

SIAPS COUNTRY BRIEF

BANGLADESH

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.



Photo Credit: A.R.M.Kamal

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.

SIAPS Partnerships across the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)

Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP)

Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) including the Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD), National TB Program (NTP), and Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health Program

Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA).



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SIAPS
Systems for Improved Access
to Pharmaceuticals and Services

- Established a standard for optimal medical equipment for primary- and secondary-level health facilities and supported needs-based procurement planning and budgeting through the development of a Standard Table of Equipment (TOE).
- Generated savings of approximately USD 6.38 million through short-term and long-term forecasting exercises that averted unnecessary procurements of family planning, maternal health, and tuberculosis medicines.
- Improved data quality (timeliness, completeness, and accuracy) of routine reporting by successfully using an online electronic reporting system (e-TB Manager) through the NTP in 210 sites, including four MDR TB treatment sites and urban DOTS centers and Upazila Inventory Management System (UIMS) in 488 upazila (sub-districts).
- Granted full membership of the World Health Organization's International Drug Monitoring Center (WHO-UMC) for the newly launched National Pharmacovigilance (PV) Program.
- Enhanced the capacity of 11,858 health officials (including 3,018 females) to appropriately manage pharmaceuticals through SIAPS training.

AREA OF FOCUS HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT IMPROVED DECISION MAKING

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).	partner	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

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

LOOKING
AHEAD

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.



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