

Incorporating Pharmaceutical Supply Management (PSM) Content in the Pre-Service Curriculum of the B.Pharm Program of the University of Namibia School of Pharmacy

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

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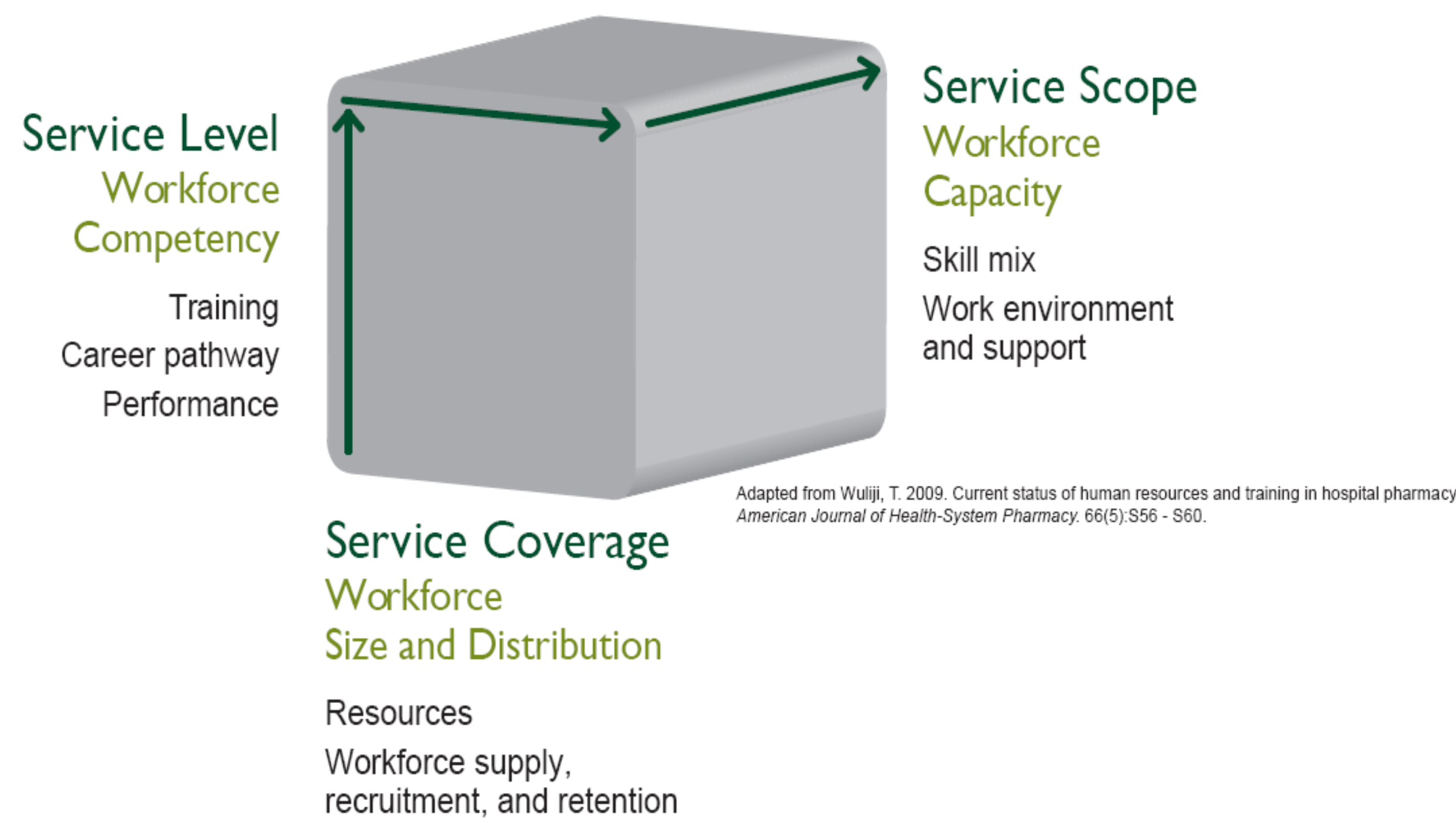
Introduction

The high burden of HIV and AIDS, coupled with increased numbers of patients needing antiretroviral (ARV) services, has further exacerbated the chronic shortage of Pharmacy personnel in Namibia. Skills related to PSM (procurement and supply management) are essential for ensuring continuous availability of essential medicines for public health programs, including HIV/AIDS and TB. Routine supervisory support visits to health facilities revealed gaps in Namibia's public sector supply chain system. These gaps have been largely attributed to the lack of competency in PSM, resulting in stock-outs, especially of pediatric ARV formulations. Pre-service education allows students to develop their competencies in supply chain, reducing the need for future investments in expensive in-service training.

