



Gindungo Newsletter

The Development News of Angola

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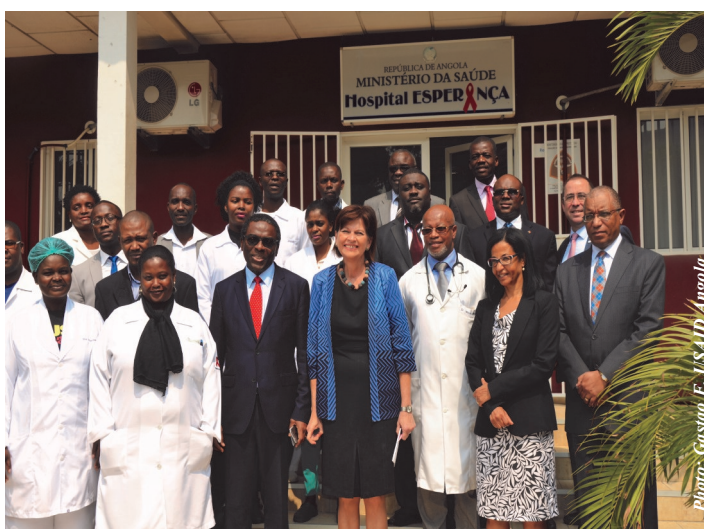
Life-Saving Malaria Medications Donated to the Angolan People

In a widely-covered public ceremony on June 28, Minister of Health, Dr. Luis Sambo, accepted Ambassador Helen LaLime's emergency donation of 500,000 doses of life-saving anti-malarial drugs (Coartem) made possible by the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) through USAID. This emergency donation came in response to drastically higher cases of malaria than any year in recent memory. The donation took place at Hospital Américo Boa Vida, where in recent weeks, as many as 90 children per day were admitted and, horrifically, as many as 30 per day died. The donation of anti-malarial drugs was distributed in health centers in the provinces of Benguela, Cunene, Huambo, Huíla, Kwanza Sul, Malanje, Uíge, and to the five major hospitals in Luanda. The visual of Ambassador LaLime and Minister Sambo addressing a point of major national concern received unprecedented media attention. Other donations in the coming months will include 100,000 second-line drugs for the treatment of severe malaria and 500,000 kits of rapid malaria tests. In this year alone, a total of \$28 million was invested by U.S. government through PMI in the fight against malaria in Angola. The emergency do-



Ambassador LaLime presents 500,000 doses of malaria treatment to the Minister of Health, Dr. Luis Sambo.

Photo: Gastão F. USAID Angola



Ambassador LaLime and Minister Sambo also toured Hospital Esperança, the principal clinic in Angola that treats patients with HIV.

Photo: Gastão F. USAID Angola

nation is an additional USAID contribution beyond its regular activities to fight malaria through social mobilization, mosquito net distribution campaigns, health system strengthening, laboratory training, proper management of malaria cases, and supporting the Angolan Central Procurement Agency for Medicines and Medical Supplies (CECOMA) to improve procurement storage and distribution of medicines and health equipment. USAID also supports the Ministry of Health to develop, strengthen and sustain the health systems to control and reduce the spread of HIV/ AIDS and other communicable diseases. To learn

more about PMI, please visit www.pmi.gov.

Reforming Public Pharmaceutical Procurement



Ambassador Helen LaLime and State Secretary for Health, Dr. Constantina Furtado, both attended the last day of the workshop.

Angolan Central Procurement Agency for Medicines and Medical Supplies (CECOMA), developed a draft strategy to reform and strengthen the national pharmaceuticals system. The three-day workshop, offered by USAID's Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS) Project, was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Ministries of Finance, Defense, Industry, Commerce and Transport, as well as private sector pharmaceutical companies, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Program and the World Bank. Focused on best practices in the areas of forecasting need, cost-effective procurement, on-time delivery and quality oversight, the strategy is seen as key to reforming a system that currently experiences frequent stock-outs of key medicines and supplies, market infiltration of counterfeit, low-quality medicines, and exorbitant prices. Ambassador Helen LaLime and State Secretary for Health, Dr. Constantina Furtado, highlighted at the closing remarks the need to keep health as a national priority even under a time of fiscal severity.

PMI Sends Deputy to Help Assesses Spike in Malaria Cases in 2016

From May 5 to 9, Dr. Bernard Nahlen, USAID Deputy Coordinator of the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), traveled to Angola to help assess an ongoing malaria epidemic in the country, and to provide guidance on potential emergency response by PMI. Accompanied by Ambassador LaLime, Dr. Nahlen's visit included extensive discussions with the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP), as well as site visits to the Ministry of Health's drug distribution warehouse and Luanda's General Hospital. At the hospital, Dr. Nahlen saw adult patients with complicated malaria which is an indicator of a malaria epidemic. PMI is a core component of the President's Global Health Initiative, along with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.



Dr. Bernard Nahlen and Ambassador LaLime visit a Ministry of Health Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Warehouse in Luanda.

USAID Promotes Strategic Messages to Improve Health Outcomes

From May 3 to 14, a team of health experts visited Angola to advance USAID's partnership with Angola's Ministry of Health and other stakeholders to promote USAID's Healthy Timing and Spacing of Pregnancy (HTSP) Project. HTSP project is implemented by Johns Hopkins University enables women to have children at the safest moment for themselves and their infants. USAID will conduct a qualitative study to identify barriers, constraints and misconceptions related to adhesion to HTSP. The results will help the MoH to proceed in a coordinated way with the Ministry of Family and Women Promotion, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Youth to develop well tailored HTSP programming. HTSP supports the principles and goals of the President's Global Health Initiative. It aims to accelerate the achievement of Angolan policies to improve contraceptive prevalence and to strengthen family planning as a significant means to reduce maternal and child mortality.



Experts from Johns Hopkins University Visit Angola

Polio Eradication Update



USAID Acting Mission Director, Paul McDermott, with USAID Public Health and Infectious Disease Specialist, Dr. Gisele Guimaraes, at the Core Group Polio Program briefing.

On July 14, Acting Mission Director, Paul McDermott, and USAID Senior Infectious Disease Specialist, Dr. Gisele Guimaraes, met with the staff of Core Group Polio Program (CGPP) for an update on progress in polio eradication, including plans for addressing other infectious disease challenges in a post-polio Angola. Since 2006, USAID has contributed approximately \$1,000,000 annually in polio funds and works in close partnership with the MOH, WHO and other stakeholders to ensure sustainability of the results achieved in polio eradication in Angola. In 2016, Angola is poised to achieve eradication after five years with no new cases. From 2005 to 2008, Angola was a "re-established transmission of polio" country, but in 2015 attained four years with no transmission. The last case was in July 2011 in Uíge Province. At the briefing, the CGPP team presented a draft legacy plan that started in May with technical assistance from WHO to map polio resources.

Promoting Political Dialogue Through Comic Books

USAID is supporting a 24-month conflict mitigation and management project named Uniting Angola's Youth for Political Dialogue. The project is being implemented by Search for Common Ground to promote political dialogue among Angolan youth. The project produced and printed 5,000 copies of comic books with five key messages: a) Conflict is inevitable, but violence is not: conflicts can be managed peacefully; b) Even when youth belong to different political parties, what they all want is a better future for Angola; c) Young people have a role to play to ensure peaceful cohabitation within their communities d) Youth can serve as an example for people from all generations when it comes to the development of their communities; e) Even when youth belong to different political parties, they can unite for social and charity purposes. Partnering with Angola's biggest youth organization, the National Youth Council, the project seeks to reinforce peaceful and positive youth relationships across political and social dividing line in the communities as well as reinforce women leadership among the youth.



Comic book poster produced by USAID's project to promote political dialogue among Angolan youth.

