



USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SIAPS Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services

# Sierra Leone Project Update

May 2017

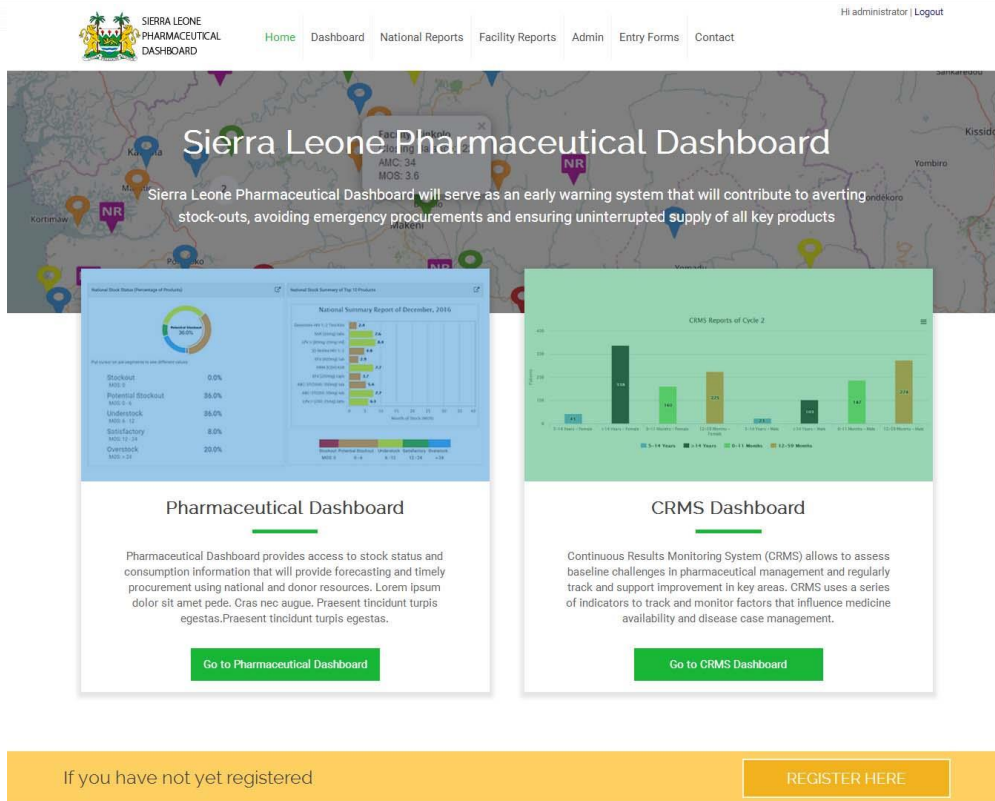


Figure 1. The work in progress.

## DEVELOPING A COMMODITY DASHBOARD TO TRACK MEDICINE STOCK AND RELATED HEALTH DATA

### Background: Data Needed to Ensure Access to Medicines

The outbreak of Ebola in Sierra Leone in 2014 compromised the country’s already weak pharmaceutical system. That heavily impacted its response to HIV/AIDS in the country, including access to life-saving medicines for antiretroviral therapy (ART). Due to a lack of information and data for accurate planning and procurement, oversupply, stock-outs, and expiry of HIV-related and other critical pharmaceutical products were common problems.

Since October 2015, SIAPS' work has included strengthening the governance structure of the DDMS; technical assistance for improving the pharmaceutical management information system through the use of a patient-product focused treatment/dispensing register; introduction and implementation of a continuous bi-monthly results monitoring and support system (CRMS) targeting all health facilities in Sierra Leone; capacity building through training/mentoring and improved storage of medicines and their rational use.

## INTERVENTION

To take systems strengthening support to the next level, SIAPS is introducing a web-based enhanced information graphic display platform. The dashboard, which can be found at

### Benefits



Improved Access. Improved Services. Better Health Outcomes



<http://slpharmadb.org/>, features data from each health facility and supply structure and will provide real-time access to patient and commodity information. It will serve as an early warning system that will contribute to averting stock-outs, avoiding emergency procurements, and ensuring an uninterrupted supply of all key products. It will also improve forecasting and timely procurement using national and donor resources.