Objective

The University of Namibia School of Pharmacy (UNAM/SoP) with support from PEPFAR/USAID funded Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS) program of Management Sciences for Health (MSH), initiated a process of reforming the curriculum with the objective of ensuring coverage of PSM elements, critical for management of medicines at health facilities. These components were incorporated into the B. Pharm curriculum, Pharmacy Practice II module.

SIAPS Approach to Strengthening Human Capacity Development



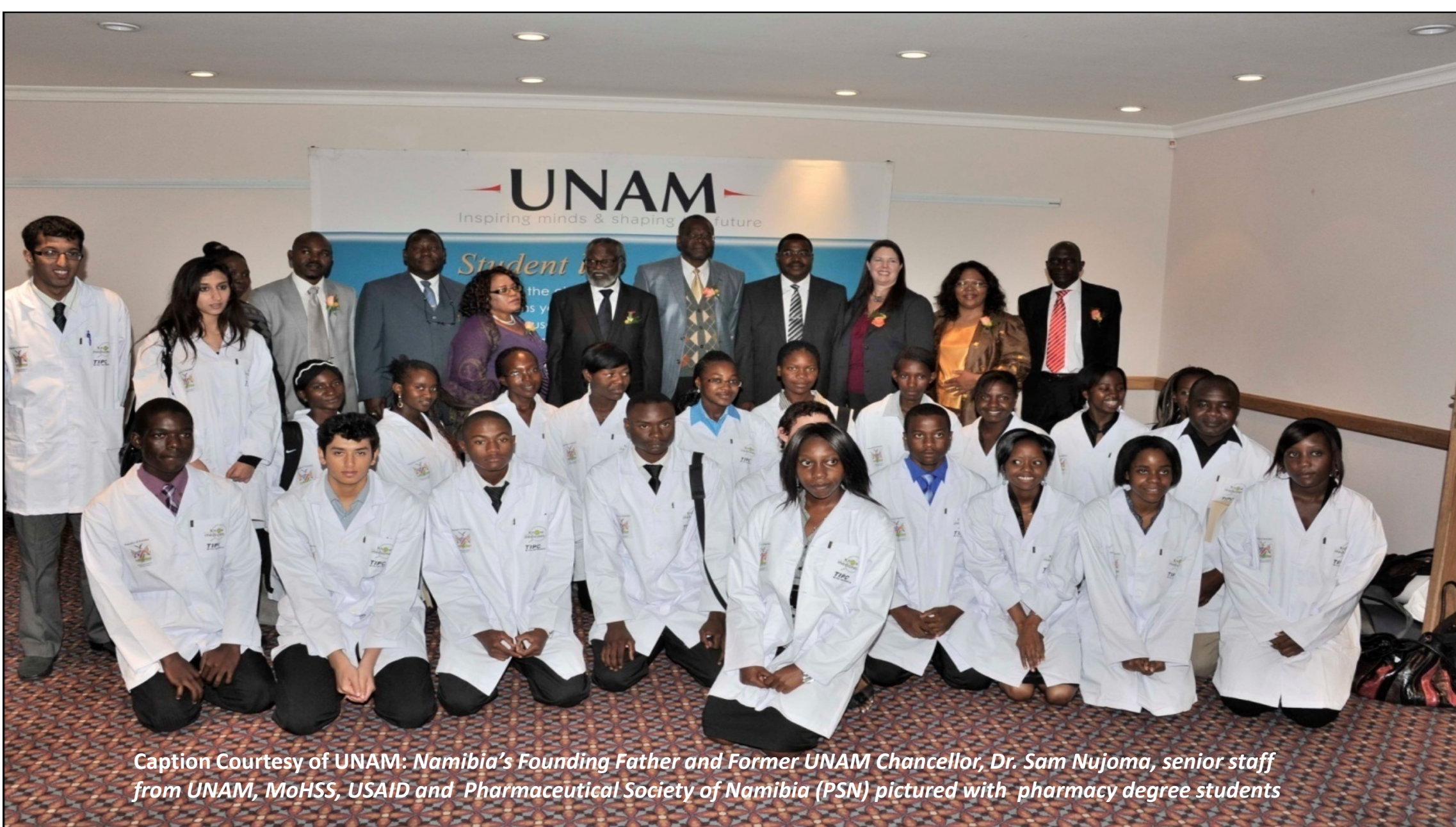
Pre-Service training on PSM was identified as a critical component in ensuring increased competency in supply chain for future graduands from UNAM/SoP. SIAPS facilitated open discussions with UNAM/SoP lecturers and MoHSS staff to identify PSM components critical for management of medicines at health facilities and include them in the B. Pharm curriculum. Findings from the discussions, coupled with SIAPS's prior experience in developing PSM modules for pre-service training in Vietnam, allowed UNAM/SoP to identify the important and appropriate PSM components for pharmacy students. This process included the development of the course outline, selecting methods of delivery, and appropriating schedules for teaching theory and administering practicals.

