

Afya Ugavi News

Strengthening Supply Chain for Improved Health Outcomes

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PEPFAR
U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



U.S. President's Malaria Initiative

As the pandemic evolves, we are reminded of the need for strong health information systems that collect and utilize quality and timely data that identifies gaps and informs decision-making. USAID through Afya Ugavi has been working with the Ministry of Health to assess the current state of the country's national supply chain information system and provide the necessary interventions to improve the availability, quality and use of data to drive policy decisions, investments and improvements in service delivery.

In our resource constrained public health sector, these initiatives as you will see have been instrumental in informing the government, and implementing partners on key interventions to improve systems and processes which could mean the difference between health facilities receiving the life-saving commodities they need or coming up short.

This issue of the newsletter serves as a window into the activities that Afya Ugavi conducted over the last quarter to improve supply chain and commodity management by improving the availability of data to improve the health outcomes of the country.

I hope that you find our e-newsletter an interesting read. We also invite you to share your news with us (MKamau@ghsc-psm.org) for future issues of the newsletter!



JAYNE WAWERU
CHIEF OF PARTY, AFYA UGAVI



"Participants from Vihiga & Kakamega counties during the dissemination meeting for the EMMS Reporting tool (MoH 647) and COVID-19 reporting tools on KHIS.

DATA VISIBILITY FOR MATERNAL AND NEONATAL HEALTH OUTCOMES - THE HPT TRACER REGISTER MOH 647

A variety of tools are critical in the supply chain process to ensure that comprehensive and coherent data is available for selection, quantification, procurement and distribution to improve availability and accessibility of health products and technologies (HPTs).



The MOH 647 HPT Facility Tracer

In Kenya, Essential Medicines and Medical Supplies (EMMS), has had limited support and data visibility making it extremely difficult when it comes to planning for these commodities. Yet EMMS take up a huge chunk of patient drug needs at the facilities, as well as supporting the basic operational provisions enabled by the availability of medical supplies in form of the non-pharmaceuticals.

While significant investments have been made in the supply chain process for program commodities in specific preventative and curative disease areas including Malaria, HIV, TB and Family planning, making data available for decision making in critical processes such as quantification and pipeline monitoring, EMMS has had limited support in the area of data visibility.

It is against this background that USAID Afya Ugavi supported the Ministry of Health through Department of Health Products and Technologies (DHPT)

to develop a tool for data collection and reporting with defined logistical data with defined logistical data elements and user roles. The MOH 647 lists 61 key tracer HPTs covering medicines (22), medical supplies (23), medical laboratory (diagnostics) (14) and radiology products (2) which facilities are expected to report on the status of HPTs every month. Data collected will then feed into the Kenya Health Information Systems (KHIS) which is the primary reporting platform for the country that currently hosts all other program commodities.

The use of health information systems and data for decision making is one of the top priority areas that the USAID's Afya Ugavi Activity seeks to support across the supply chain ecosystem at the county and national level. Reliable, accurate and timely information of commodity usage is crucial for planning and managing health commodities by helping to identify gaps needing interventions to improve quality of care and availability of health commodities at the health facilities.

"We did not have a tool available to report on EMMS that fit our needs. In addition, it was also not readily available to us as we did not have the funds to regularly photocopy the forms and as a result, we did not submit any reports on EMMS stock status," said Molly Akinyi, Pharmacist Bondo, Siaya County.



The HPT tracer register MOH 647 is a key tool designed to effectively promote access to EMMS and optimize patient outcomes as desired under the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) initiative. The tool is also an important component towards fulfillment of the Maternal and Newborn health implementation plan. It will seek to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality, by facilitating the data collection of key maternal and child health (MCH) health products and technologies (HPTs) such as Oxytocin and Chlorhexidine gel for cord care. The ability to monitor stock levels of these and other key MCH HPTs will go a long way to ensuring availability of these commodities at health facilities and improve expected health outcomes.

The MOH 647 will enable the county pharmacist to interrogate the health facility data received from sub counties for decision making such as redistribution, resupply and expiry management. The tool will also help to rationalize the orders before forwarding to Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA) and implement relevant actions to address any existing gaps.

The Activity printed out 6,000 reporting registers to kick start the process of reporting for EMMS across the country. The tool will be distributed across all health facilities in the country. The Activity will support the DHPT to conduct sensitization to health workers.

We are also working in collaboration with HealthIT on the development of dashboards for all the program commodities and the timely inclusion of EMMS to this family of health products will reap dividends for the Ministry of Health.

Dr. Kurgat, Kakamega County Pharmacovigilance Pharmacist echoed his gratitude to Afya Ugavi for the assistance provided in making this tool available. “We now have enough supply of the tool to last us one year which is in triplicate form which now means we have copies both at the facility and at the county level. This will help keep us accountable, and I am now assured of 100% on-time reporting” he said



From left to right: Mercy Gatwiri Laboratory Coordinator; Doreen Kendi, Malaria Coordinator; Johnson Muthami, Sub County Pharmacist; James Kaibei, Nurse. Kajuki Health center in Tharaka Nithi county.

