

SIAPS and SCMS support MoHSS's annual countrywide pharmaceutical supportive supervision visits

The MoHSS Division: Pharmaceutical Services, with support from the USAID-funded SIAPS and SCMS Programmes, conducted the annual national pharmaceutical supportive supervision (SS) visits across the country in February 2013.

The visits covered all the 30 district hospitals, four referral hospitals, a number of high volume Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities and the two Regional Medical Stores (RMSs).

The purpose of the visits was to:

- Assess progress made with various interventions undertaken to improve services
- Validate data reported to national level in the Pharmacy Management Information System (PMIS) and the ART monthly reports and
- Provide technical support to pharmacy staff in the facilities visited

The SS teams also assessed the progress made by health facilities and the RMSs in various areas that were identified as requiring improvement during the previous national SS visits held in 2011 and 2012. In continuing efforts to build capacity of pharmaceutical services to conduct such SS visits, four pharmaceutical staff at national level and nine regional pharmacists participated in the exercise.

SIAPS and SCMS Programs provided technical and financial support for this undertaking. The findings and recommendations for individual facilities were shared with the management at the facilities visited as well as the respective regional management teams.

A national report summarising the findings of the visits will be compiled and shared by end of April 2013. This report will enable the various Regions to compare their facilities' performance with facilities in other regions.

Contributed by Victor Sumbi (Senior Technical Advisor: SIAPS)

Upcoming Events (March - April 2013)

- Quality Improvement Baseline assessments in Katutura and Windhoek Central Hospitals
- Training of Project HOPE TB DOTs field based promoters on community Pharmacovigilance
- Workload indicators for staffing need (WISN) assessment at CMS
- Upgrade of EDT computers and Software countrywide

SIAPS will support the Division: Pharmaceutical Services to install new EDT computers (procured by MoHSS' Directorate: Special Programs) with updated EDT software



Ms Helene Mukeya (Regional Pharmacist for Karas) discusses pertinent pharmaceutical-related issues with the nurse in charge at Sangwali Health Centre in Caprivi region during the 2013 national Pharmaceutical Services supportive supervision visits (Photo by SIAPS staff).

BLC supports NANASO to effectively implement the Global Fund Grant

The USAID-funded Building Local Capacity (BLC) project facilitated a three-day induction workshop between 12 and 14 February 2013 to train staff from the Global Fund Management Unit of the Namibia Network of AIDS Service Organisation (NANASO) staff on the key Global Fund principles, mechanisms and requirements.

The NANASO Executive Director, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, Finance Manager, Accountant, Finance Officer and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer were trained. During the training, the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders of the Global Fund and that of the Local Funding Agent (LFA) were clarified. BLC also oriented the staff on the reporting and management requirements of the Global Fund Grant. With the skills acquired, the Executive Director noted that "NANASO will be able to support the sub recipients in managing the closure of Phase One funding which ends in June 2013 and effectively implement Phase Two which starts thereafter".

Contributed by Rachel Basirika (Capacity Building Advisor: BLC)

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STRONGER HEALTH SYSTEMS. GREATER HEALTH IMPACT

Windhoek Central Hospital begins implementing the Quality Improvement and Leadership (QIL) programme with enthusiasm

The management and staff of the Windhoek Central Hospital (WCH) began applying the leading and managing practices in improving the delivery of health care services at the institution.

This was a result of the standards interpretation and evaluation training for 29 WCH staff, which was facilitated by the USAID-funded BLC Programme between the 28th -30th of November 2012. Eight quality improvement coaches were later selected from the 29 trained staff.

Between the 29th -30th of January 2013, the eight volunteer coaches embarked on a mobilisation and orientation exercise to transfer the standards interpretation and evaluation techniques that they had acquired to other WCH staff members to facilitate the hospital to conduct hospital-wide baseline self-assessments before commencing of quality improvement and leadership activities.

The coaches organised and facilitated a two-day orientation training which was attended by 41 nominated leads from each department of the hospital. By the end of the training participants had a good understanding of the standards used to assess and score the quality of services delivered by the hospital.



Mr. Abner Shopati the quality Assurance Coordinator Windhoek Central Hospital.

“I am glad that we got this training because now I know how to assess my work by myself and have the opportunity to participate in the improvement process” said Fred Kigozi, the Lead, Surgical Service Element.

