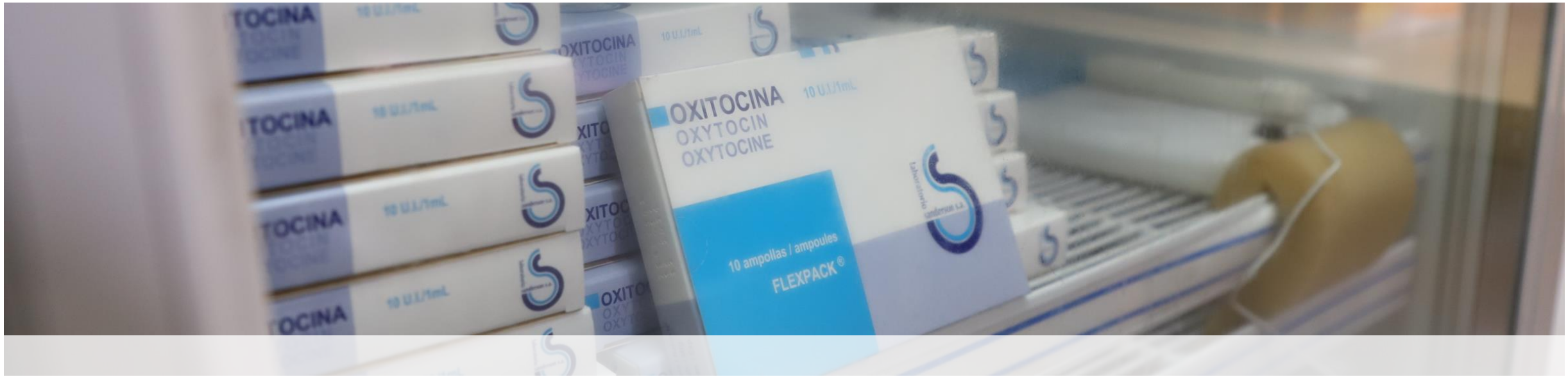


Enhancing Oxytocin Availability and Storage Conditions for Preventing Postpartum Hemorrhage in Nigeria

Presented by
Olukemi Sofa, MNCH Director, GHSC-PSM in Nigeria

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Outline

- Background
- Methodology
- Problem Statement
- Data Utilization
- Data/opportunities
- Solutions
- Challenges
- Timeline/Next Steps
- Conclusion

Background

- The Government of Nigeria (GON) partners with the USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program-Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) project to survey health facilities and assess their management of key maternal health commodities.

- To supplement the country's standard data collection, End Use Verification (EUV) surveys are conducted in Nigeria to evaluate the availability and storage conditions of oxytocin, a vital medicine for preventing and treating postpartum hemorrhage (PPH).

- The survey helps identify gaps, enables on-the-spot training, and informs improvement activities.

Methodology

- Comparative EUV data collected in February and August 2023 in health facilities in Bauchi, Ebonyi, Kebbi, Sokoto, and the Federal Capital Territory.
- The process began with a three-day training for data collectors to equip them with understanding of the survey instrument and standardized data collection procedures.
- Surveyed 822 health facilities across 62 local government areas (LGAs) in the target states.
- Three-stage sampling approach:
  1. Setting goals for precision
  2. Selecting LGAs based on the number of facilities
  3. **Random selection of facilities within these LGAs**

Problem Statement

- Inadequate cold storage equipment/infrastructure at service delivery points, particularly at the primary health care level
- Low awareness of oxytocin storage conditions of 2-8°C
- Inadequate or no power supply to keep oxytocin within the recommended storage temperature range of 2-8°C
- Substandard products
- Misleading labeling of products (store at ≥ 25°C)
- No significant baseline studies for the availability of cold storage equipment and integration of oxytocin in Nigeria

