



MINISTRY OF HEALTH LAUNCHES eLMIS

eLMIS launches Zambia supply chain into the future

On February 20, 2014, at a ceremony at Medical Stores Limited (MSL) in Lusaka, the Honourable Dr. Joseph Kasonde, Zambia's Minister of Health, officially launched the electronic Logistics Management Information System (eLMIS), a revolutionary and cost-effective program that will transition the paper-based system of logistics data management to a computer-based system. The innovative tool, pioneered by the Government of the Republic of Zambia and the Government of the Republic of Tanzania, in partnership with USAID, the Supply Chain Management System (SCMS) and the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, promises to foster better, faster, and more accurate reporting of logistics data.

With more than 100 government officials and guests in attendance, the launch marked the start of a new era for public health supply chain in Zambia and Tanzania. During the ceremony, Hon. Dr. Joseph Kasonde emphasized the importance of this new innovative system that will better serve citizens across all of Zambia, commenting that, "Today, the MOH and MSL are reborn; the development of the eLMIS is a major leap forward in access to medicines."

The newly-launched system will increase efficiencies in requisitioning and supplying health commodities, improve commodity management and service delivery across any country. Vital to the development of eLMIS was identifying the appropriate technology in-country, such as open-source platforms, which will make eLMIS available to any country free of charge, and will enhance the system's global impact through a broad user base.

The eLMIS is web-based, allowing health workers throughout the country to easily access the platform while assisting patients. The system streamlines the documentation of transactions in stock control cards for all health commodities in the National Logistics Systems and also automates monthly LMIS reports for onward reporting to District Community Health Offices (DCHOs) and MSL. By digitizing logistics data, health workers are less likely to make an error while transposing data and calculating order quantities and can save time in compiling monthly reports. Less time compiling reports means health workers have more time to serve clients. The eLMIS also allows real-time access to consumption levels and



Honorable Dr Kasonde addresses the audience at the launch of the eLMIS

stock availability at the facility level, thus enabling district, provincial, and central-level supervisors to make informed decisions about the supply quantities needed for their patients.

Following a User Acceptance Testing (UAT) held in Lusaka in March and a Training of Trainers (TOT) held in Livingstone in early May, MOH and its partners will deploy eLMIS to 48 health facilities and provide staff with on-the-job training to enable them to use the software. Any findings from this small-scale deployment will be used to improve the system and guide preparations for the national roll-out of eLMIS to nearly 1,000 health facilities over four years.

also in the news...

WELCOMING NEW FACES AT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

There have been some significant staffing changes at the Ministry of Health with the appointment of a new Deputy Minister, Honourable Dr Chitalu Chilufya, a new Permanent Secretary, Dr. Davy Chikamata, and a new Director of Clinical Care and Diagnostic Services, Dr. Welani Chilengwe.

The Health Logistics Press sat down with all three doctors to get to know them better, and also to get their thoughts on supply chain management and what we can look forward to in 2014.



Dr Chitalu Chilufya, MP

Dr Chilufya has spent fifteen years in the health service, working all over Zambia, including Namwala, Monze and Chiengi. Although Dr Chilufya left the government briefly to work for an NGO supporting Zambia's health system, he returned to government to begin transforming the health sector according to the current administration's mandate to bring quality health services closer to all people. "We aim to address challenges in the public health system, to address the poor access to primary health services and the distances that people move to access health services."

Dr Chilufya credits the good work done in supply chain to an improvement in the availability of health commodities to date. "A few years ago, drug shortages were very common. But because of the work done in forecasting and quantification and other improvements in supply chain, we are overcoming the difficulties; it's uncommon to run out of essential drugs."

As the new Deputy Minister, Dr Chilufya would like to address the leadership in the health service by strengthening human resource at all levels – district, provincial and national.



