



Participants of the Strengthening Demand and Supply Planning Workshop, which was led by the DOH and supported by SIAPS

Development of Standard Operating Procedures to Strengthen Demand and Supply Planning of DOH Philippines

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BACKGROUND

An effective demand and supply planning mechanism is critical to ensuring a well-functioning pharmaceutical supply chain. The Department of Health (DOH) Philippines is the overall health authority and the lead agency in implementing the Philippine's Health Agenda 2016–2022. The DOH Philippines is responsible for managing the medicines and health commodities of its health programs and ensuring that all Filipinos have access to safe, quality, and affordable pharmaceuticals.

DOH offices involved in supply chain management (SCM) have their own initiatives to strengthen data collection, reporting, and allocation of commodities. Health programs, such as the Family Planning (FP) Program and the National Tuberculosis Program (NTP), have initiatives to monitor program implementation, such as program forms, guidelines and manuals, and specific tools such as the FP Hotline and the Integrated Tuberculosis Information System (ITIS). The Logistics Management Division (LMD) has initiated the roll-out of an improved version of the National Online Stock Inventory Reporting System (NOSIRS) to record and track commodities from the central warehouse to the peripheral levels. Pharmaceutical Division (PD) initiatives include having public health pharmacists visit facilities, monitoring DOH-procured medicines, and implementing a pharmaceutical management information system (PMIS).



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These efforts will strengthen demand and supply planning of DOH Philippines and enhance access of all Filipinos to safe, quality, and affordable products and services.

However, the following demand and supply planning issues still exist for the DOH:

- A lack of available data on consumption and inventory at the facility level
- The absence of regular and established quantification and planning processes at the central level
- Different processes for data collection, consolidation, and analysis and different dataset formats among health programs
- Delays in preparing allocation plans for distribution
- Multiple SCM initiatives that are duplicative and not harmonized
- A need to strengthen the DOH's demand and supply planning, standardize processes at the central level, identify common data sets and requirements for performing consumption-based quantification, and harmonize the DOH's SCM initiatives

APPROACH

The US Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS) program helps countries ensure access to safe, quality, and affordable pharmaceuticals and health commodities by using a systems strengthening approach that engages stakeholders and builds and strengthens existing health systems or establishes new ones.

SIAPS strengthens demand and supply planning in the Philippines by working with the DOH and all in-country stakeholders involved in defining standard processes, identifying datasets and requirements for performing consumption-based quantification, and initiating coordination among stakeholders to harmonize SCM initiatives. SIAPS ensures the involvement of all partners during the process. The overall goal is to promote stewardship for the DOH to enable continuous and sustained progress.

INTERVENTION

To begin the assistance, SIAPS conducted a desk review of previous assessments and of DOH internal policies on SCM. Next, SIAPS helped coordinate consultations with DOH offices that are involved in demand and supply planning. The offices consulted during the activity are under various clusters of the DOH, including the Office for Administration, Finance and Procurement; Office for Technical Services; and Office for Policy and Health Systems. These are the clusters involved in performing demand and supply planning and creating and processing the annual procurement plan (APP) and allocation plans for DOH commodities. Key informant interviews were conducted to further explore and validate SCM activities and challenges. The offices involved during the consultations were:

- FP Program
- Population Commission
- NTP
- PD
- LMD
- Regional Office 3 representatives

Most participants were technical staff and supply officers involved in managing the supply chain at the central level and public health pharmacists and supply officers from the Regional Office 3.

RESULTS

As a result of the support, SIAPS created standard processes to systematize data collection, consolidation, and analysis for the DOH's FP Program, NTP, and PD commodities, which together are the majority of those managed by the LMD at DOH-owned warehouses. The standard operating procedures (SOPs) were selected to initiate the streamlining process for the different offices involved. Recommendations from stakeholders and consultation workshops were used to draft the demand and supply planning SOPs. Figure 1 shows the information flow recommended for the proposed processes.