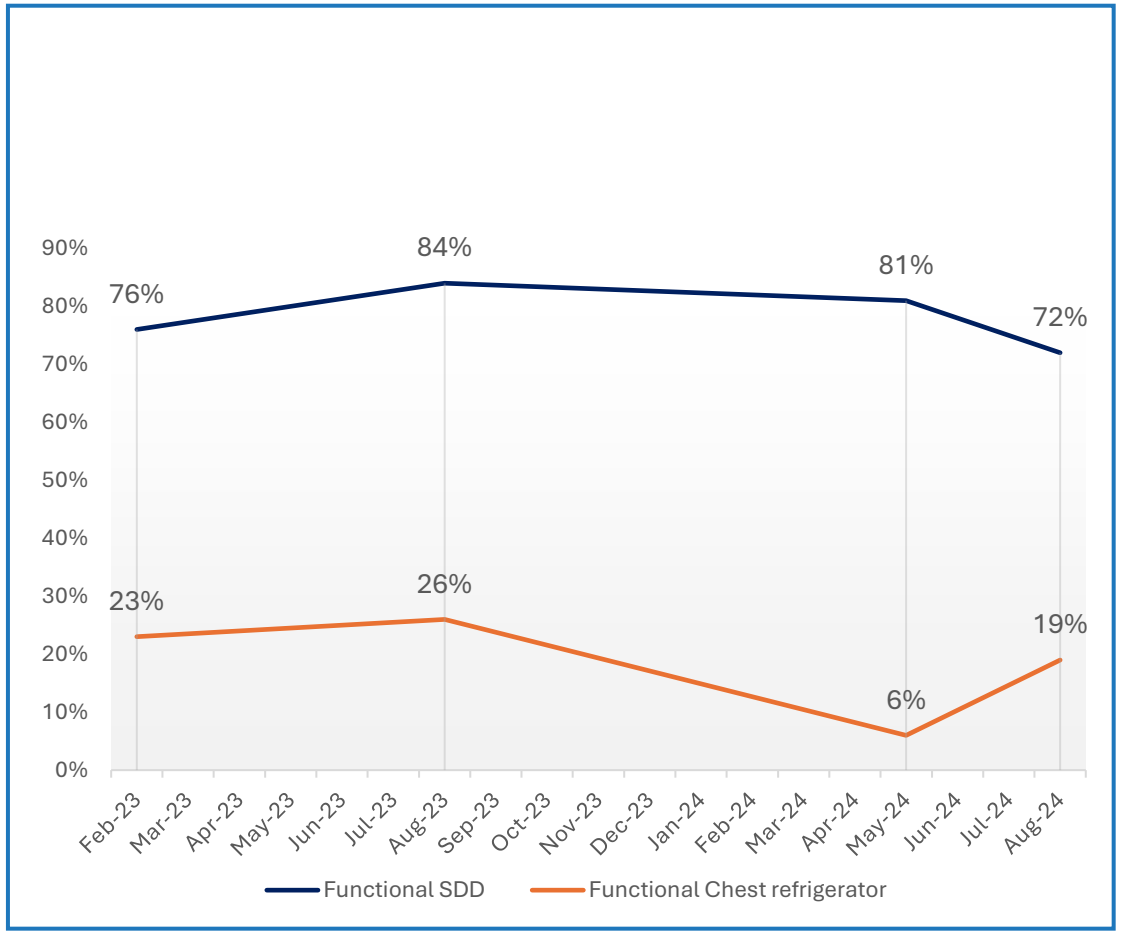
Data Utilization

Data collected from the EUV was used to assess the following:

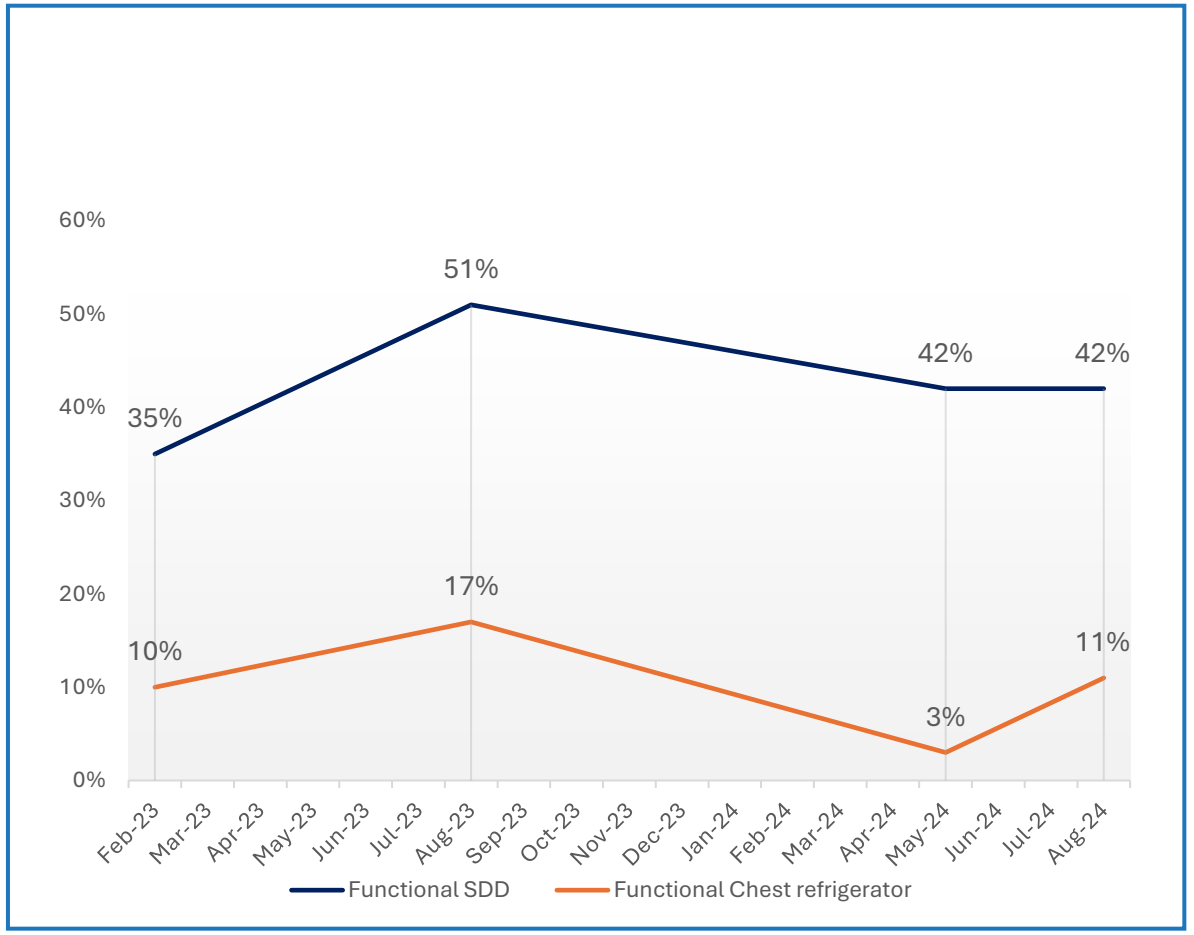
- Storage of oxytocin within adequate temperature of 2-8°C to protect the integrity and sensitivity of the product
- Availability of solar direct drive (SDD) refrigerators
- Availability of other cold storage infrastructure and devices to monitor cold storage
- Integration of oxytocin within the SDD and other cold chain equipment
- Challenges with the safe integration of oxytocin within the SDD
- Capacity of the health workers on storage conditions for oxytocin

Data: Cold Chain Equipment Availability and Extent for Use in Oxytocin Storage

Availability of Cold Storage Equipment



Storage of Oxytocin In Cold Temperatures of 2-8°C



Data analysis and opportunities

- Facilities showed increase in cold storage around time of educational activities with key stakeholders and EUV supportive supervision visits, though this was not maintained without commitment from gov
- While SDD storage availability varied given random sampling, it shows that most facilities (70-80%) have SDD available
- While not consistent, we have seen upward trends in cold storage during survey period
- Data shows gaps on which to focus efforts
- A concerted effort to capitalize on the availability of cold storage and gov willingness to support vaccine cold chain integration for oxytocin could have major impact

Solutions

In collaboration with GON, GHSC-PSM has used the EUV structure and data to begin implementing the following strategies:

