



First Regional Hub Launch Marks Progress Towards National Supply Chain Strategy

In June 2013, the first regional Medical Stores Limited (MSL) hub was launched in Choma, Southern Province. In his speech at the launch, the Minister of Health Honorable Dr. Joseph Kasonde, said the event marks progress towards the National Supply

“The decentralization of the distribution function of Medical Stores Limited (MSL) is a deliberate step of bringing essential healthcare services closer to the people. This clearly demonstrates my Ministry’s vision and commitment of providing equitable access to cost effective, quality health services to all the citizens of Zambia as close to the family as possible.”

– Minister of Health, Honourable Dr. Joseph Kasonde

Chain Strategy for essential medicines and medical supplies. The strategy outlines MSL’s leading role in the provision of procurement and supply chain services within the public health sector and MSL’s increasing responsibility for the distribution of health commodities to all facilities across Zambia.

In February 2012, the Ministry of Health along with the senior management of MSL and cooperating partners, convened to address the challenges of the “last mile” distribution of health commodities from the district level down to the level of health centers and health posts. After a collaborative discussion and planning process, a new dis-

tribution structure with cross-docking hubs was proposed and the plans were set into action. This new strategy would replace the current system where district health offices serve as cross-docking venues for the health commodities of facilities in their districts.



Ambassador of Sweden Lena Nordstrom and Deputy Minister of Health Christopher Mulenga walk to the unveiling of the first regional cross-docking MSL hub.

The new hub structure allows each health center order to be centrally processed at MSL and transported to the regional hubs in bulk utilizing large seven to 20-ton MSL trucks. The deliveries are received at the hubs and sent on monthly delivery routes utilizing smaller MSL vehicles. One of the key intended outcomes of the hub distribution model is to support the districts in the management of resources. By creating a more efficient transportation and distribution network, pharmacy staff will be able to focus more on supervisory and strategic roles rather than distribution.

The Choma hub will service more than 240 health centers in Southern Province and part of Western Province. The hub is a contribution to the people of Zambia from the Government of Sweden, and trucks were also donated by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) to facilitate distribution. The second regional hub is set to be launched in Chipata, Eastern Province, in November 2013. Future cross-docking hubs are planned for Lusaka, Mongu, Kitwe, and Kasama.



The first regional cross-docking MSL hub in Choma, Southern Province, will service 240 health centers in the region.

Government of Zambia Realigns Health Sector, Creates New Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health

To improve overall efficiency and standards in service delivery—the health sector in Zambia has been realigned into two Ministries, the Minis-

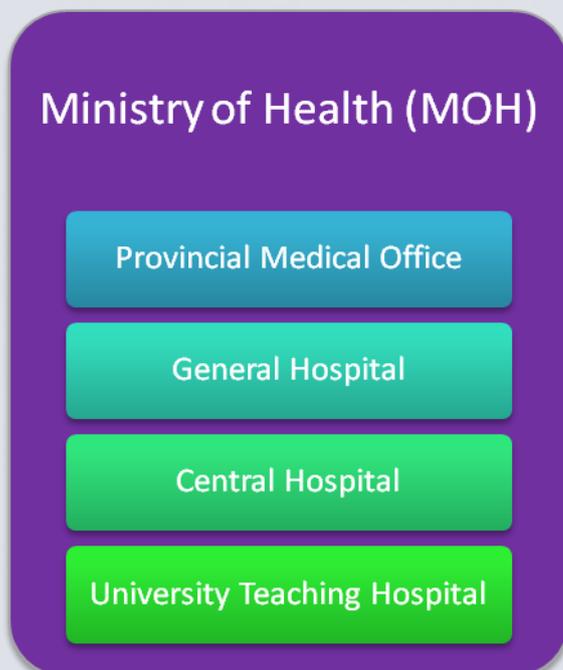
MCDMCH focuses on community mobilization, health promotion and education, primary health care, maternal and child health care services, and out-

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The health sector is now divided into two ministries: MOH will oversee larger, high-level health services while MCDMCH will oversee smaller, community-based health facilities.

try of Health (MOH) and the Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health (MCDMCH). The division enables MOH to focus on overall health policy and provision of specialized health care services at the secondary and tertiary levels, while

reach activities.

The realignment of the two ministries is intended to strengthen the existing health system by improving overall efficiency in the health sector. Utilizing existing community structures allows MCDMCH to focus holisti-

performance audits, as well as its usual function of coordination and supervision of districts and health centers.

Did You Know?

