

**UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities For Women and Children:  
Diarrhea and Pneumonia Working Group – Second Quarter Meeting**

**New York, NY  
June 19-20, 2013**

---

***Trip Report***

**Lawrence Evans III, Ph.D., MPH  
Global Services and Standards Manager**

**Promoting the Quality of Medicines**  
Implemented by U.S. Pharmacopeia  
12601 Twinbrook Parkway  
Rockville, MD 20852 USA  
Tel: (+1-301-230-3275)  
Email: [le@usp.org](mailto:le@usp.org)

**Cooperative Agreement # GHS-A-00-09-00003-00**  
**Funding Source:** USAID Core Maternal and Child Health  
**Grantee:** Promoting the Quality of Medicines (PQM) Program  
**Author Name:** Lawrence Evans III  
**Language:** English  
**Date of Publication:** August 16, 2013



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



This report is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), under Cooperative Agreement No. GHS-A-00-09-00003-00. The contents are the responsibility of the Promoting the Quality of Medicines Program, implemented by the U. S. Pharmacopeia, and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

**PROMOTING THE QUALITY OF MEDICINES**

## **Executive Summary**

Dr. Lawrence Evans III participated in the second-quarter meeting of the United Nations (UN) Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children: Diarrhea and Pneumonia Working Group in New York City. The meeting focused on the planning and implementation of global activities related to commodities for diarrhea and pneumonia. Dr. Evans also met with Mr. Jason Houdek of Clinton Health Access Initiative to discuss the visit PQM staff made to assess zinc manufacturers in Nigeria who had responded to the “Invitation for Expressions of Interest” issued by the World Health Organization Prequalification Programme.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<a href="#"><u>Acknowledgements</u></a> .....	4
<a href="#"><u>Acronyms</u></a> .....	5
<a href="#"><u>Background</u></a> .....	6
<a href="#"><u>Purpose of the Visit</u></a> .....	6
<a href="#"><u>Overview of Meeting</u></a> .....	6

### **About PQM**

The Promoting the Quality of Medicines (PQM) program, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is the successor of the Drug Quality and Information (DQI) program implemented by the United States Pharmacopeia (USP). PQM is USAID’s response to the growing challenge posed by the proliferation of counterfeit and substandard medicines. By providing technical assistance to developing countries, PQM helps build local capacity in medicine quality assurance systems, increase the supply of quality medicines to priority USAID health programs, and ensure the quality and safety of medicines globally. This document does not necessarily represent the views or opinions of USAID or the United States Government. It may be reproduced if credit is given to PQM and USP.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would like to thank:

- Mr. Anthony Boni, Dr. Maria Miralles, and Ms. Lisa Ludeman at USAID/Washington for their support and guidance
- PQM administrative staff and editors for assisting with logistics and editing this report

## ACRONYMS

CHAI	Clinton Health Access Initiative
DQI	Drug Quality and Information Program
ERP	Expert Review Panel
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
PQM	Promoting the Quality of Medicines program
RMNCH	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
SCT	Strategy and Coordination Team
TSHIP	Targeted States High Impact Project
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNCoLSC	United Nations Commission on Life-Saving Commodities
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USP	U. S. Pharmacopeial Convention
WG	Working Group

## **Background**

Since 2004, the Promoting the Quality of Medicines (PQM) program and its predecessor, the Drug Quality and Information (DQI) program, both implemented by the U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention (USP), have been involved in the efforts of the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to roll out zinc as a supplement to oral rehydration salts (ORS) in the management of acute diarrhea, especially for those under the age of five. In 2012, the UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities was established to improve affordable access to medicines and supplies essential to the health and welfare of women, newborns, and children under the age of five. The Commission has recommended 13 essential health commodities that they consider will have the greatest impact on achieving health-related UN Millennium. In support of the UN Commission, PQM will provide technical assistance to increase the supply of quality medicines, including zinc and amoxicillin.

## **Purpose of Visit**

Dr. Lawrence Evans III traveled to New York to participate in the UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children: Diarrhea & Pneumonia Working Group – 2nd Quarter Meeting.

## **Source of Funding**

This activity was funded by USAID through the Core Maternal and Child Health program.

## **Overview of Meeting**

### **Objectives**

- Share lessons learned from planning and initial implementation efforts in country
- Identify resource mobilization needs and priorities for next quarter
- Discuss plan for implementing guidance from Subgroups and areas for further support
- Agree on core set of indicators for diarrhea and pneumonia treatment

### **Key Decisions**

- As a minimum requirement for participation, Lead Partners are asked to attend each meeting to report on country progress and ensure communication of key outputs to Lead Partner country counterparts, so that the information can be shared with their Ministries of Health and other country stakeholders.
- To help identify resource and capacity gaps, all Lead Partners are asked to share a completed partner mapping template at the 3rd Quarter meeting, outlining which partners are implementing key work stream activities at a sub-national level.
- The set of core indicators for diarrhea and pneumonia treatment, developed by the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Subgroup, was finalized and will be used to track progress across the 10 Working Group countries.
- An appropriate indicator for pneumonia treatment coverage was identified as a high priority.

### **Highlights**

#### **UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities (UNCoLSC)**

- Pascal Bijleveld of UNICEF presented on the global Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (RMNCH) architecture and UNCoSLC progress.

- New Strategy and Coordination Team will support: (1) UNCoLSC country engagement; and, (2) new governance/coordination for the RMNCH Trust Fund, which will be housed under United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

### Monitoring & Evaluation

- Felix Lam of Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) presented a draft of core indicators for diarrhea and pneumonia.
- Draft core indicators were organized into two lists: (1) indicators to be tracked by 10 countries to assess overall progress; and, (2) indicators requiring further discussion.
- Under specific indicators, the “Registration” indicator referring to medicines registration will be changed to “at least one product registered.”

### Amoxicillin Subgroup

- Francisco Blanco of UNICEF-Supply Division presented on the current status of the expert review panel (ERP) applications for amoxicillin dispersible tablets.
- A manufacturers meeting will be convened in September 2013 to help improve access to the 13 UNCoLSC activities.
- UNICEF-Supply Division expects to issue a second round of ERP applications.
- PQM (Lawrence Evans) was added to the Amoxicillin Subgroup.

### Nigeria Working Session

- Jason Houdek of CHAI presented an update on overall progress in Nigeria.
- A new pneumonia focal point in Nigeria will be funded by UNCoLSC and USAID and housed at the Targeted States High Impact Project (TSHIP).

### Informal meeting with Jason Houdek of CHAI

- Mr. Evans and Mr. Houdek discussed how UNICEF and PQM might coordinate the procurement inspection to simplify and expedite the approval process for Nigerian manufacturers and eliminate the need for multiple assessments.
- CHAI will support the scale-up of zinc/oral rehydration salts treatment over the next three years in Nigeria.
- Mr. Houdek provided background information on Nigerian manufacturers.