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SIAPS
Systems for Improved Access
to Pharmaceuticals and Services

Leveraging Local Resources for Sustainable Pharmaceutical Management Interventions in Dominican Republic

Between October 2011 and September 2014, the Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS), received from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) mission in Dominican Republic (DR) 1,800,000 US dollars (USD) to continue supporting the implementation of the National Pharmaceutical System (Sistema Único de Gestión de Medicamentos e Insumos [SUGEMI]). With SIAPS support, SUGEMI is already improving the efficiency of the Dominican pharmaceutical sector and, at the same time, helping strengthen the national health system.

This broad yet intensive technical assistance (TA) has been possible by keeping operating costs low and mobilizing a sustainable amount of financial resources from other sources. SIAPS technical assistance in DR is provided by a team of five local short-term consultants working directly in their counterpart offices and two SIAPS foreign technical advisors that visit the island periodically.

From October 2011 to September 2014, SIAPS TA totaling USD 170,000 has mobilized USD 22,863,162 from other sources, and contributed to saving of USD 79,382,981 in medicines procurement. More than USD 102 million has been either saved or mobilized as a result of USAID assistance, as presented in the following table.

Table 1. Financial resources mobilized or saved as a result of USAID/SIAPS technical assistance

Intervention	SIAPS TA	Estimated cost of TA (USD)	Resources mobilized from other sources or saved (USD)	Sources (mobilization or savings)
2011–2015: Study of regional warehouses structural conditions, and construction and remodeling proposals (Baseline study in 2011; reevaluation in 2012, 2013 and 2014) ^{1,2}	TA, transportation, and expenses for data collection	22,000	1,276,055	Mobilization: Global Fund Project for TB and HIV, Cierre de Brechas/International Development Bank, Ministry of Health (MOH) Regional Health Services

¹ Espinoza, H. 2013. *Avance en el mejoramiento de las condiciones de almacenamiento de medicamentos en los Servicios Regionales de Salud de República Dominicana*. Presentado a la Agencia de los Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo Internacional por el Programa Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS). Arlington, VA: Management Sciences for Health; Espinoza, H. 2014. *Evaluación y propuesta de mejora de las condiciones de almacenamiento de medicamentos e insumos en 21 Centros Especializados de Atención de Salud (CEAS) de República Dominicana- Informe Consolidado*. Santo Domingo, República Dominicana. Con apoyo de SIAPS/USAID

² Includes USD 496,055 in MoH funds allocated in 2014 for the construction and renovation of 5 additional hospitals.



Intervention	SIAPS TA	Estimated cost of TA (USD)	Resources mobilized from other sources or saved (USD)	Sources (mobilization or savings)
2012–2014: Studies of the financial gap for the procurement of antiretrovirals (ARVs) in DR ³	TA, editing and printing of technical documents	45,000	2,685,620	Savings: Lowering of procurement prices by change of procurement agency.
			21,587,107	Mobilization: Resources executed (2013 and 2014) and budgeted (for 2015) by the MOH for the procurement of ARVs
2013–2014: Pooled procurement of medicines for all public institutions in DR (first phase) ⁴	TA on national programming workshops, elaboration and editing of technical reports, and transportation, lodging, and per diems for workshop participants	68,000	53,097,361	Savings: Economies of scale due to pooled procurement
2011–2012: Support for the elaboration of Global Fund proposals/ procurement plans	Review the procurement plan for phase 1 (3 years) of Round 8	35,000	23,600,000	Mobilization: Amount of Global Fund grants
		Investment in SIAPS TA (USD)	Resources mobilized (USD)	Resources saved (USD)
Total		170,000	22,863,162	79,382,981
			102,246,143	
Rate (Resources mobilized or saved for USAID 1.00)		601.42		

An estimated investment of USD 170,000 in these four interventions has mobilized or saved USD 102 million; that is a return of USD 601 for each USAID dollar. Even considering that all the SIAPS budget spent during that period (USD 1,800,000 from October 2011 to September 2014) were concentrated in these four interventions, the financial return is still positive: USD 57 per each USAID dollar.

³ Unidad Nacional de Gestión de Medicamentos e Insumos/ Ministerio de Salud de Republica Dominicana. Marzo 2013. Reevaluación de la brecha financiera de VIH, en el marco de la programación del SUGEMI 2013.

⁴ PROMESE/CAL. Marzo 2013. Resumen ejecutivo de la segunda etapa de la compra conjunta del Gobierno Dominicano