Mobile Technology for Data Collection to Improve the Supportive Supervision Process

Commodity managers, (County and Sub County Pharmacists) in Afya Ugavi's focus counties will now be able to effectively collect and report data, and access commodity information dashboards for informed decision making thanks to a donation of mobile device tablets by USAID's Afya Ugavi Activity.

Provision of these tablets will allow health workers to report and explore data in meaningful ways and leverage their time and effort towards effective service delivery. The tablets, which come pre-installed with data collection applications, will allow designated health workers to collect and report data for routine and non-routine use. They will also key in data into the Kenya Health Information System (KHIS) and run analysis of the data to visualize what stock health facilities are holding, identify those that are overstocked, understocked and stocked out, and enable commodity supply rationalization to be done. In addition, the tablets will be a channel through which online learning content will be delivered and ease participation in online meetings, nowadays popular with the advent of COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to the desk based roles, these tablets will also be used by the staff to capture data during the supportive supervision exercises, utilizing the mobile device based supportive supervision application developed by USAID's Afya Ugavi in collaboration with the MoH's DHPT.



Joseph Warero, LMIS Advisor Afya Ugavi gives a tutorial on the use of the mobile device based supportive supervision tool

This is an improvement from the previous process where the data was being collected and reported using manual checklists. Collection, aggregation and analysis capabilities provided through this mobile application will enable the staff to quickly have HPT information at their fingertips, track performance across health facilities, and improve overall visibility and accountability of the HPTs.

"We really appreciate the support that we have received from Afya Ugavi. These tablets will go a long way in helping us capture data that we will require for the smooth running of our facilities," said Dr Magdalene Ongas, County Pharmacist Homabay County. "With this system that is linked to the national KHIS, we will have end-to-end visibility of the health products and technologies that we will require" she added.

The handing over of the 72 tablets was conducted during the EMMS data reporting & visibility sensitization workshop in Kisumu. This is consistent with USAID's Afya Ugavi supply chain related support in various areas including the critical area of end to end visibility of data.

Increasing access, availability and affordability of Health Products and Technologies through Local Manufacturing: Kitui Pharmaceutical Industries

BY DAN MENGE

The COVID 19 outbreak led to an increased demand for sanitizers, antiseptics, and detergents in the country leading to increased prices and stock outs at the national level store. This inspired Kitui county under the leadership of the Governor and the County Health department to look for local solutions to fulfill this demand.

Afya Ugavi supported the Kitui Division of Health Products and Technologies (DHPT) processes by providing technical expertise in setting up of the plant which is currently attached to the County Referral Hospital. The production initially started with manufacture of hand sanitizers but later expanded to currently eight different products categorized as non-pharmaceuticals. They include antiseptic disinfectant solution, antibacterial hand wash, chlorine-based bleach, hand sanitizers, methylated spirit, oxygen-based bleach, formalin, and fumigant.

Currently, these commodities consume approximately \$600,000 of the county's annual health budget. A cost benefit analysis carried out showed that purchase of materials and equipment, alongside staffing and overhead costs would cost an estimated \$220,000 which significantly demonstrates the economic value of the project.

Afya Ugavi has supported Kitui Pharma Industries through the HPT division by assisting in quantification for commodity requirements for all facilities enabling us to effectively plan for order fulfillment for the eight products well in advance –Dr Hezekiah Abuga, Kitui Pharmaceutical Industries Production Manager



Dr. Hezekiah Abuga with Daniel Menge, Afya Ugavi at the Kitui Pharmaceutical Industries

SUCSESSES

Since the launch of the manufacturing plant, they have been able to manufacture and supply 14,000 liters of hand sanitizers, 26,000 liters of antibacterial hand wash and 28,000 liters of bleach among others to hospitals, learning institutions and other government entities within and outside Kitui. These products are of the highest standard of quality and are available at affordable prices even for the public.

In addition, the human resource capacity has rapidly grown from three staff, to fourteen full time staff that is headed by a production manager who is a senior pharmacist and a member of the county Health Products and Technologies division.

The others include a quality assurance officer, supply chain manager, accountant, administrator, site engineer, clerical staff and seven casuals. More staff are expected to be recruited to accommodate the rapid expansion of the industry.

FUTURE

There are plans to make it a semi-autonomous entity in the county by February 2021 which will ensure sustained funding from the county and partners. There are plans to make it a semi-autonomous entity in the county by February 2021 which will ensure sustained funding from the county and partners.

At the same time, there are plans to diversify and increase the number of products. According to the production manager, their vision is to become a mega supplier for HPTs to other counties and entities across the country. This will increase its revenue collection and that of the county that will spur economic growth through creation of employment opportunities, increasing access and affordability to HPTs in line with Kenya's vision 2030, accelerating economic development through local manufacturing and the Big 4 agenda.