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**SIAPS**  
Systems for Improved Access  
to Pharmaceuticals and Services

Improved Access.  
Improved Services.  
Better Health Outcomes.

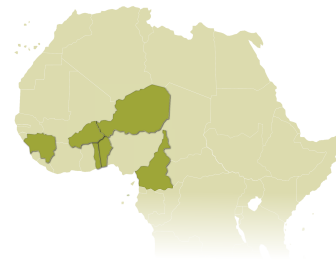
SIAPS Update | March 2014

## SIAPS in Numbers for Project Year 2

- 12 countries have improved medicines policies, laws, regulations, norms, and standards
- 11 countries developed or updated pharmaceutical management guidelines, lists, or standard operating procedures which have been submitted for adoption
- 6 countries developed or updated national pharmaceutical policies and submitted for adoption
- 2 countries report developed or updated pharmaceutical sector legislation (or regulations) and submitted for adoption

## SIAPS Launches new West Africa Regional Office

On April 7, SIAPS will officially launch its West Africa Regional office in Accra, Ghana, with a stakeholders' meeting to introduce an early warning indicators system for stock-outs of HIV and AIDS commodities. At the request of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), SIAPS will be providing effective, long-term solutions to the recurrent pharmaceutical supply management problems that have created stock-outs of life-saving HIV and AIDS medicines in six focus countries-Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Guinea, Niger, and Togo. SIAPS has developed a regional dashboard to monitor HIV/AIDS commodities to detect and minimize the risk of stock-outs in the six countries.



## SIAPS Project Director Attends Global Fund High Impact Meeting

SIAPS Project Director Francis Aboagye-Nyame traveled to Lusaka, Zambia, to represent SIAPS at the Global Fund High Impact-Africa II Department Regional Meeting. Participants included government, non-government, civil society, and private sector organizations from Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania/Zanzibar, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, along with international partners, including UNAIDS, World Health Organization (WHO), and disease-specific technical agencies. The focus of the meeting was "Preparing for the New Funding Model."

## [SIAPS Hosts First Regional European Conference on Improving Access to TB Medicines](#)



The USAID-funded SIAPS Program, implemented by Management Sciences for Health, WHO and Stop TB partners jointly hosted the first WHO European Regional Conference on Improving Access to Anti-TB Medicines and Pharmaceutical Services to fight TB and MDR/XDR-TB to highlight the importance of access to anti-TB medicines in the treatment of MDR/XDR-TB. For more information about the conference, including the conference agenda, please visit the [conference webpage](#).

## [USAID Administrator Shah Visits SIAPS/DRC](#)

When USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah was planning his visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), December 15-18, 2013, USAID asked SIAPS to arrange a visit to the DRC's Federation of Central Procurement in Essential Medicines in Kinshasa (FEDECAME). Accompanied by the DRC's Minister of Health, Dr. Felix Kabange, Administrator Shah met with FEDECAME officials to discuss how to improve the procurement and quality assurance of essential medicines. Administrator Shah also attended a separate meeting with the Congolese Ministry of Health and representatives of other bilateral donor agencies and partners to discuss development challenges and opportunities in the DRC. During this meeting, Minister of Health Dr. Kabange emphasized the need for a modern warehouse and distribution system for medicines. The Minister of Health expressed his country's gratitude to USAID and SIAPS for conducting an evaluation that identified the gaps and vulnerabilities of the pharmaceutical supply chains in country and for providing assistance to strengthen the distribution system.



## [SIAPS's Beth Yeager Named Chair of the Maternal Health Caucus of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition](#)

SIAPS's Principal Technical Advisor for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH) Beth Yeager has been named Chair of the Maternal Health Caucus of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition. The Coalition, a prestigious global organization with members from the public, private, and nongovernmental sectors, works to ensure access to affordable, high quality reproductive health supplies worldwide. The Maternal Health Caucus serves as a forum for addressing the challenges of access to reproductive health commodities, particularly magnesium sulfate, misoprostol, and oxytocin.



## [SIAPS nominated to People that Deliver's Board of Directors](#)

SIAPS was nominated to represent MSH on the Board of "People that Deliver (PtD)." SIAPS will continue to participate in two PtD working groups: (1) advocacy and knowledge management and (2) technical working group. PtD is a global partnership to build capacity to "implement evidence-based

approaches to plan, finance, develop, support, and retain the national workforces needed for the effective, efficient and sustainable management of health supply chains."

