtD website or twitter for further updates on this.

In collaboration with IntraHealth International and People that Deliver, this webinar was supported by:



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PHARMACY ASSISTANTS GRADUATES IN MALAWI - IMPROVING PATIENT CARE AT RURAL HEALTH CENTERS

The People that Deliver Initiative is pleased to share that on June 19, 2015 the first cohort of students graduated from an Pharmacy Assistant Training Program in Malawi, the result of a collaboration between the Malawi Ministry of Health, the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, the Malawi College of Health Sciences, University of Washington Global Medicines Program, and VillageReach, a PtD member organization. The program produces a dedicated cadre of individuals with enhanced training in medicines management and supply chain practices to eventually support each of Malawi's 650 rural health centers.

During the two-year program, students complete two five-month practicums in district hospitals and rural health centers, in addition to classroom-based learning. The emphasis in practical experience allows students to make an almost immediate impact in rural pharmacies where overburdened and undertrained personnel struggle to meet the demands placed on them. Initial results showed an 80% reduction in clinician time spent on logistics in health facilities with Pharmacy Assistant students, allowing health workers to devote more time to patient care.



In Malawi, as in most low- and middle income countries, there are no dedicated pharmacy personnel at the health center level, leading to unsafe dispensing practices and inefficient supply chain management. Through this new program, students are not only trained to dispense life-saving medications and provide patients with essential advice, but they also gain the skills to effectively manage inventory to ensure a well-functioning supply chain.

"At the lower levels of the health system, human resource constraints combined with poorly-functioning supply chains are key barriers to improving health outcomes. The Pharmacy Assistant Program addresses both of these issues, contributing to a more robust health workforce with proven impact," says Jessica Crawford, Malawi Country Director for VillageReach.

The program launched in 2011 with funding support from the Barr Foundation, the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, and Vitol Foundation. The current program will graduate two more cohorts, placing an additional 148 Pharmacy Assistants at rural health centers by 2017.

More information about the program can also be found from the presentation by Matthew Ziba, VillageReach at the 2nd PtD Global Conference: <http://bitly.com/1GU0ISm> & <http://bit.ly/1UhdweS> (video in Eng.)

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NEW REPORTS ON TANZANIA'S HUMAN RESOURCES CAPACITY IN PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

People that Deliver and the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT developed "[The Human Resource Capacity development in Public Health Supply Chain Management: Assessment Guide and Tool](#)" to help public health supply chain managers in developing countries assess and improve the management of their human resources. It provides a structured, rating-based methodology designed to collect data needed for a rapid, comprehensive assessment of the capacity of the human resource support system for a country's supply chain.

To understand constraints and guide solutions that support supply chain human resources (HR) in the health systems of mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, teams from the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT used the HR assessment tool to conduct assessments for the two systems. The reports present results, findings, and recommendations for improving human resource capacity of the public health supply chains. You can find the reports at <http://bit.ly/1JjNOQw>

For more tools and resources from People that Deliver, visit <http://peoplethatdeliver.org/resources>

EMPOWER SCHOOL OF HEALTH LAUNCHES POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PHARMACEUTICAL PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT



The global pharmaceutical marketplace has seen significant changes in the last decade including greater focus on bridging the supply chain gaps in developing countries for essential medicines. Stakeholders have realized that there is a clear need for continued specialist training and education to support efforts to improve universal access to medicines globally. This has made professionals aware of the need to acquire procurement and supply-chain skill sets required to operate effectively and more efficiently to achieve better public health outcomes and save more lives.

In order to address this identified need Empower has launched a Post Graduate Diploma (PGD) course in Procurement and Supply Chain Management focused on global health but with a general management orientation. It is an online course that participants can complete at their pace and it consists of eight modules with one final exam to qualify for the final diploma. The course is targeted at health professionals in public health programs and people interested in becoming supply chain / logistics professionals. The course aims at developing an in-depth understanding of procurement and supply chain in general and more specifically in donor funded programs. It provides an overview of PSM issues including the role of government policies, donors, manufacturers, procurement agents and more.

Empower School of Health, is a public health education and research firm with a focus on pharmaceutical procurement and supply chain. The firm has helped organization in over 40 countries in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe to conduct assessments of procurement and supply chain management systems and also to strengthen institutional capacity of global health programs related to quality and PSCM. If you need any additional information on this course, please visit www.empowerschoolofhealth.org and/or reach out to: info@empowerschoolofhealth.org /+91 9599835001 or the Dean at Paul.Lalvani@empowerschoolofhealth.org /+91 9971276111.