Dr Davy Chikamata, MD, FRCOG

Dr Chikamata began his medical career in the early 1970s, working in internal medicine, general surgery and finally settling in obstetrics and gynecology. Dr Chikamata continued to study and practice obstetrics and gynecology at various university hospitals in the United Kingdom before he came back to Zambia to serve as chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Zambia. In 1988 he left the academic world to begin work in the development sector by working in an NGO and for the World Health Organisation for over nine years.

Dr Chikamata is a well-rounded medical professional in that he has undertaken a number of consultancies with various organizations, working on a range of disease areas including cancer.

Before taking up his post at MOH, Dr Chikamata served in the same position at the Ministry of Home Affairs, but being such an experienced medical practitioner, his expertise will serve the Ministry well.



Dr Welani Chilengwe (Maj)

Like his counterparts, Dr Chilengwe has spent the large part of his medical career in government service, though Dr Chilengwe, who retired from the army as a major, spent over ten years practicing medicine in the armed services. Dr Chilengwe, who took up his position as Director of Clinical Care and Diagnostic Services in December 2013, studied both abroad and in Zambia and has a specialty in surgery. As a doctor who has worked in many parts of the country, Dr Chilengwe understands the issues with access to health services and is passionate about ensuring equity of access. "How can we get the best services to all people? We have 650 health posts. How can these health posts have the commodities and services they require? And how can we account for every needle, syringe, bandage, tablet and bottle of syrup? We have to improve our data management."

Dr Chilengwe acknowledges that the significant amounts of funding from cooperating partners have greatly improved commodity acquisition and availability but says commodity security is not yet assured. A system such as the electronic Logistics Management Information System (eLMIS) will certainly help.

"The next step is to account for drugs at institutional level," says Dr Chilengwe.



DID YOU KNOW?

UPDATING HIV TEST KITS

Each HIV testing site requires its own Daily Activity Register and Internal Monthly Summary Report according to SOP of HIV Test Kit logistics systems. These two documents help track consumption and facilitate accurate compilation of R&Rs.

MEDICAL STORES LIMITED OPENS A NEW HUB IN CHIPATA

On 1st March, 2014, Medical Stores Limited (MSL) launched its second regional hub, located in Chipata. The Minister of Health, Honorable Dr. Joseph Kasonde, commissioned the MSL Chipata Regional Hub, which was built as part of the National Supply Chain Strategy for essential medicines and medical supplies. To commission the hub, Hon. Dr Kasonde was joined by District Commissioner (DC) of Eastern Province, Mr. Kalunga Zulu, Managing Director of MSL, Dr. Bonface Fundafunda, Permanent Secretary of Eastern Province, Dr. Chileshe Mulenga, several members of the MSL governing board and other key figures and community members.

The MSL Chipata Regional Hub comes at an important time for Eastern Province, which has struggled to maintain commodity security and availability within the province. "We are indeed delighted to be one of the first provinces in the country to have a Medical Stores Limited regional hub. We are pleased to see that [the] government is taking bold and positive steps to address the persistent shortages of medicines and medical supplies in our health facilities throughout our country," wrote Eastern Province Minister Hon. Malozo Sichone in a statement read at the launch event. The hub will serve 81 health facilities within Eastern province.

Chipata is the second operational MSL hub in Zambia, after the Choma MSL Regional Hub was opened in June 2013. The Choma and Chipata hubs are the first of six regional hubs that MSL plans to open in 2014. The next regional hub is under construction in Mongu in Western Province, and is scheduled to be launched later this year; other hubs are planned for Kitwe, Lusaka, and Kasama and seven minor hubs, or 'staging posts' are also planned for construction.