## QuanTB Featured in UNITAID Newsletter

UNITAID's premier global newsletter, "The Market Share," highlights SIAPS' cutting-edge QuanTB, an electronic forecasting, quantification, and early warning tool designed to improve procurement processes, ordering, and planning for TB treatment, and avoid stock-outs or waste of medicines. QuanTB was developed by the SIAPS TB team to transform complicated calculations into a user-friendly dashboard displaying key information for managing medicines. For more information about QuanTB, [click here](#).



## SIAPS Team Contribute to WHO Publication on HIV/AIDS Commodities

Francis Aboagye-Nyame, Mavere Tukai, and Charles Kagoma were contributors to a new WHO publication, "[Specifications and quantities for efficient procurement of essential equipment and laboratory commodities for HIV](#)." Developed by WHO's Technologies and Commodities Unit of the HIV Department in collaboration with a broad range of partners, this publication provides specifications and quantities to procure the essential equipment and related laboratory commodities for HIV diagnostics testing. This publication will significantly contribute to standardizing laboratory services as part of an overall effort to streamline supply chain management and strengthen health systems.



## SIAPS's Edgar Barillas Co-Authors Study on Diminished Efficacy of Artemisinin in Guyana and Surinam

SIAPS Portfolio Manager Edgar Barillas co-authored an article, "Were medicine quality and pharmaceutical management contributing factors in diminishing artemisinin efficacy in Guyana and Surinam?", published in the refereed journal, [Malaria Journal](#). The article is based on a study on quality and pharmaceutical management of anti-malarials in the two of the countries targeted by SIAPS's Amazon Malaria Initiative (AMI). The study concluded that the quality of malaria medicines and the availability and use of non-recommended treatments could have played a role in the diminished efficacy of artemisinin derivatives described in Guyana and Suriname, but the problem warrants further study. Visit the [SIAPS AMI webpage](#) for more information.

## [SIAPS's New Guide on Minimizing Medicines Risk in TB Treatment](#)

Tuberculosis (TB) is re-emerging as a major threat to global health due to its co-morbidity with other diseases and the emergence of drug-resistant forms. In 2011, TB caused 1.4 million deaths,

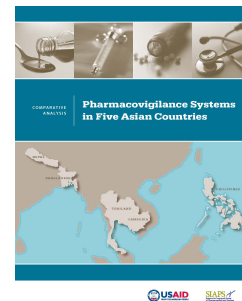
including 430,000 among people who were HIV-positive, reflecting the substantial challenges of TB/HIV co-infection. Successfully combating the TB epidemic requires expanding access to treatment, improving management of drug-resistant TB, and integrating services for TB and HIV.

To help patients complete their full course of TB treatment, the USAID-funded SIAPS Program created a guide for national tuberculosis programs (NTP) on how to minimize medicine risks. Titled "[Preventing and Minimizing Risks Associated with Anti-Tuberculosis Medicines to Improve Patient Safety](#)," the guide offers insights into planning and implementing risk reduction strategies in the treatment of TB.



## [SIAPS Publishes Results of Comparative Study of Pharmacovigilance Programs in Five Asian Countries](#)

Despite an increase in access to medicines, low- and middle-income countries still do not have, fully functional pharmacovigilance and regulatory systems in place. Strengthening regulatory and pharmacovigilance systems is a global imperative for preventing harm and improving outcomes in treatment and prevention programs. The Asia region both supplies and purchases medical products. A better understanding of the existing regulatory and pharmacovigilance systems in this region can help guide national governments and international donors towards effective and viable pharmacovigilance systems.



Recognizing the importance of assisting countries develop effective pharmacovigilance systems, USAID and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) funded the SIAPS Program to assess pharmacovigilance systems in five Asian countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, the Philippines, and Thailand. [View the complete study.](#)

## SIAPS Success Stories

[Auditable Pharmacy Transactions and Services \(APTS\): Good Governance and Better Service Delivery](#)

[Electronic Dispensing Tool Relieves Paperwork Burden for Healthcare Providers in Namibia](#)

[Investing in People: The Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Association](#)

[Better Treatment Outcomes through Patient-Centered Pharmaceutical Care](#)

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