

# SIAPS BANGLADESH

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SOPs in Bangla to Strengthen TB Drug Supply Management	2
Learning Visit for NTP Officials of Cambodia	2
Workshop for Pharmaceutical Industry Stakeholders on Online Medicine Registration	2
GMP Inspection Capacity Enhanced through Training	3
MOHFW's Readiness to Take Over SCMP Assessed	3
Training Program to Enhance Procurement Capacity	3
Fourth Supply Chain Coordination Forum (SCCF) Held	4
DGHS Inventory Management Tools Reviewed	4
Warehouses De-Junked	4
Specifications Finalized for Core Medical Equipment	5
DGFP Staff Trained on WIMsv3 and UIMsv3	5

## TRAINING IMPROVED NTP OFFICIALS QUANTIFICATION CAPACITY

In March 2015, the Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS) Program facilitated a three-day training on forecasting and data driven-supply planning for tuberculosis (TB) medicines. Nine senior officials from the National Tuberculosis Control Program (NTP) of Bangladesh and its partners, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund), attended the training. The



Participants at the QuanTB training at Coxs Bazar

purpose was to build the capacity of the NTP's procurement and supply management (PSM) unit to carry out annual quantification for TB, including multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB medicines using the QuanTB tool, and to make efficient procurement decisions. A joint action plan was also developed with the following activities:

- Beginning in the first quarter of 2015, issue a quarterly TB medicine monitoring report. This report will be a routine report to be submitted to the Global Fund and USAID.
- Physically count all TB medicines at the central warehouse by April 2015 to improve accuracy of stock data. The results would subsequently be reflected in a paper-based logistics management information system and QuanTB.



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As a part of the SIAPS sustainability plan, NTP identified two medical officers to work with the SIAPS technical team. These staff members will gradually take over the responsibility of the quantification activity by the end of this year.

### SOPS IN BANGLA TO STRENGTHEN TB DRUG SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

SIAPS is working closely with the NTP to strengthen the supply chain management of TB medicines and to ensure that TB medicines are available at the point of need. With SIAPS support, NTP updated, published, and circulated the second edition of standard operating procedures (SOPs) in English. To better manage TB drug supply across the country, SIAPS provided technical assistance to NTP for translating the second edition of SOPs into Bangla and facilitated a workshop in February 2015 to finalize it. Workshop participants, including NTP officials and experts from NTP partner organizations, reviewed the draft document and made the necessary modifications that were later incorporated into the final document. The printing of the Bangla SOPs is currently underway.

### LEARNING VISIT FOR NTP OFFICIALS OF CAMBODIA

In March 2015, a seven-member team from the Cambodian National TB Control Program led by its director visited Bangladesh to observe the feasibility and functionality of e-TB Manager. The Cambodian NTP is planning to adopt e-TB Manager for their TB program, so they contacted the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). This led to the additional director general of DGHS requesting that SIAPS facilitate a learning visit to Bangladesh for the Cambodian team. To assist them in understanding how Bangladesh's NTP can better manage TB cases through e-TB Manager, SIAPS organized field visits to observe the tool's functions at the sub-national facility level. The visitors, accompanied by officials from DGHS, NTP, and SIAPS, met with local government health authorities and learned about the onsite performance, data flow, validation procedures, and monitoring aspects. During a debriefing session at the Bangladesh NTP and USAID Mission, the Cambodian team expressed their satisfaction in learning the operational aspects of e-TB Manager and showed willingness to take further steps in adopting it, based on their experience.

### WORKSHOP FOR PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS ON ONLINE MEDICINE REGISTRATION

SIAPS continues to support the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) to implement the PharmaDex tool and adopt Common Technical Document (CTD) guidelines to meet standardized international medicine registration processes. Currently, the country has more than 270 pharmaceutical companies and has released more than 26,000 products for the market. To create an environment for early engagement of pharmaceutical industry stakeholders and to orient them on PharmaDex and CTD-based dossiers, SIAPS facilitated an awareness workshop on February 4, 2015. A total of 83 participants attended the workshop, including representatives from 40 pharmaceutical companies (both national and international), DGDA officials, USAID representatives, and representatives from the Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (BAPI). The participants appreciated DGDA's initiative to introduce international standards for medicine registration and provided constructive feedback and suggestions for smooth implementation of the process. Participants requested further steps from DGDA for building capacity of the pharmaceutical companies and establishing a group of master trainers from within the industries, in addition to DGDA.