Chipata Hub in action

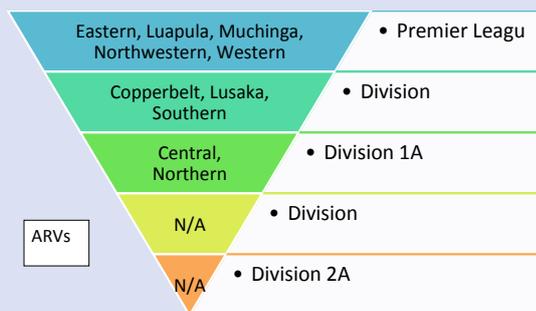
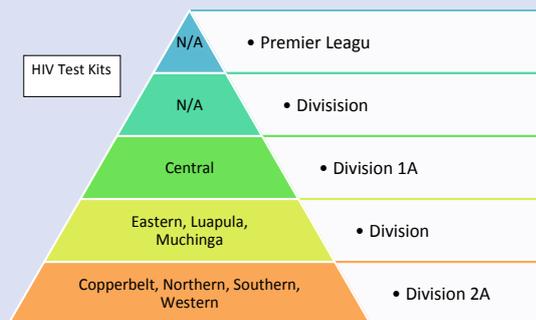
This hub was made possible with support from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), and other cooperating partners including the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme/Global Fund (UNDP/GF), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department for International Development (DFID), and the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

The establishment of new hubs is part of the National Supply Chain strategy and will enhance MSL's services by decentralizing MSL's distribution networks. MSL will process each health facility order centrally and transport them to the regional hubs, who then distribute the commodities on a monthly basis in order to reach more facilities with essential medicines and medical supplies.

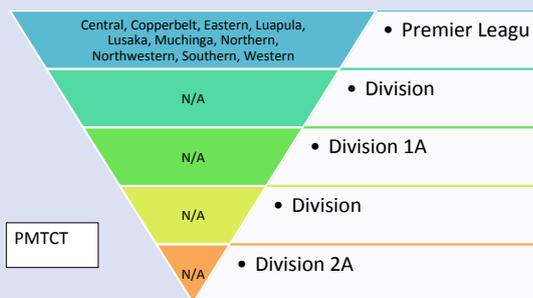
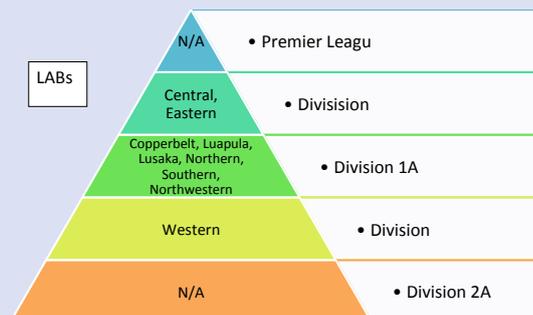
LEAGUE STANDINGS OF MAY 2014

KEY

Reporting Rate	Leagues
100%	Premier
95-99%	Division 1
90-94%	Division 1A
85-89%	Division 2
80-84	Division 2A



don't get relegated, get promoted!



A few upcoming activities:

Date	Activity	Location
11-15 Aug	M&E	Lufwanyama/ Mansa/ Kasama
11-15 Aug	P&D Supervisors Meeting	Livingstone
18-22 Aug	ARV LS Training	Mpika/ Mongu
25-29 Aug	Smartcare	Ndola/ Samfya

Spotlight Stories:

We feature two employees who work in different aspects of the supply chain, and who have had varying experiences in doing their important jobs.



Tegga Daka,
Logistics Clerk & Driver,
Medical Stores Limited, Choma

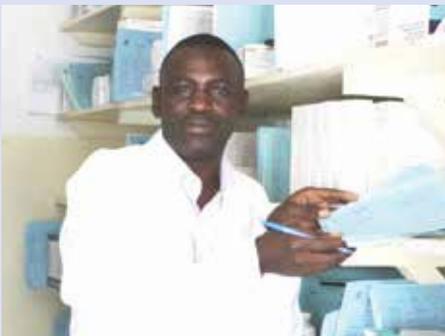
Tegga works for Medical Stores Limited (MSL) in the Choma Hub and has over four years' experience as a driver. He joined MSL in July 2013. As a driver responsible for delivering commodities to the health facilities in Southern Province, Tegga faces many challenges which he has had to overcome in order to ensure safe delivery of commodities.