Antiretroviral (ARV) Stock Status

Did you know that the Ministry of Health (MOH) and its partners are working diligently to prevent supply disruption of Antiretrovirals (ARVs)? In spite of growing concerns regarding the stock status of Abacavir (ABC), Zidovudine (AZT), and Fixed Dose Combination Tenofovir/Emtricitabine (TDF/FTC), shipments of these commodities are scheduled to arrive between October and December.

Be reminded that facilities that are potentially overstocked with single dose Zidovudine (AZT) and/or Lamivudine (3TC) should take one of the following actions:

- Consult your District Medical Officer (DMO) to discuss redistribution of these commodities;
- When necessary, follow MSL procedures to have the stock returned to the central warehouse.



Bulk Ordering of Essential Medicines and Medical Supplies

EMLIP (Essential Medicines Logistics Improvement Programme) Facilities: Did you know that you can order additional commodities and supplement your essential medicines stock through bulk ordering at MSL? Simply submit your REMMS (Report for Essential Medicines and Medical Supplies) along with your other LMIS reports and your shipment will arrive according to the MSL schedule.

Introducing the Community Health Assistant Logistics System

The Community Health Assistant (CHA) program, launched by the Ministry of Health (MOH) in 2010, promises to enhance access to health care in Zambia. CHAs provide health care services including health promotion and preventive and curative services, the latter of which involve the distribution of selected essential health commodities within their communities.

Due to the growing number of CHAs providing services and commodities in the community, a need was identified to strategize how CHAs will obtain and manage these health commodities. The MOH and partner organizations met in November to develop a logistics system that is highly integrated with the national logistics systems currently in use. Under this sys-

tem, the CHAs will be expected to perform similar tasks to current stock managers around the country including physical counts, routine stock assessments, and tabulations and reports on usage and consumption using customized Logistics Management Information System (LMIS) forms. The CHAs will be receiving their commodities from their "parent Health Center," as opposed to MSL, a Hub, or District Health Office.

Considering that the CHAs have been integrated in the Logistics System, MOH and partner organizations developed a training strategy for the new and upcoming CHAs. In July 2013, a "Training of Trainers" was held for tutors at the Community Health Assistant Training School in Ndola,

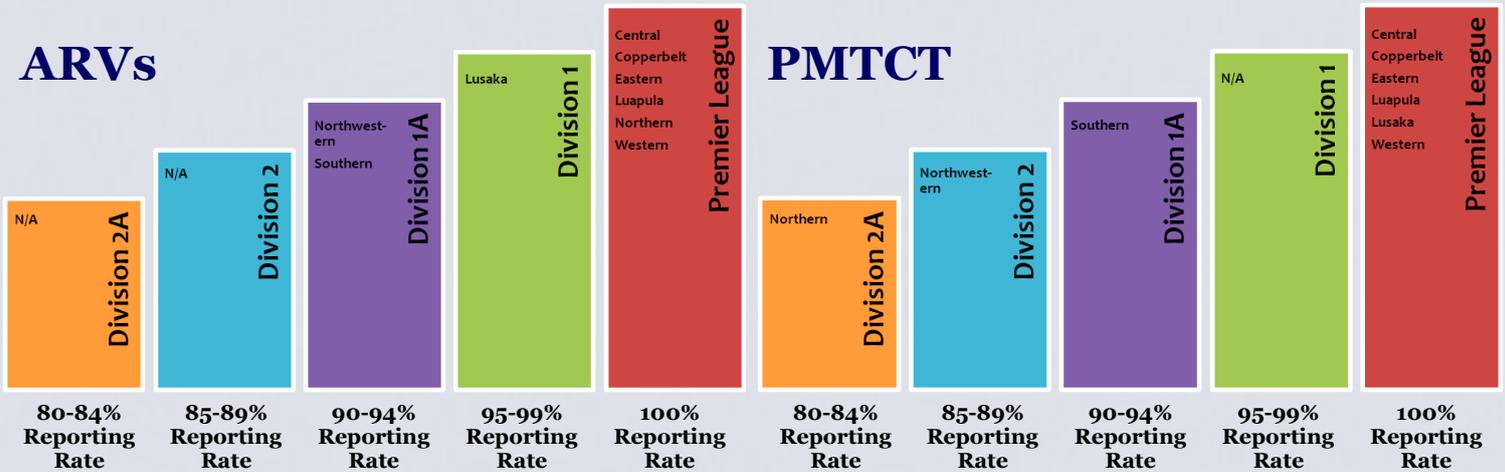
Copperbelt. The seven tutors who completed the training will go on to incorporate a logistics systems training into the year-long curriculum for CHAs and accordingly, the current class of 290 CHAs will all be trained by the time that they graduate.

MOH and partner organizations are also strategizing a training program for the 300 CHAs who have already graduated and have reported to their posts.