Results

PSM Content Developed & Incorporated into the B. Pharm Curriculum

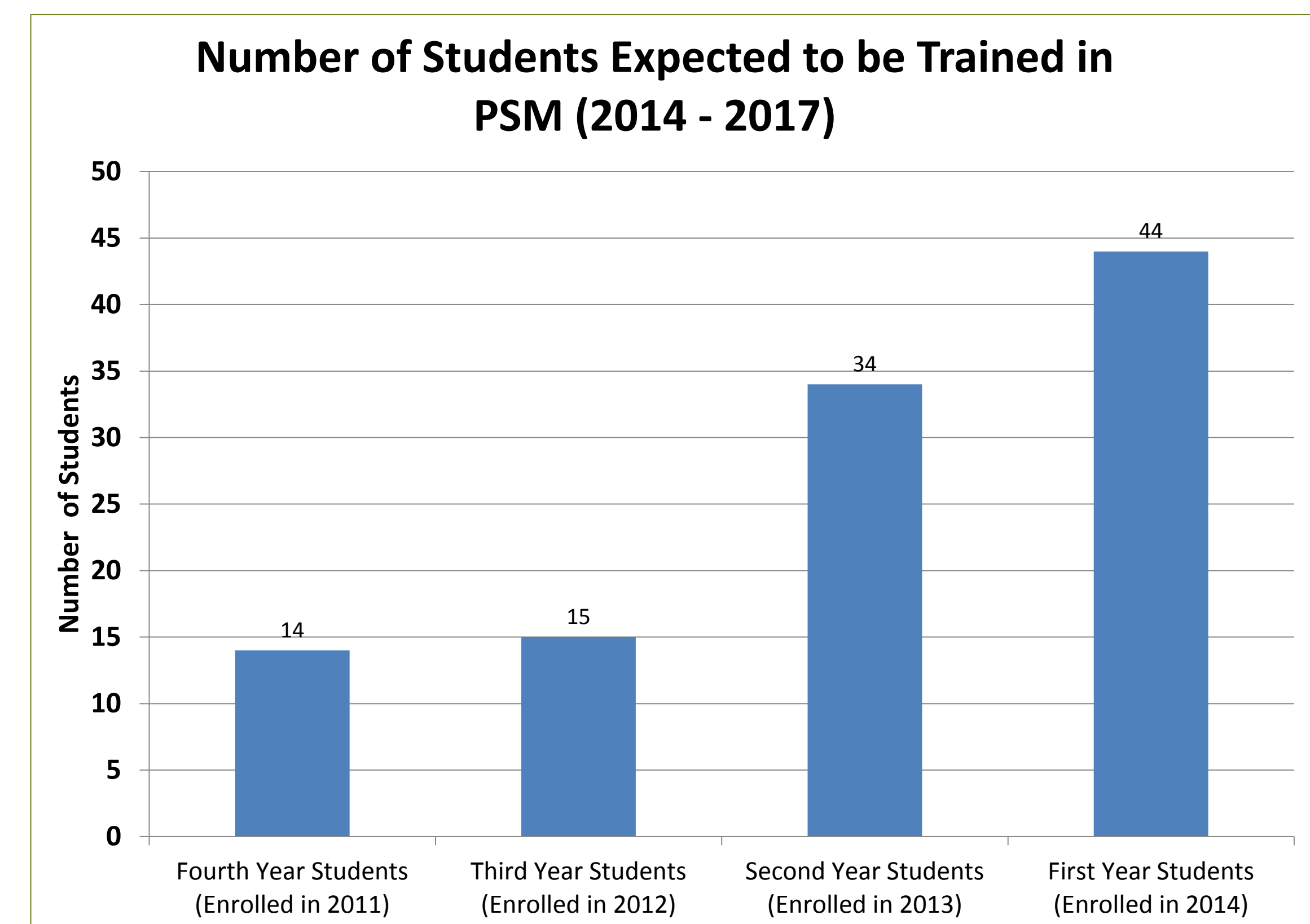
- Introduction to supply chain management
- Quantification of pharmaceutical needs
- Pharmaceutical procurement
- Pharmaceutical distribution
- Storage & inventory management
- Pharmaceutical Management Information System & Logistics Management Information System
- Monitoring supply chain performance: indicators and Monitoring & Evaluation
- Supportive supervision in supply chain
- Quality Assurance in the pharmaceutical supply chain
- Pharmaceutical Waste Management

