

BLC Facilitates the Ministry of Regional & Local Government, Housing & Rural Development Stakeholders to Own the Housing Sector 5-year Plan

The Building Local Capacity (BLC) project was recently commissioned by USAID to support Namibia's Ministry of Regional, Local Government, Housing and Rural Development (MRLGHRD) to mobilize the housing sector and facilitate the development of sector's plan aligned to the fourth National Development Plan (NDP4).

Under the NDP 4, the MRLGHRD is mandated to lead the housing sector to provide affordable housing to 60% of Namibians by 2017. Housing and living conditions are important social determinants of health.

Speaking at the official opening of the three-day workshop held on the 18th of March 2013, MRLGHRD Minister Major-General Charles Namoloh expressed his support, "I believe in your contributions and experience at this workshop and patiently but eagerly await the results for which I pledge my full support to ensure they are successfully implemented". BLC facilitated the workshop which was attended by 150 stakeholders from both the public (75%) and private (25%) sectors. The stakeholders worked in small groups to discuss challenges facing the sector and suggest possible solutions to address them.

The groups were randomly selected to encourage cross-fertilisation of ideas and promote collaboration among the different sectors represented in the five thematic areas:

- ➔ Servicing land
- ➔ Housing technologies
- ➔ Enabling environment
- ➔ Land acquisition
- ➔ Financing housing

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Mr. Niilo Taapopi, CEO of the City of Windhoek, facilitating group work for the land acquisition thematic area. (Photo by BLC staff).

By the end of workshop, the housing sector emerged with a five-year plan and its annual execution plan. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the City of Windhoek, Mr. Niilo Taapopi applauded BLC facilitators for effectively engaging the participants to actively contribute to the workshop as a team. He remarked that despite limited time, the facilitators managed the time well to achieve the desired outcomes.

Contributed by Rachel Basirika (Capacity Building Advisor: BLC)

UPCOMING EVENTS (MAY - JUNE 2013)

- Quality improvement training for managers and data entry clerks at Windhoek Central and Katutura State Hospitals
- Support to NIPAM to finalise its business plan
- Provide technical assistance to MRLGHRD on its decentralisation mandate
- Facilitate NANASO to disseminate the civil society mapping and capacity assessment report
- Finalise the Global Fund/PEPFAR needs assessment report
- Training on Warehousing and Distribution SOPs for CMS Staff



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Namibia Baseline ART Adherence Survey Findings Disseminated at the Ministry of Health and Social Services

SIAPS technical staff co-facilitated the internal Ministerial dissemination of the findings of the Namibia Baseline ART Adherence Survey findings whose report was finalised in late 2012.

This was a crucial step towards achieving buy-in by senior Ministry officials. Some highlights of the survey are:

- The average percentage of days covered by ARVs for the reviewed period was 102.7%.
- 35.5% of ART patients who had been on ART for at least 180 days picked up their ARVs “on time” (up to three days after the appointment date).
- 70.1% of patients' visits in the six months reviewed were made before medicines supplied at the previous visit had been used up.
- The 12-month retention rate for patients who started ART between 1st June 2009 and 31st May 2010 was 65.8%.
- Patient's perception of improvement in their health status since start of ART and belonging to an ART support group were found to be factors affecting adherence to ART.



Ms. Shihepo (third from left), the MoHSS Director: Special Programs, provides feedback during the dissemination of the ART adherence survey findings. (Photo by SIAPS staff).

Patients' main reasons for missed ARV doses were forgetfulness (67%), lack of food and water (11%), unexpected events such as unplanned travel or working late (10%), alcohol misuse (8%) and ARV side effects (1%).

Some of the recommendations of the report include scaling-up implementation of the patient treatment literacy intervention and strengthening approaches for tracing of patients who are late for their medication pick-up appointments, are lost or lost to follow up.

The MoHSS ART program and implementing partners are engaged in ongoing discussions on the way forward with regard to further dissemination of

“This type of operational research (the Baseline Adherence Survey) is a positive step that should be encouraged for programmatic decision-making.” Ms E. Shihepo, Director: Special Programs at the dissemination of the findings to DSP management.

the survey findings and implementation of the recommendations included in the survey report.

Contributed by Victor Sumbi
(Senior Technical Advisor: SIAPS)

Implementing the e-TB Manager for Improved Treatment of Patients with Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis in Namibia

The Strengthening Pharmaceutical Systems (SPS) project and later SIAPS have, since August 2010, been providing technical support to the National TB and Leprosy Program (NTLP) in implementing the e-TB Manager, an electronic web based tool for managing pharmaceutical and patient care data for patients undergoing treatment for Drug Resistant TB (DR-TB).