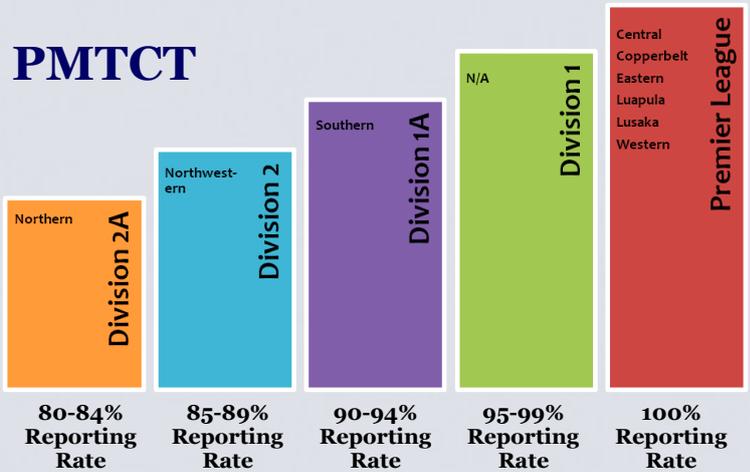


League Standings as of June 2013 Don't get relegated, get promoted!

ARVs

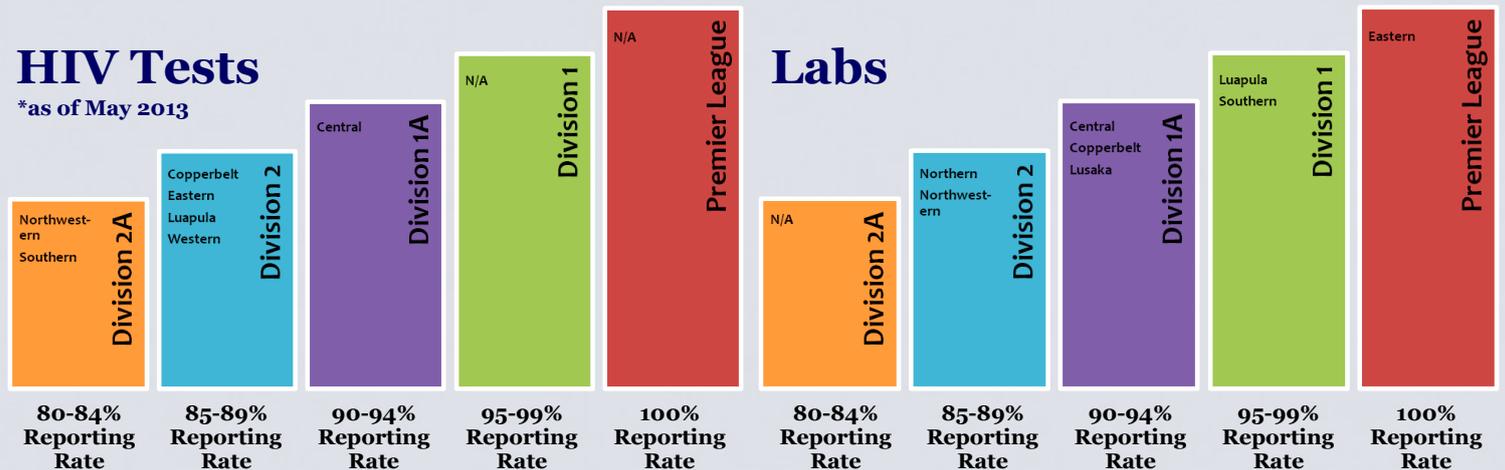


PMTCT

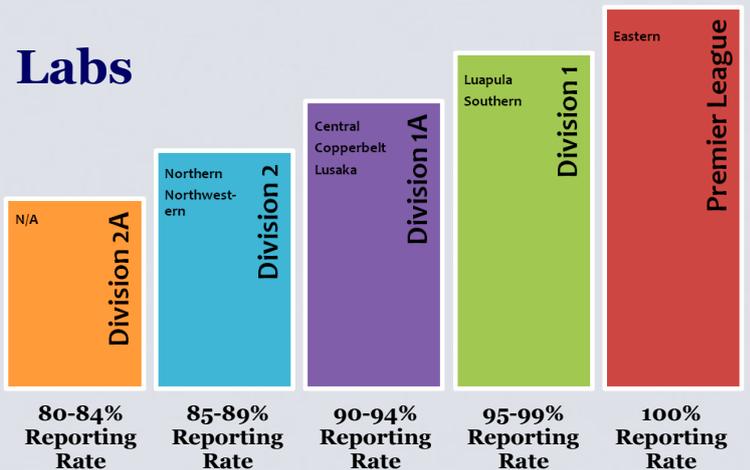


HIV Tests

*as of May 2013



Labs



Spotlight Stories:

Highlighting the Shining Stars of the National Logistics System

District Pharmacist Takes Initiative in Information Sharing

As the Mkushi District Pharmacist in Central Province, Rachel Msimuku has recognized the importance of information sharing. In order to encourage higher performance among the Mkushi District facilities, Ms. Msimuku has taken the initiative to create the quarterly, customized *Pharmacy, Lab and Stores Bulletin*.

