

SCMS Supply Lines August 2007

Ethiopia regional quantification training helps participants plan for treatment scale-up success

SCMS supports HIV/AIDS programs in 15 countries to ensure a continuous supply of commodities to meet the need for testing, care and treatment. Key to our approach is performing national quantifications, including 24-month rolling forecasts and supply plans for each country. In May, SCMS staff from Botswana, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Namibia, Uganda and Zambia attended a two-week training in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to build their capacity in forecasting and supply planning and acquire skills to support their role in the demand planning process. Local counterparts from the Ethiopia Ministry of Health, the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT and RPM Plus also participated.

Training focused on quantification tools, the fundamentals of demand planning, and SCMS's order fulfillment lifecycle. Participants gained proficiency in Quantimed and PipeLine computer programs and forecasting methodologies to quantify demand for antiretrovirals and generate a supply plan. One participant commented that they had never done a quantification of antiretrovirals (ARVs)

before the training; "I started from scratch. Now I feel I can do it myself."



Participants at the quantification training in Ethiopia discuss antiretroviral requirements

Another participant said, "The training has been an eye-opener for me...and will help me change the quantification in my country." Field staff can now transfer these skills to local counterparts in their respective countries and establish a country-level technical team responsible for reviewing and updating forecasts and supply plans to meet each country's needs for ARVs, HIV rapid test kits, laboratory supplies and opportunistic infection drugs.

The benefits of effective forecasting and supply planning are many, including:

- The risk of stockouts and overstocks is greatly reduced
- By developing long-term contracts with suppliers, buyers can lower the cost of medicines and supplies
- Governments and donors can better coordinate who will pay for what and when
- Pharmaceutical companies can plan future production
- Those seeking donations of drugs can better coordinate with donors

SCMS Project Team

Future workshops are planned over the next two months in Guyana, Nigeria, Tanzania and Vietnam.

Coordination and quick turnaround avert potential stockout in Mozambique

SCMS was able to fulfill an emergency order for a lifesaving triple fixed-dose combination antiretroviral to alleviate a stockout in Mozambique. In late May, Mozambique’s Ministry of Health approached SCMS regarding a severe shortfall of the essential medicine due to delays on a direct order from the supplier. SCMS was able to supply two months’ worth of the antiretroviral from strategic stock held in the SCMS regional distribution center in Kenya. The shipments arrived smoothly over the last two weeks of June. The government of Mozambique expedited pre-clearance procedures for the shipments, which helped facilitate the quick turnaround of the order.

Dimitri Peffer, a Health Sector Specialist at USAID/Mozambique praised the quick action to respond to the stockout. “It was reassuring to know that SCMS was taking immediate first steps to speed up deliveries and free up a significant quantity of the drug from the regional distribution center in Nairobi” he said.



Staff at Mozambique’s central warehouse pack antiretrovirals for distribution to health clinics

Meetings of key stakeholders in Zambia result in enhanced collaboration to save lives

Collaboration and communication with in-country partners is critical to ensure a smooth flow of essential medicines and commodities to support HIV/AIDS programs. In May, representatives from the Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network and SCMS convened a series of productive meetings in Zambia between the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Christian Health Association of Zambia (CHAZ) to facilitate an open dialogue and to address supply chain coordination between CHAZ and the MOH.

The result of the meetings was an agreement that will lead to enhanced reporting, better information sharing on procurement using Global Fund monies, and a streamlined supply system to increase efficiency. This will integrate CHAZ into the MOH’s national supply of HIV/AIDS drugs and commodities, ultimately benefiting the people receiving the medicines.

The meetings also helped to remove barriers so that Round 4 Global Fund grants could be disbursed to Principal Recipients MOH and CHAZ. CHAZ is a 37-year old organization that plays an important role in the provision of pharmaceuticals to its members—faith-based hospitals and clinics. CHAZ will in turn distribute the Global Fund grant monies to other faith-based organizations in Zambia with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria programs, saving countless lives.

Information sharing and collaboration at the HIV/AIDS Implementers' Meeting

The annual HIV/AIDS Implementers' Meeting is an important knowledge sharing and networking event for organizations worldwide. This year, more than 2,000 people attended the meeting in Kigali, Rwanda from June 16-19. SCMS staff delivered three oral presentations and two poster presentations in the areas of donor collaboration, procurement and laboratory capabilities improvement.



CAMERWA explains to donors recent improvements made to improve storage of essential medicines at its

HIV/AIDS Advisor, said, “I found the site visit incredibly useful and carried away several ‘next steps’ for us to take on board here in Guyana.”

Prior to the Implementers' meeting, SCMS hosted a field visit with RPM Plus to showcase successful collaboration with CAMERWA, Rwanda's national essential medicines procurement, storage and distribution organization. CAMERWA led delegates from donor organizations and the Ministry of Health on a tour of its main warehouse which stores all antiretrovirals for the country in addition to other health commodities. Delegates were then taken to nearby Ruhango District where they met with the Mayor and saw firsthand how medicines are distributed from district hospital pharmacies to health centers for prescription to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Julia Roberts, the USAID/Guyana

Donors hold joint session on coordinated antiretroviral procurement

Nearly 100 people attended a one-day joint session focused on coordinating antiretroviral procurement—hosted by the World Bank, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the US government—prior to the HIV/AIDS Implementers' meeting in Rwanda. Last year, these donors initiated a working group to ensure a continuous supply of antiretrovirals, with an initial focus on six countries: Ethiopia, Guyana, Haiti, Mozambique, Rwanda and Vietnam. SCMS serves as the technical secretariat. At the joint session, SCMS staff members gave a presentation that highlighted the coordinated procurement initiative's progress to date and lessons learned. The presentation also included a cost analysis with examples of how coordinating procurement can result in lower ARV prices and other cost savings.

The presentations included the key elements of coordinated procurement:

- country and donor commitment
- leadership and management
- forecasting
- supply planning
- funding allocation

- regular updating

The end result of effective coordinated procurement is a system that documents all funding commitments and prevents gaps or duplication in antiretroviral procurement.