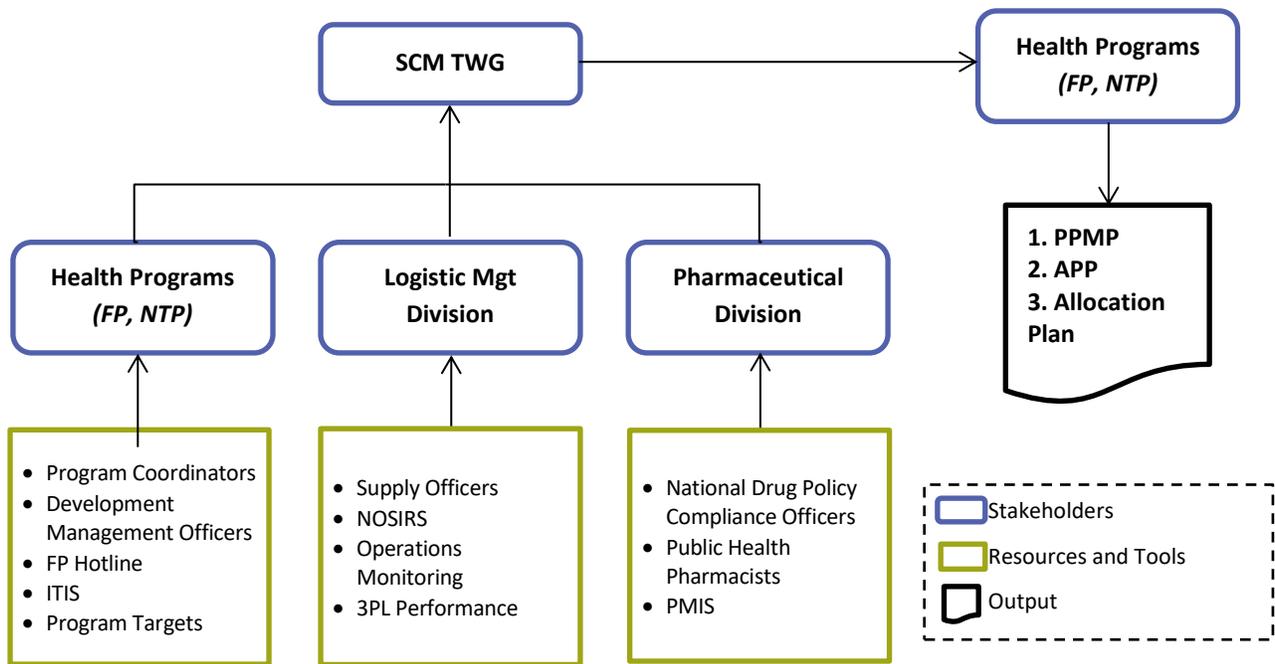


Figure 1. Information flow for DOH demand and supply planning

To support the standardization of demand and supply planning processes, SIAPS assisted the DOH in defining the standard data to be collected to perform consumption-based quantification and the sources of these data. This is to ensure that information collected at different points and offices within the supply chain are available for sharing and are used by the DOH as a whole. Finally, the assistance aimed to initiate discussion among offices regarding the activities each office is performing to encourage collaboration in strengthening the DOH supply chain. Recommendations on how to harmonize these efforts were documented.

THE WAY FORWARD

The adoption of the selected SOPs will be an important prerequisite to performing consumption-based quantification; systematizing data collection, consolidation, and analysis; and harmonizing SCM initiatives. Continuing discussions should be held to initiate a pilot implementation and finalize these processes, and a policy supporting these processes should be created. DOH management support will be critical to sustain these initiatives and expand them to other DOH commodities. These efforts will strengthen demand and supply planning of DOH Philippines and enhance access of all Filipinos to safe, quality, and affordable products and services.

ABOUT SIAPS | The Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS) program works to assure access to quality pharmaceutical products and effective pharmaceutical services through systems-strengthening approaches to achieve positive and lasting health outcomes. SIAPS is funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and is implemented by Management Sciences for Health.

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