The tool was introduced to Namibia on the request of the Ministry of Health and Social Services to SPS. Through the collaboration of SPS/SIAPS and the

KNCV Foundation in Namibia, the NTLP successfully completed the pilot phase of the implementation of the e-TB manager in February 2013. The lessons learnt from the pilot phase were shared and discussed with the NTLP and KNCV at a meeting in Okahandja country Hotel held between the 18th to the 20th of March 2013.

Arising from that meeting, SIAPS will be supporting the NTLP with the rollout of the tool cover nine other DR-TB treatment sites.

Contributed by
Chris Ntege (Senior Technical Advisor/SIAPS)

Enhancing the Regulation of Pharmaceuticals in Namibia

SIAPS-Namibia provided technical assistance to the Namibia Medicines Regulatory Council (NMRC) Registration and Inspection units, in improving data collection and capturing mechanisms for registration, inspection and licensing activities.

This will greatly enhance the units' ability to use the information gathered to generate management reports quickly, improve client feedback mechanisms and also support the post marketing surveillance (PMS) initiative which is aimed at assuring the availability and circulation of quality, safe and efficacious antiretroviral and other medicines in Namibia.

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Improving Data Quality at the Decentralised Public Sector Antiretroviral Therapy Sites

Availability of reliable data of assured quality is necessary for supporting evidence-based decisions for the management of Namibia's antiretroviral treatment program.

SIAPS provided technical support to the MoHSS Directorate of Special Programs (DSP) and the Division: Pharmaceutical Services to implement the first ever training on improving pharmacy ART data quality at decentralised ART sites in Namibia (ART Integrated Management of Adolescent and Adult Illness (IMAI) sites).

A total of 21 nurses, four nurse supervisors (Senior and Chief Health Program Administrators) and three Pharmacy Assistants drawn from Katima Mulilo, Rundu, Nankudu and Otjiwarongo health districts, were trained on the use of the Electronic Dispensing Tool (EDT) Mobile device to accurately capture patient and stock data as well as monitoring patient ART adherence levels at the IMAI sites.



Mr. Abraham Blom, Systems Administrator at Division: Pharmaceutical Services takes participants through one of the practical sessions during the EDT mobile training. (Photo by SIAPS staff).

Contributed by Victor Sumbi (Senior Technical Advisor/SIAPS)

Strengthening Supplier Performance Monitoring at the Central Medical Store

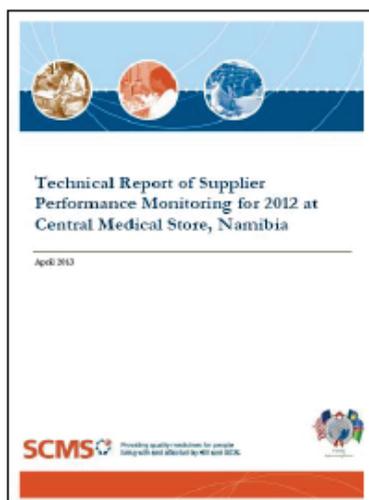
During March 2013, SCMS project provided technical assistance to the central medical store (CMS) procurement unit to analyse supplier performance using electronic data extracted from Syspro[®], the enterprise resource planning software used by CMS.

Transaction records of receipts for 580 purchase orders, comprising about 2,450 order lines of pharmaceuticals and related supplies procured by CMS from January to December 2012, were analysed to determine the following metrics: on-time delivery rate, partial shipments rate and percentage of items delivered with acceptable shelf-life.

Apart from these key performance indicators, the analysis also provided data on volume of orders to, and deliveries from, suppliers thus giving a picture of the amount of workload encountered by the procurement and distribution staff at CMS.

The findings of the analysis were presented to the CMS management in April 2013, providing for the first time the objective evidence base required to meaningfully engage suppliers in tackling the challenge of

poor supplier performance, which adversely impacts CMS service delivery to health facilities.



Contributed by:
Benjamin Ongeri (Senior Technical Advisor/SCMS)

Enhancing the Regulation of Pharmaceuticals (from pg. 2)

The data migrated included:

- List of pharmaceutical suppliers (wholesalers and distributors)
- Applications for and inspection reports of dispensing medical, veterinary and nursing practitioners, homeopaths, chiropractors and related health service providers
- Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) inspection sites and inspection information.
- Namibia pharmaceutical outlets information (pharmacies); Quality Surveillance Laboratory (QSL) analysis data and information
- Pharmaceutical product quality Post Marketing Surveillance (PMS) information

Contributed by Chris Ntege (Senior Technical Advisor/SIAPS)

EDITORIAL TEAM

The SIAPS/SCMS/BLC Namibia e-Newsletter is a bi-monthly newsletter that keeps you abreast of activities funded by the USAID and implemented by MSH Namibia.

Key focus areas are strengthening:

- Health Systems
- Capacity Building
- Human Resource Development

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Your contribution to this valuable communication medium would be highly appreciated and can be e-mailed to esagwa@msb.org

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