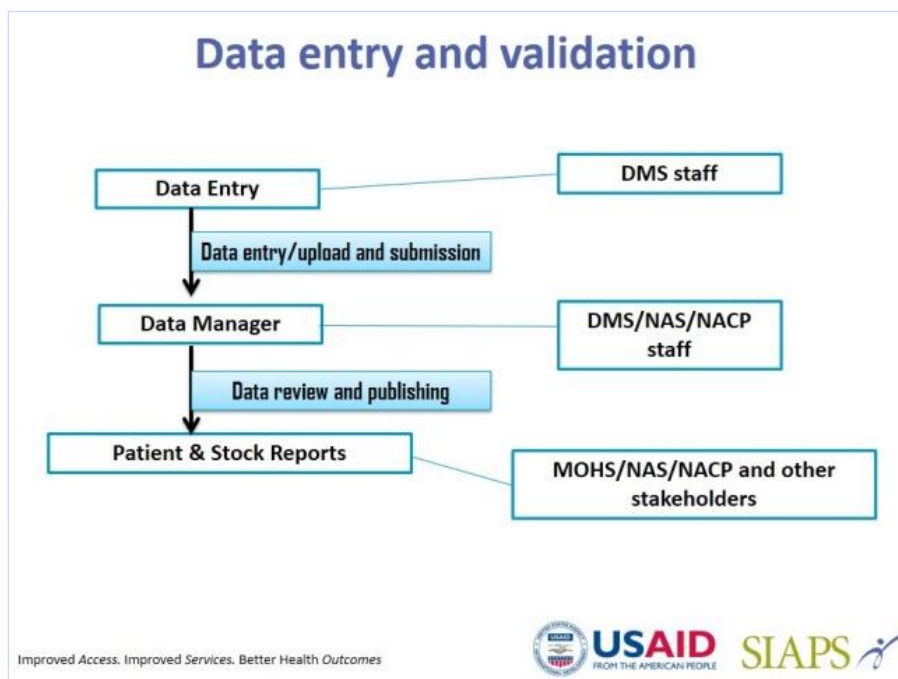
The dashboard is currently programmed to handle data on essential medicines and HIV-, malaria-, and TB-related products. A consultant engaged by SIAPS designed the architecture using basic national health system structures and data.

## IMPLEMENTATION

SIAPS conducted training for 58 central and district staff on the use of dashboard in March 2017. The goal of the training was to build the capacity of MOHS staff on the dashboard and to test the system from the user's perspective.



Figure 2. Staff attended dashboard training in Freetown in March 2017.



DMS: District medical stores  
 NAS: National HIV/AIDS Secretariat  
 NACP: National HIV/AIDS Control Program

Figure 3. Flow of data and reports.

Data will be entered by facility-level managers and will feed into a central repository. All reports can be summarized by national, region, and district and sorted by facility. Further, the dashboard will allow for download of an Excel template pre-filled with metadata, which staff can upload to a tablet for reporting from the field.

Originally programmed to handle data on essential medicines and HIV-, malaria-, and TB-related products, the dashboard data is also being expanded to include all monthly CRMS-related data. The CRMS uses a series of indicators to track and monitor factors that influence medicine availability and disease case management.

Table 1. CRMS data to be integrated into the dashboard

Morbidity	Number of visits by age and sex
	CRMS visit profile by age
	CRMS total visit profile
Stock	CRMS stock status of product group
	CRMS stock availability by type of facility for product group
	CRMS treatment versus quantity of ACTs dispensed
	Availability of ACTs
	CRMS commodity expiry for 14 high-level indicator products (ACTs, essential antibiotics), plus stock-out trends for each product
System	Average number of medicines per prescription
	Count of selected variables: expired, moved for disposal, disposed of
	Discrepancy between physical count versus stock card record
	FEFO (first expired, first out) practices
	Staff-level distribution—percentage of each designation

## NEXT STEPS

The dashboard is user-ready for information related to ART supply logistics and patient reporting, and data entry for CRMS and other areas will be finished by July. The end goal is for the dashboard to be used to visualize graphic data on health programs, patient uptake, and stock status in about 1,300 health facilities in all districts of the country.

The Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS) Program, implemented by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), received two years of funding in September 2015 from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to provide technical assistance for rebuilding and strengthening the post-Ebola pharmaceutical supply chain management system in Sierra Leone. The project covers health management teams, medical stores, hospitals, and peripheral health units in all 13 districts and involves the country's Directorate of Drugs and Medical Supplies (DDMS), which is responsible for coordinating and providing pharmaceutical services (including promoting rational medicine use) in Sierra Leone; the National Pharmaceutical Procurement Unit; and the Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone.