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SIAPS
Systems for Improved Access
to Pharmaceuticals and Services

Improved Access.
Improved Services.
Better Health Outcomes.

SIAPS Newsletter [June 2014]

SIAPS in the News

Burundi. The Burundi SIAPS team, led by Pascaline Harerimana and assisted by SIAPS Principal Technical Advisor Jane Briggs, supported the Burundi's Ministry of Health (MoH) National Malaria Control Program to evaluate their pilot of community case management of malaria. The objective was to inform the requirements for expanding services to include malaria, diarrhea, and pneumonia,



called integrated community case management (iCCM), and made recommendations to consider for scale-up. Jane's May 7th presentation at USAID/W stimulated a lively discussion on taking activities to scale and increasing coverage. iCCM is one of the key strategies for ending preventable deaths of children under five. A large and growing body of evidence suggests that iCCM can increase access to timely treatment.

To view Jane's presentation, please visit us at <http://siapsprogram.org/publication/scaling-up-cmm/>.

Guinea. SIAPS Guinea was recently featured on the website, africaguinee.com, in recognition of its work training staff at the Central Pharmacy of Guinea (PCG) in best practices for pharmaceutical management. PGC's Director General Dr. Moussa Konaté opened the training sessions by emphasizing the responsibility of the Central Pharmacy to properly manage essential generic medicines to ensure optimum health outcomes for the people of Guinea. SIAPS trained CPG staff in how to develop an assessment checklist for the main PCG warehouse in Conakry, which stores commodities funded by the President's Malaria Initiative. Following the assessment, the PGC developed an action plan for improving storage conditions in the central warehouse.

To read the original story posted on the [africaguinee](http://africaguinee.com) website, please go

to <http://www.africaguinee.com/articles/2014/02/26/sante-le-personnel-de-la-pcg-mieux-ouille-en-bonnes-pratiques-de-distribution>.

QuanTB. SIAPS Program is excited to announce the launch of a new version of QuanTB, version 1.0.2, an electronic forecasting, quantification, and early warning tool designed to improve procurement processes, ordering, and planning for tuberculosis (TB) treatment. QuanTB is now available in six languages: English, Russian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Chinese. In addition, this new version includes an easier process for identifying quantities needed for emergency orders and the ability to import the number of cases from Excel, and export quantification data to Excel. An updated User Guide accompanies this version, and includes improved overall guidance and three new annexes on forecasting for multiple years, quantifying patient kits, and quantifying ancillary medicines.

The new version of the tool and User Guide can be accessed at <http://siapsprogram.org/tools-and-guidance/quantb/>.

Selected Country Program Highlights

Dominican Republic. In the Dominican Republic, SIAPS is providing important technical support to implement the integrated Pharmaceutical Management Information System (locally known as SUGEMI) to document the increasing incidence of stock-outs, partly due to inadequate financing. SIAPS collected data to determine the extent of the financial gap to inform essential medicines procurement.

Lesotho. SIAPS delivered in-service training to 82 health care workers in pharmaceutical logistics management. **RxSolution** is currently installed in 16 out of the 17 hospitals and SIAPS provided technical support to implement RxSolution in 13 additional health facilities.

Namibia. SIAPS continues to provide critical support to the Ministry of Health and Social Services' Pharmaceutical Services Division in finalizing the Standard Treatment Guidelines post-implementation assessment report for 13 health facilities in 6 regions; the assessment covers 11 disease conditions.

Swaziland. SIAPS partnered with the Ministry of Health to finalize quantification of HIV and AIDS medicines and commodities for the period beginning April 2014 through March 2016.

Ukraine. In Ukraine, despite the current political turmoil, the government has made significant improvement in data completeness, reaching a 98% consistency rate when comparing e-TB Manager and paper-based reports.

Bringing an AIDS-Free Generation in West Africa One Step Closer

by Jean Bedel Evi (West Africa Regional Project Director)

Antiretroviral (ARV) medicines are a matter of life or death for people who are HIV-positive. In West Africa, the [US Agency for International Development](#) (USAID)-funded [Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services](#) (SIAPS) Program is working to make sure people have uninterrupted access to these life-saving medicines. With support provided by the [US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief](#) (PEPFAR) and implemented by Management Sciences for Health (MSH) with four core partners, SIAPS is working in six West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Guinea, Niger, and Togo) to help coordinate the regional management of medicines and develop an early warning system to identify and prevent stock-outs and wastage.

STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN SYSTEMS

PEPFAR has made an enormous contribution to fighting the global AIDS pandemic and is committed to creating an AIDS-free generation in the coming years. The effectiveness of ARVs in both treatment and prevention has made this goal possible. However, the availability of life-saving ARVs does not mean that people have access to the medicines. Without an effective supply chain to get the medicines to the people in the right quantities at the right time, creating an AIDS-free generation will remain beyond the reach of the global community.

In West Africa, there are routine stock-outs of life-saving medicines for antiretroviral treatment. Insufficient coordination among stakeholders, the lack of adequate pharmaceutical data for forecasting and supply planning, poor inventory management and storages practices are just some of the reasons for these life-threatening stock-outs.

The [SIAPS West Africa Regional Project](#) is working to strengthen pharmaceutical information systems to ensure availability of reliable information to reduce the risk of stock-outs of HIV and AIDS medicines and commodities through improved regional coordination.

BETTER INFORMATION TO AVOID STOCK-OUTS

A medicines supply chain requires a robust logistics management information system (LMIS) to estimate needs, production, and warehouse stock levels; and the status of all shipments in transit to ensure that these life-saving commodities reach the right people, at the right time, in the right quantities.

No partner or donor can do this alone. A regional approach to generating and managing information is an efficient and cost-effective way to ensure that people throughout West Africa have access to HIV and AIDS medicines and commodities. Regional coordination of information systems provides access to the critical information needed to minimize the risk of stock-outs throughout the West Africa region of HIV and AIDS health commodities.

SIAPS is developing an early warning system to avoid stock-outs of HIV and AIDS medicines and commodities. Using cutting-edge information technology, the early warning system will feature a dashboard that will collect and display regional data to monitor stock, predict gaps in funding, track shortages and expiries, and make evidence-based decisions.

The dashboard helps focus countries and partners to improve forecasting, supply planning, and procurement to ensure the uninterrupted availability of ARVs, rapid diagnostic kits (RDTs), and other HIV-related commodities. The data available on this platform can be used to make informed decisions and identify solutions to mitigate risks for the short, medium, and long term.

A STEP CLOSER TO AN AIDS-FREE GENERATION

Creating an AIDS-free generation is within our reach. By strengthening health systems, HIV-positive people will have the treatment they need to live healthy and productive lives. SIAPS is bringing an AIDS-Free Generation one step closer

Featured Publications

Enhancing Health Outcomes for Chronic Diseases in Resource-Limited Settings by Improving the Use of Medicines: The Role of Pharmaceutical Care

In low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), health systems have historically focused on the prevention and treatment of highly prevalent and frequently fatal acute infectious illnesses such as malaria, diarrhea, and respiratory infections. However, due to changes in health risks, LMIC are experiencing an increasing burden of chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in addition to the existing problems of infectious diseases. This publication will help provide USAID health program managers, country counterparts (ministries of health, policy makers, educators, professional associations, health care managers, and providers), as well as other stakeholders with an understanding of how the introduction and expansion of pharmaceutical care can support the achievement of desired health outcomes for chronic diseases. This publication explains the approach used by USAID-funded SIAPS to strengthen the practice of pharmaceutical care in resource-constrained settings through building

institutional and individual capacity in pharmaceutical systems and identifying appropriate roles for staff who provide medicines or medication-related services at each level.

You can access this publication at <http://siapsprogram.org/2014/06/04/enhancing-health-outcomes-for-chronic-diseases-in-resource-limited-settings-by-improving-the-use-of-medicines-the-role-of-pharmaceutical-care/>

Estimation of Unmet Medical Need for Essential Maternal Health Medicines

An alarming number of countries are not on target to meet Millennium Development Goal to reduce maternal mortality despite efforts and investments made at both the global and national levels. Increasing access to and use of essential commodities for maternal health have recently gained attention as key concerns of several international initiatives. The United Nations (UN) Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children acknowledges supply and demand challenges as among the main barriers to access and use of these life-saving commodities.

A basic step in improving access to these commodities is making sure they are available where and when women need them. This requires proper supply planning which, for various reasons, has been a challenge in procuring essential maternal medicines.

The purpose of this document is to present an approach that will allow national program managers and other key stakeholders to assess a country's theoretical need for the three overlooked life-saving maternal health commodities--oxytocin, magnesium sulfate, and misoprostol--and compare this with actual procurement data.

You can access this publication at <http://siapsprogram.org/publication/estimation-of-unmet-medical-need-for-essential-maternal-health-medicines/>.



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