Director General of DGDA, representatives of USAID and BAPI, the CPD of SIAPS Bangladesh during the inaugural session

### GMP INSPECTION CAPACITY ENHANCED THROUGH TRAINING

To continue improving DGDA's Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) inspection processes, SIAPS set up a four-day training for DGDA's district-level inspectors in March 2015. GMP certification is one of the requirements in the bidding document for pharmaceutical product procurement, so officials from DGHS and the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP) also participated in this training. A SIAPS consultant facilitated the training on understanding the basics of GMP, inspection methodology, and techniques. Through an in-class practical exercise and case studies, DGDA inspectors learned to recognize fake and counterfeit medicines. Subsequent training includes site visits for DGDA inspectors to be walked through the steps of inspecting manufacturing facilities using standard tools

of GMP inspection. In addition, there will be advanced training on GMP and an inspectorate-specific quality management system manual will be developed. SIAPS will continue to assist DGDA with the implementation of GMP guidelines in accordance to WHO standards and the utilization of revised associated tools, such as the inspection checklist and report template.

### TRAINING PROGRAM TO ENHANCE PROCUREMENT CAPACITY

Aiming to build the capacity of all procuring entities of MOHFW, SIAPS supported the Engineering Staff College of Bangladesh (ESCB) to conduct basic training on public procurement management for 40 Government of Bangladesh officials this quarter. Participants, including line directors, upazila (sub-district) health and family planning officers, and procurement assistants from

### MOHFW'S READINESS TO TAKE OVER SCMP ASSESSED

As part of long-term sustainability strategy, SIAPS continued advocacy with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) to completely hand over the Supply Chain Management Portal (SCMP) to MOHFW's Procurement and Logistics Management Cell (PLMC) by 2016. In line with this, a consultative session to assess the Ministry's readiness was held on February 24, 2015. Mr. Md. Ayubur Rahman Khan, Additional Secretary of MOHFW (Development and Medical Education), presided over the meeting and guided the technical discussion in light of the SCMP sustainability (policy and advocacy) plan developed earlier by SIAPS and endorsed by MOHFW. It was understood that MOHFW made considerable progress toward taking over the portal. At the meeting, the following major decisions were made:

- MOHFW/PLMC should issue a circular so that concerned authorities could officially use the portal.
- SoftWorks, SIAPS Bangladesh's IT partner, will submit an inventory of technologies used to develop the SCMP (UIMS, WIMS, eLMIS,

Equipment Tracker, DGDA drug database). In addition, SoftWorks will prepare and submit the data dictionary, source code, and technical documentation in both hard and soft copy formats to MOHFW/PLMC.

- The Development Wing of MOHFW will highlight the issue of management and maintenance of the SCMP and request that the Financial Management and Audit Wing and the Finance Division create a new code in the revenue budget for meeting SCMP expenditures in the future.
- Like DGHS and DGFP, CMSD and DGDA should start the process for creating an IT set-up in their organizations.
- SIAPS should assist PLMC to prepare the bid document for outsourcing the maintenance part of SCMP.
- The data center of DGHS should be the home for SCMP; SoftWorks and SIAPS will work closely with the DGHS IT team to facilitate the transition to the DGHS.

the district civil surgeon’s office, received the training in three batches. This is SIAPS’s third year in working to advance PLMC’s plan to have a comprehensive training program on public procurement for its officials. Toward this end, SIAPS is helping to build the capacity of ESCB as a local institution to conduct participatory training courses on PSM. SIAPS also provided technical assistance to revise the training module to include more exercises based on participant feedback.