The bulletin was first issued in May 2013 and highlighted logistic system reporting rates for all facilities, shone a spotlight on high-performing facilities, and contained important updates and tips about ordering from the DCMO and maintaining accurate stock records. Ms. Msimuku's vision is to institutionalize high performing logistics systems which will continue to function even long after she has moved onto her next post. The bulletin has already been successful in encouraging health competition among Mkushi facilities.

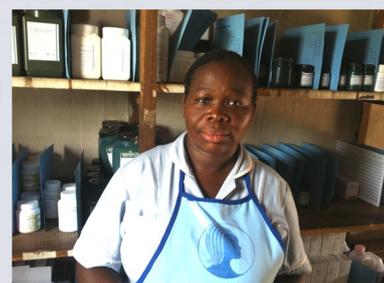


Rachel Msimuku distributing the Pharmacy, Lab and Stores Bulletin to a fellow facility worker.

- L** Let others appreciate and be involved in the logistics systems.
- O** Operationalize the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) manual at your facilities.
- G** Guide colleagues in the facility in good logistics management practices.
- I** Institutionalize the logistics system.
- S** Succeed as a team at your facility.
- T** Timely update your records.
- I** Increase efficiency by consulting the SOP.
- C** Consistently follow the SOP in managing the logistics system.
- S** SOP must be consulted on matters like units.

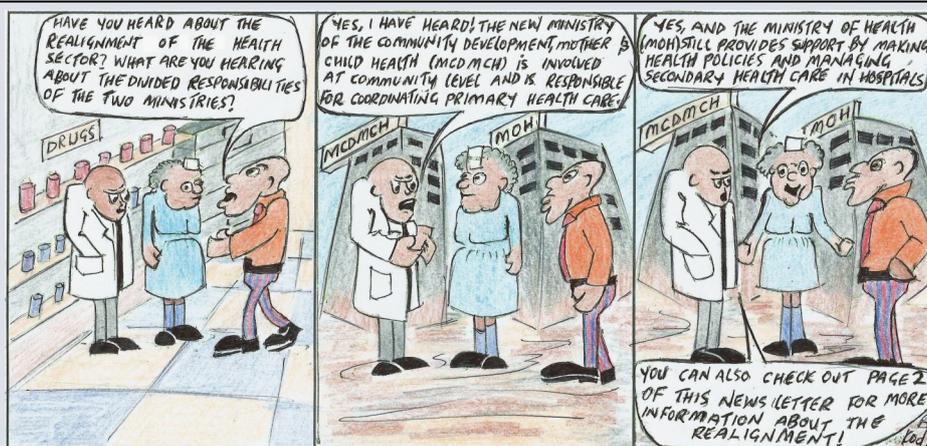
The Success of On-the-Job-Training in Nyimba

You can't do everything alone. Mr. Gibson Kausa Daka, Nurse-in-Charge at Chipembe Rural Health Centre (RHC) in Nyimba, has served as a good example on the importance of teamwork and on-the-job training (OJT) by providing a platform (the L.O.G.I.S.T.I.C.S. acronym) to orient fellow staff member Doreen Yamba, Classified Daily Employee (CDE), in logistics system management. After her OJT, Doreen was able to take up the task of managing drugs in the EMLIP system for the facility.



Doreen Yamba, CDE at Chipembe RHC in Nyimba is successfully managing the EMLIP LS at her facility.

During an MOH Monitoring and Evaluation visit, this facility was found to have all stock records updated and accurate on the day of visit, and has had a 100% reporting rate for the past four months. The teamwork and transfer of skills at Chipembe RHC shows that a job can be performed well following orientation from a trained colleague.



For More Information, Contact:

Upcoming Events

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| Date | Activity | Location |
|------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 7 October | PMTCT LS Training | Mbala |
| 14 October | HIV Test LS Training | Solwezi |
| 14 October | ARV LS Training | Kabwe |
| 14 October | PMTCT LS Training | Mongu |
| 28 October | HIV Test Training | Livingstone |
| 28 October | ARV LS Training | Mongu |
| 28 October | Lab LS Training | Ndola |



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