Training on Quantification and Planning for Health Commodities

A USAID-funded training in Luanda Province from March 9 to 18 transferred skills to 12 Ministry of Health pharmaceutical management staff. The participants were trained on the application of Quantimed software for forecasting, supply planning, and stock level monitoring for health commodities. The USAID-funded Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services Project, implemented by Management Sciences for Health, is carrying out regular quantification exercises with results useful for decision-making in procurement, budget allocation, and budget solicitation is an essential part of a strong national health system. At this event, participants learned about new protocols and tools for improved management of HIV/AIDS and malaria commodities.



MOH and USAID staff at SIAPS training on quantification and planning of HIV and Malaria commodities.

USAID Supports Workshop on Tax Revenue Estimation & Effective Cash Management

From February 29 to March 11, participants from the Ministry of Finance's Tax, Treasury, and Customs Departments, and Accountants from different GRA ministries attended two five-day courses titled "Best Practices in Tax Revenue Estimation" and "Best Practices in Effective Cash Management". The courses are part of the USAID project Support Public Financial Management (PFM) in Angola with the objective to train GRA employees in best practices in PFM. Through a new peer-based partnership with the Ministry of Finance, USAID supports practical advanced training by experts and practitioners in public



FSVC and Ministry of Finance experts gather for USAID-sponsored finance workshops

finance. Financial Services Volunteer Corps (FSVC) experts, Ms. Phyllis Resnick (Lead Economist, Colorado Futures Center at Colorado State University) and Peter Mills (Lead Public Policy Consultant with Perrin, Thoreau Associates, and revenue projection expert) used a combination of lectures reinforced by practical, hands-on exercises. Both courses trained over 70 GRA officials in effective

cash management and tax revenue projections. Another benefit has been the additional one-on-one training and advising sessions with MinFin officials outside the courses.

Measuring Progress of Angola's National Health Plan

The USAID-funded Health Finance and Governance Project, collects information to establish systems for improved fiscal management and performance in the health sector. From March 9 to 18, a USAID consultant from the project began reviewing the Ministry of Health's budget planning procedures and budget documentation to assess how they align with the Angolan national budget. The consultant also began to develop a practical plan for monitoring and evaluating budget performance at national and sub-national levels. In addition, USAID began to invest in health system strengthening of the Angolan MoH to facilitate institutional development and help identify and address priority areas for systemic change.

USAID Strengthens Bed Net Coverage to Fight the Spread of Malaria

On June 28, USAID launched a campaign to distribute over 1.1 million insecticide-treated bednets to the people of Huila Province in the joint effort between the PMI and NMCP under the Ministry of Health. The launch garnered positive press in most major news outlets. Bednets are a key driver in reducing malaria deaths. PMI and the NMCP are working together in an effort to achieve full coverage in Angola's eighteen provinces. The Huila campaign is the third province underway this year. Next year, PMI will provide ten million bednets for distribution throughout the remaining fifteen provinces. Distribution of bednets is one of the most visible ways the average Angolan sees U.S. Government assistance working with its government to address one of the most significant health issues in the country. Achieving nationwide bednet coverage by 2017 will not only drive down malaria in the country, but show the United States supports health improvement efforts during Angola's time of fiscal crisis.



NMCP, Provincial Public Health department and USAID implementing partner World Learning representatives during the launch of the bed net distribution campaign in Huila province.

USAID Distributes 1.2 Million Bednets to Fight Malaria in Benguela Province



USAID's Michael Glees and Benguela Team engaged in ITN distribution

USAID General Development Officer, Michael Glees, spent the Fourth of July supporting the distribution of over 6,000 insecticide treated bednets in Catumbela Municipality in Benguela Province. The day's efforts were part of an on-going campaign to saturate the province with this critical vector control tool in the effort to reduce the impact of malaria and other mosquito-borne illnesses. The campaign will provide 1.2 million bednets to Benguela Province and in turn be followed up with similar campaigns with the goal of distributing an additional 7 million bednets in fifteen remaining provinces and achieve 100% nationwide coverage by the end of 2017. The goal of achieving 100% bednet coverage in Angola by 2017, aligns with PMI's strategy to reduce malaria morbidity and mortality by 40% by 2020.

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