Bangladesh has made great strides in improving pharmaceutical management and increasing the availability of health commodities over the past few decades, including those used to help prevent maternal and child deaths. However, challenges remain to ensure medicines availability is continuous, sustainable, equitable, and country led. The USAID-funded Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS) program, implemented by Management Sciences for Health (MSH) works in Bangladesh to improve the availability of quality medicines and effective pharmaceutical services through a pharmaceutical systems strengthening approach to ultimately improve health outcomes. SIAPS is a global program, active in over 40 countries around the world.

**SIAPS APPROACH**

Through initiatives to improve governance, strengthen regulatory systems, maximize the efficiency of procurement and distribution processes, implement effective health information tools and systems, and build capacity of local institutions and facilities, SIAPS aims to assure continuous availability of essential medicines and health commodities of assured quality delivered through effective pharmaceutical services.

**SIAPS ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Improved oversight and coordination of medicines procurement and supply through the establishment of the MOHFW Procurement and Logistics Management Cell (PLMC), which enabled all 32 MOHFW line directors to develop and successfully submit procurement plans for fiscal years 2013/14 and 2014/15 through SCMP.
- Established greater transparency and accountability over the procurement process by developing a Standard Tender Document for Framework Agreement.
- Strengthened procurement and logistics management systems by developing a Procurement Procedure Manual (PPM) and revising the Supply Manual for DGFP as well as the Procurement Operations Manual for MOHFW.
**Supply Chain Management Portal (SCMP) with Procurement Equipment Tracker** (www.scmpbd.org)

Lead times for procurement have been reduced below the expected target of 58 weeks to 32.8 weeks (DGFP) and 52 weeks (DGHS).

**MOHFW**

**Warehouse Inventory Management System (WIMS)**

Monthly requisition process harmonized for all pharmaceuticals.

**DGFP**

**Electronic Logistic Management Information System (eLMIS)/ Upazila Inventory Management System (UIMS) with SDP Dashboard**

Direct uploads of DGFP logistics data increased from 74% in 2013, to 98% in 2015.

Reduced stock out of reproductive health commodities to <1%.

**DGFP/ DGHS**

**e-TB Manager (with TB LMIS)** (www.etbmanagerbd.org)

Operating at 210 sites across Bangladesh and 110,000 cases are being tracked as of May 2015.

**NTP**

**DGDA web-portal (www.dgda.gov.bd) with Pharmadex**

Improved the quality of the routine reporting of post-marketing surveillance

**DGDA**

**AREA OF FOCUS HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT IMPROVED DECISION MAKING**

**SIAPS will focus on the following areas within the remainder of the project period:**

- Promoting “data use culture” for data analysis and data sharing at all level of the health system to facilitate informed decision making
- Increasing access to and availability of quality health products through an effective and efficient supply chain management system
- Improving the policy and regulatory environment for quality medicines
- Supporting the smooth transition of SIAPS-supported health information system tools (e.g. SCMP) to the MOHFW, building capacity for future management and maintenance

**ABOUT SIAPS** | The Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS) program works to assure access to quality pharmaceutical products and effective pharmaceutical services through systems-strengthening approaches to achieve positive and lasting health outcomes. SIAPS is funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and is implemented by Management Sciences for Health. For more information, visit www.SIAPSprogram.org.

The information provided does not reflect or represent the position or views of the US Agency for International Development or the US Government.

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