As at October 2014, Twenty nine (29) Third & Fourth year students have been formally trained on key PSM topics since September 2014

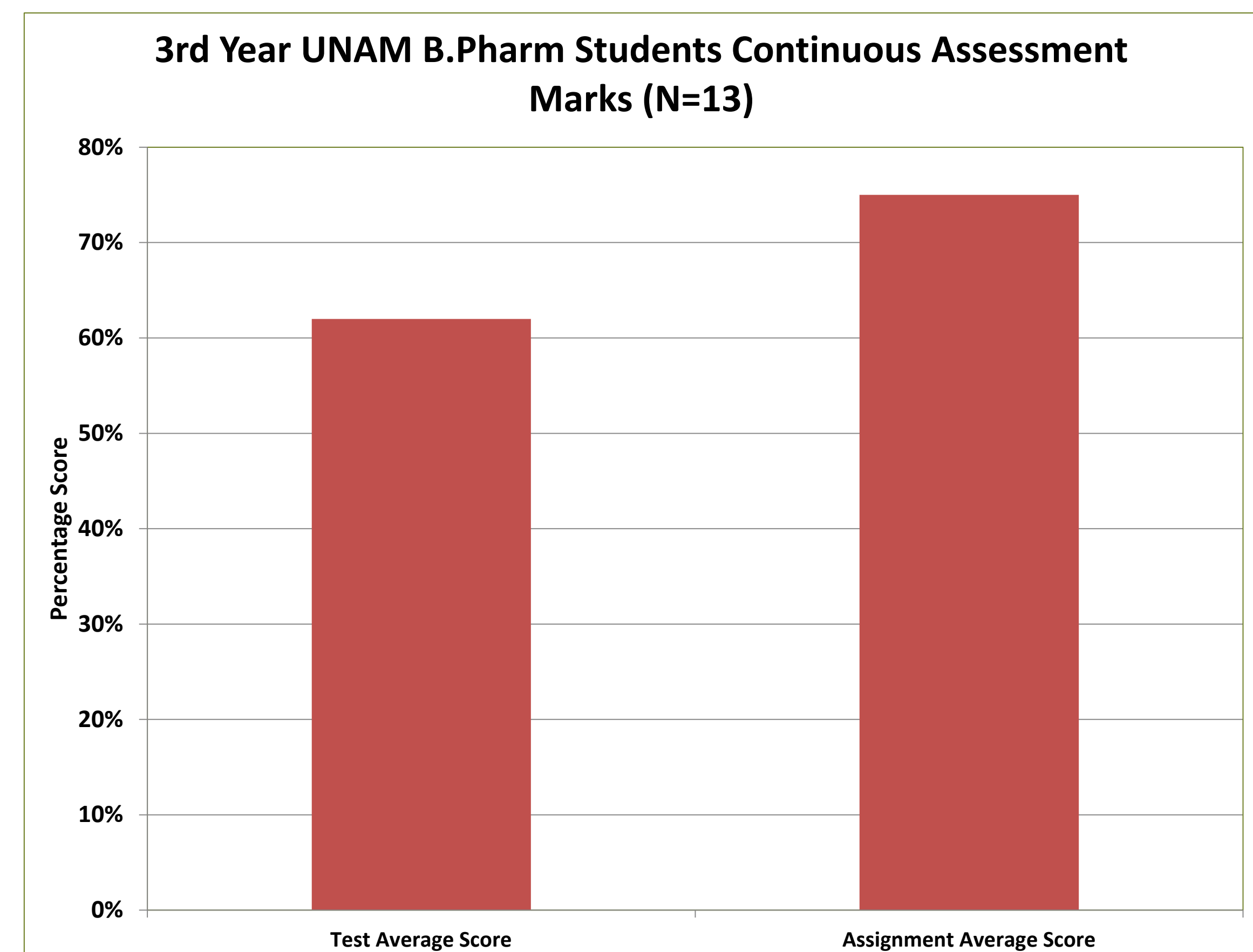


Results Cont.