Contributed by Rachel Basirika (Capacity Building Advisor: BLC)

SIAPS Supports ART Data Quality Verification and Improvement in Caprivi Region

With the continuing roll out and decentralization of ART services in Namibia to Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities in Namibia, there is need to ensure that high quality ART patient and stock data is collected, reported and utilised to inform planning and decision-making at the various levels of the health system.

As part of the initiatives put in place to ensure high quality ART-related data, SIAPS provided technical support to the MoHSS' sub-division: Response Monitoring and Evaluation (RM&E), Directorate: Special Programmes (DSP) and Division: Pharmaceutical Services in quarterly analysis of data from the two main ART sub-systems at facility level - the Electronic Dispensing Tool (EDT) and electronic Patient Management System (ePMS). This analysis revealed that Caprivi region consistently reported the highest variance between the two ART sub-systems for March, June and September 2012.

SIAPS staff participated in a visit to the Region in February 2012 aimed at identifying the root causes of the variances in the data reported as well as coming up with strategies to improve the management of ART patient and stock data in Caprivi region.

During the visit, over 2,600 ART patient records were updated on the ePMS at 11 PHC facilities. Discussions with the facility staff and the Caprivi Regional Management Team (RMT) also helped to come up with interventions to improve ART data quality in the Region. SIAPS will continue supporting the Region to implement some of the interventions agreed upon.

This will contribute towards ensuring availability of accurate and up to date data to inform programmatic decision-making.

Contributed by Victor Sumbi (Senior Technical Advisor/SIAPS)

Stepping-up the assurance of the quality of essential medicines in Namibia

A strong medicines quality post-marketing surveillance (PMS) system is one of the key regulatory pillars in ensuring the sustained availability of legitimate, safe, quality and efficacious medicines within the country.

An ineffective PMS can result in the circulation of illegal, poor quality, substandard or counterfeit pharmaceuticals that may negatively affect the achievement of patient treatment outcomes. In the period between October 2011 - September 2012, the USAID-funded SIAPS Programme provided technical assistance to the Namibia Medicines Regulatory Council (NMRC) in the development of a PMS framework to guide the Council's PMS strategy and activities.

This framework provided guidance in the passive and active collection of samples of pharmaceutical products of suspected poor quality. Through this initiative, district hospitals have

stepped-up the reporting of suspected product quality problems to the NMRC. Within just four months, 12 medicine problems have been reported as compared to the previous years where only a handful (about six) of reports were received annually. So far, the reports of substandard quality products have been received from three regions (Ohangwena, Khomas and Oshana).



Breaking and chipping of defective cotrimoxazole tabs

Contributed by Chris Ntege (Senior Technical Advisor/SIAPS)

Incorporating essentials of laboratory supplies management into the Biomedical Science Degree curriculum, Polytechnic of Namibia



Evans Sagwa (right) Deputy County Director for the MSH/SCMS project engages in group work with faculty members of the Polytechnic of Namibia during the Biomedical Science degree curriculum review workshop held at the Roof of Africa (Photo by SLAPS staff).

SCMS provided technical assistance to the Polytechnic of Namibia (PoN) to incorporate laboratory commodity management content into the curriculum for the Biomedical Science degree program during a curriculum review workshop held on the 13th -15th of February, 2013 at the Roof of Africa Hotel in Windhoek.

Riding on the wider reform of the biomedical degree curriculum to align it with the Namibia qualifications framework and the health professions council of Namibia standards, the USAID-funded SCMS introduced the course faculty to the basics of health commodity logistics and emphasised the need for students to be exposed to laboratory supplies management during their pre-service training so as to prepare them adequately for the real work environment.

Participants appreciated the importance of laboratory supplies management and agreed to incorporate into the existing Laboratory Management module of the Biomedical Science curriculum new topics such as Logistics Management Information Systems (LMIS), inventory management, storage of laboratory commodities and assessing stock status.

SCMS will continue to provide technical assistance to the PoN lecturers to operationalise the laboratory supplies management module.

Contributed by:
Benjamin Ongeri (Senior Technical Advisor/SCMS)

EDITORIAL TEAM

The SIAPS/SCMS/BLC Namibia e-Newsletter is a bi-monthly newsletter that keeps you abreast of activities funded by the USAID and implemented by MSH Namibia.

Key focus areas are strengthening:

- Health Systems
- Capacity Building
- Human Resource Development

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