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THE NATIONAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES FUND

– STRENGTHENING THE SUPPLY OF HEALTH COMMODITIES IN SUDAN

Editorial by Dr Gamal Khalafalla Mohamed Ali

The Central Medical Supplies Public Corporation (CMS) Sudan, is an organisation with a lengthy, 80 years, pedigree. At different points of time in its history, there has been no hesitation in making the changes necessary for CMS to maintain its mission, i.e. to serve the public interest, ensuring access to quality medicines at all times. Such a point of time has come again as its current status as public corporation is outdated and constrains further necessary improvements, especially in financial and personnel management. The change of the CMS' legal status is essential for it to be able to function as a proper business entity and continue its path of increased efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

As a response to the recommendations of an evaluation conducted by HERA, after approval by the National Assembly, a new act has been signed that changed CMS to become the National Medical Supplies Fund (NMSF). This development gives the NMSF independent establishment status. According to the Act, the NMSF is a juristic person. The Act gives the NMSF the legislative authority to conduct its business as an autonomous organisation under the direct supervision of the administrative board. This gives the NMSF legal independence from certain public sector regulations. It becomes responsible, by law, for supplying health commodities to all public health institutions and facilities. According to the Act, the pooled procurement of public organizations is mandatory and the medicine prices should be the same across the country, regardless of the distance from central stores. The purchasing of medicines with market authorization in Sudan is the must. The sources of medicines with narrow therapeutic index, genetically modified products and vaccines are clearly identified. These sources are originators, prequalified products by WHO or generics from well regulated countries recognized by the national medicine regulatory authority. The NMSF is responsible for establishing branches at state levels. It is also responsible for the promotion of rational use of medicines and the development of the supply chain for health commodities, including development of human resources.

The pursuit of this Act requires a comprehensive reform of the supply chain. Such reform will include establishment of branches of the NMSF in each states to enhance access to quality medicines across the country. Leadership and strong political commitment is needed to facilitate the enforcement of the Act and other regulations that aim to increase the access to medicines and other health commodities.

The improvement of the country's supply chain, combined with equity-oriented strategies for increasing geographic and financial access to high quality drugs through the public sector, will play an important role in the improvement of Sudanese healthcare.

Dr Gamal Khalafalla Mohamed Ali is the Director General of the National Medical Supplies Fund (NMSF) in Sudan. Dr Ali represents NMSF on the PtD Board, but the opinions contained herein are his own.

CONTACT

SUGGESTED RESOURCES AND UPDATES FROM THE PTD SECRETARIAT

- [National Survey of Ethiopia's Integrated Pharmaceutical Logistics System Reveals Performance Improvements](#) by USAID | DELIVER PROJECT and Pharmaceuticals Fund and Supply Agency (PFSA). This report describes the findings from a survey of supply chain performance in a representative sample of public-sector health facilities in Ethiopia.
- [The HRH Global Resource Center](#) is a global library of human resources for health (HRH) resources focused on developing countries.
- [Senegal Wins 2015 Resolve Award for Informed Push Model of Contraceptive Distribution](#). May 2015, The World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, the Global Leaders Council for Reproductive Health and the Aspen Institute honored Senegal, along with the Philippines and Uruguay, as winners of the 2015 Resolve Award, which recognizes countries that are making landmark progress toward the goal of universal access to reproductive health services.
- [Transforming Public Health Supply Chains In Africa: Lessons From The Private Sector](#) June 2015, Crown Agents looks at how private sector lessons can help to build steady and stable medical supply chains in developing countries.

Get Engaged with People that Deliver

- Join a PtD working group (e-mail info@peoplethatdeliver.org)
- Become a PtD Twitter follower (@PplthatDeliver)
- Update [LAPTOP](#) with SCM courses offered by your own institution
- Submit your SCM tools to the [PSM Toolbox](#)
- Tell us your HR for SCM stories or projects
- Use PtD tools and evidence: <http://www.peoplethatdeliver.org/resources>

For more information, contact:

The PtD Secretariat: info@peoplethatdeliver.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 27-30, 2015: **Council for Supply Chain Mgmt Professionals**, San Diego, USA

October 5-7, 2015: **APICS 2015**, Las Vegas, Nevada

October 5-9, 2015: **RHSC Annual Meeting**, Oslo, Norway

November 11-13, 2015: **Global Health Supply Chain Summit**, Dakar Senegal

November 18-20, 2015: **Conference on Health and Humanitarian Logistics**, Johannesburg, South Africa

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