Between 2014 and 2017, a total of 97 UNAM B.Pharm students are expected to be exposed to PSM



Course assessment results for current third year B. Pharm students



Discussion

SIAPS has worked collaboratively with stakeholders to enhance pre-service training capacity of UNAM/SoP in PSM. This will ensure that graduates are exposed to PSM techniques necessary to avoid supply chain problems, thus avoiding stock-outs. Cross-linkages between PSM and rational medicine use themes have also been established ensuring that available products are appropriately used. Pre-service curriculum development is a sustainable approach worth the investment as it will reduce the future need of more costly in-service trainings.

Lessons Learned

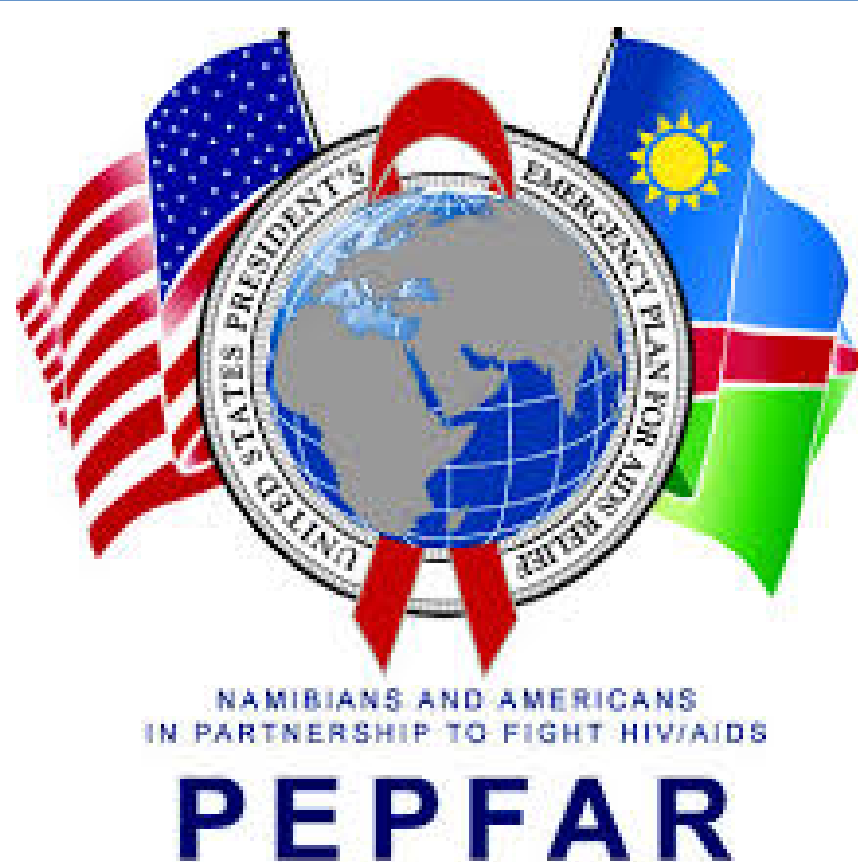
- PSM Course materials developed are comprehensive, evidence based and reflect current approaches to PSM
- Course delivery materials developed in collaboration with SIAPS for PSM have lessened the amount of time spent by lecturers preparing lesson materials. The time saved is now spent on other core assignments of the University
- Standardization of training materials has led to reduction in Lecturer-Lecturer variations in the delivery of the PSM Course
- Introduction of PSM topics has strengthened the School of Pharmacy understudy program

Literature cited

- Brock, T, Wuliji, T, Sagwa, E, Mabirizi, D. 2009. Technical Report: Exploring the Establishment of a Pharmacy Course at the University of Namibia, March 12-27, 2009. Submitted to the U.S. Agency for International Development by the Strengthening Pharmaceutical Systems (SPS) Program, Arlington, VA: Management Sciences for Health.
- Barracough, A., and M. Joshi. 2012. Technical Assistance for the Reform of Pharmaceutical Supply Management Curriculum at the Hanoi University of Pharmacy in Vietnam: SIAPS Technical Report. Submitted to the U.S. Agency for International Development by the Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS) Program, Arlington, VA: Management Sciences for Health.

Acknowledgments

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