"We make deliveries to all the facilities once every month. Sometimes we travel to places where the roads are bad -- where 20km could take over two hours because the roads are really bad. We move with caution so we don't damage the drugs and we also consider the safety of the vehicle. I've gotten stuck a number of times, especially in the rain,

but the local communities help us pull the trucks out. There are times when we aren't able to reach a facility, we leave the drugs at the nearest facility and someone else will pick them up, either with a motor-cycle, a bike or even an ox-cart."

MSL's policy is to allocate a seat to a district pharmacist who goes on the deliveries with the truck. If the truck has trouble accessing a particular facility, having the pharmacist on-board helps makes decisions about where to leave the commodities easier.

Overall, Tegga speaks highly of his job, "MSL is tough at times but it's an adventure, I wouldn't give it up for anything."

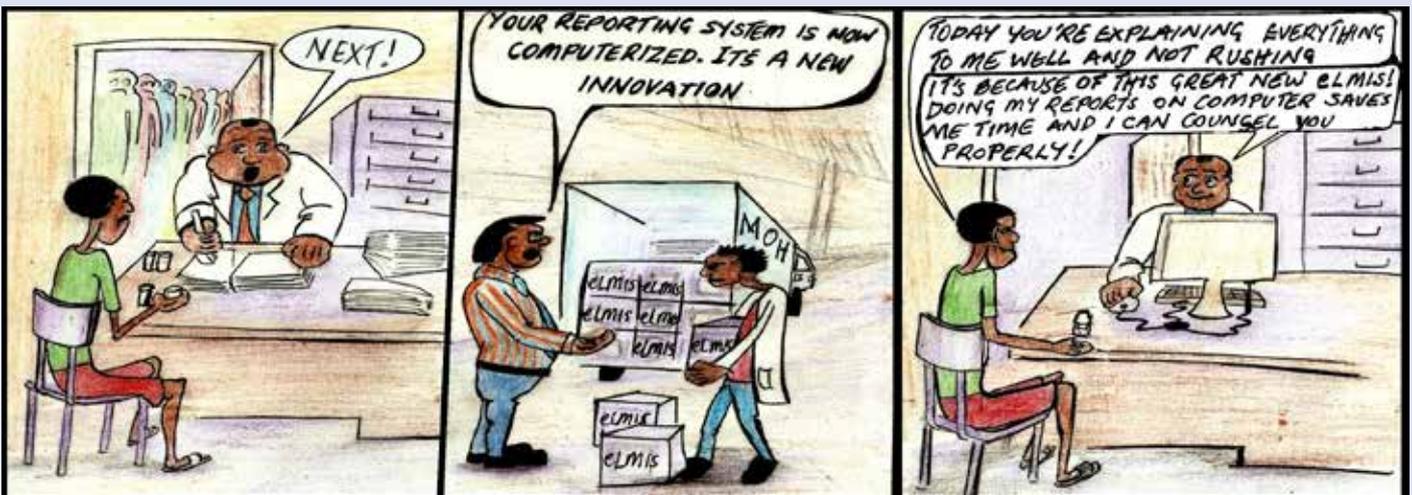


Grader Sialwiindi,
Clinical Officer, Chikupi Rural
Health Centre, Kafue District

Grader qualified as a clinical officer in 1998 and has been serving at Chikupi since 1999. At this small but busy rural health centre, his job requires him to attend to ante-natal and under-five patients, do vaccinations, diagnose some ailments, conduct TB screening, HIV testing and manage ART and TB cases. The biggest challenge he faces in his job is the small staff complement -- only three health workers serve Chikupi at the moment, instead of the typical five. Grader works alongside a registered nurse and an environmental health technician, and they have to split the outreach work between them.

Despite having to attend to patients, Grader finds time to dispense drugs and complete the reporting, thus provide a good service to his community and fulfill his obligations to his Ministry. Many times he comes to the clinic early or stays quite late to ensure his reporting and other tasks are completed in good time. Grader has been trained in the HIV Test Kits, Essential Medicines and ARVs logistics systems.

"It can be difficult to manage the reporting and still do community work and visit our patients, but we work together."



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