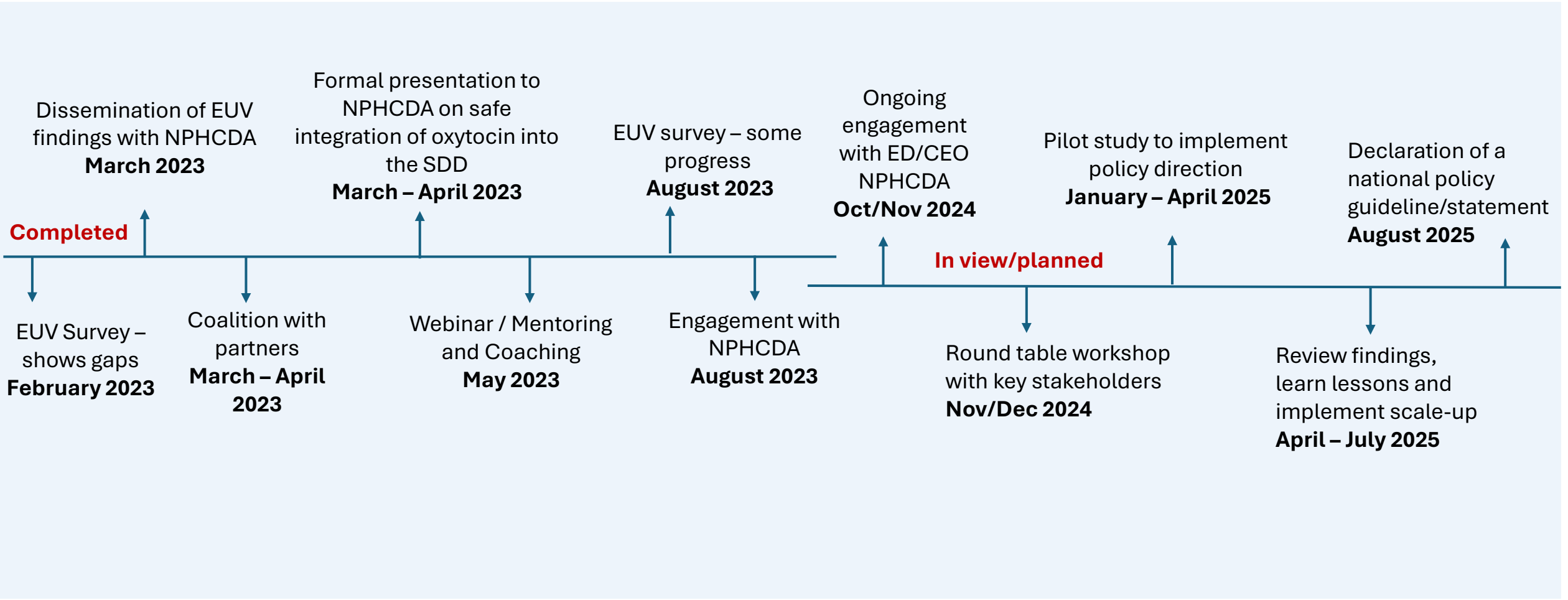
Capacity Building: Hosting webinars, training programs, and on-the-job coaching for health workers to improve proper handling and storage of oxytocin.

Stakeholder Engagement and Advocacy: Utilizing survey data to raise awareness among government officials, healthcare leaders, and other relevant stakeholders about the critical need for improved oxytocin storage conditions across service delivery points and the entire supply chain.

Challenges

- Some vaccine stakeholders contradict guidance and push that other commodities requiring cold storage not to be stored within the SDD refrigerators.
- Capacity gap by health workers to decipher between oxytocin and vaccine diluent.
- Co-storage with other medicines may pose a risk of administration (from previous countries' experiences).

Timeline


Completed
Dissemination of EUV findings with NPHCDA
March 2023
EUV Survey – shows gaps
February 2023
Coalition with partners
March – April 2023
Formal presentation to NPHCDA on safe integration of oxytocin into the SDD
March – April 2023
Webinar / Mentoring and Coaching
May 2023
EUV survey – some progress
August 2023
Engagement with NPHCDA
August 2023
In view/planned
Ongoing engagement with ED/CEO NPHCDA
Oct/Nov 2024
Round table workshop with key stakeholders
Nov/Dec 2024
Pilot study to implement policy direction
January – April 2025
Review findings, learn lessons and implement scale-up
April – July 2025
Declaration of a national policy guideline/statement
August 2025

Next Steps and Recommendations

- **Policy Development:** Develop a formal policy statement or instrument further facilitating the integration of oxytocin into the national cold chain network and a comprehensive guideline outlining the proper procedures for integration.
- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Engage NPHCDA to convene a larger stakeholders forum to explore safe and effective methods for co-storing vaccines and oxytocin within the national cold chain network.
- **Quality Assurance:** Establish a coordinated system involving manufacturers, drug management agencies, and supply chain actors to guarantee that only high-quality oxytocin is imported or produced domestically.
- **Sustainable Funding:** Develop a long-term financing strategy for maintaining and operating the cold chain infrastructure for oxytocin storage.

Conclusion

This initiative offers a potential blueprint for improving maternal health outcomes in resource-constrained settings and sheds light on the challenges that come with improving quality conditions for oxytocin.

Thank You

Download this presentation and view others by GHSC-PSM here >

The USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program-Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) project is funded under USAID Contract No. AID-OAA-I-15-0004. GHSC-PSM connects technical solutions and proven commercial processes to promote efficient and cost-effective health supply chains worldwide. Our goal is to ensure uninterrupted supplies of health commodities to save lives and create a healthier future for all. The project purchases and delivers health commodities, offers comprehensive technical assistance to strengthen national supply chain systems, and provides global supply chain leadership. For more information, visit ghsupplychain.org.