**FOURTH SUPPLY CHAIN COORDINATION FORUM HELD**

The fourth Supply Chain Coordination Forum (SCCF) meeting took place on January 26, 2015, and was chaired by Professor Dr. Deen Mohammad Nurul Haque, Director General of DGHS. Officials from PLMC and DGHS and representatives from development partners (the World Bank, the Department for International Development, WHO) also participated in the meeting. Forum participants discussed and reviewed procurement and logistics issues of the Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD) and DGHS and made decisions to resolve the problems accordingly. Brigadier General Md. Golam Rasul, Director of CMSD and Member Secretary of SCCF, emphasized the timely submission of a procurement plan by the line directors (LDs). He also requested that LDs make arrangements to have their long-pending allocated stocks taken to the respective health facilities and entities to alleviate the congestion of space at CMSD. The World Bank representative suggested that LDs should develop an initial draft of the procurement plan for fiscal year 2015–16, preferably before July 2015, so that they can be reviewed and finalized by August 2015. Additional Director General of DGHS Professor A. K. Azad thanked SIAPS for facilitating this important meeting.

**DGHS INVENTORY MANAGEMENT TOOLS REVIEWED**

SIAPS facilitated a day-long review workshop on DGHS inventory management tools on March 12, 2015. This was the first ever event organized for field-based DGHS storekeepers to get their views and technical input on improving the current DGHS inventory practices. Brigadier General Md. Golam Rasul,

Director of CMSD, presided over the workshop and a total of 31 participants attended, including district reserve storekeepers, upazila-level storekeepers, and district hospital storekeepers. The participants reviewed existing inventory management tools and discussed the variety of tools they use at different levels, the diversity of which hampers proper record keeping. Later, the participants appraised some standard inventory tools and made specific recommendations for uniformity in record keeping at all levels of the system and for the categorization of 10 to 15 types of item groups depending on the level. At the end of the workshop, participants came to a consensus that the pre-developed formats of the inventory management tools, which they reviewed during group work, should be introduced soon to improve the DGHS inventory management system.



Participants reviewing existing DGHS inventory management tools

**WAREHOUSES DE-JUNKED**

Over the past years, SIAPS has been assisting MOHFW and its key directorates to strengthen the overall logistics management system of the country’s health sector. SIAPS advocacy, to this end, has been to make MOHFW aware that routine condemnation of unusable and obsolete items is one of the most important components of good warehousing practices. SIAPS also facilitated condemnation workshops at seven divisions for all district- and sub-district-level managers; conferring with MOHFW’s Additional Secretary Mr. Md. Ayubur Rahman Khan, all

managers agreed on speeding up the condemnation process. Recently, PLMC, as the coordinating body for PSM of MOHFW, issued a government order to all civil surgeons and upazila health and family planning officers asking for reports on condemnation and disposal of unusable items.

Following up with this, SIAPS field-based technical advisors continued advocacy with relevant officials. These efforts led to the district reserve store at Sylhet being de-junked in this quarter for the first time in 23 years. SIAPS will continue providing assistance to DGHS to destroy obsolete and unusable/unserviceable items, thus improving their warehousing management system.

### **SPECIFICATIONS FINALIZED FOR CORE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT**

In March 2015, SIAPS brought together 25 experts for a two-day workshop to finalize the specifications of core medical equipment, including lifesaving equipment, for hospitals with up to 250 beds. Prior to organizing this event, SIAPS facilitated several consultative sessions with technical specification committee members of CMSD and potential bidders to review the draft specifications to make them more generic. The workshop participants, including resource persons, were representatives from MOHFW, DGHS, CMSD, the National Electro Medical Equipment Maintenance Workshop, and clinicians from district hospitals and medical college hospitals.

MOHFW's Additional Secretary (Development and Medical Education) opened the workshop. Working in

groups, the participants provided their input and finalized the specifications of core medical equipment for common departments of primary- and secondary-level hospitals. Participants recommended that the updated specifications be included in the table of equipment of 10-, 20-, 50-, and 250-bed hospitals and that it be available to policy makers, procuring entities, user directorates, and all levels of health facilities by uploading the equipment document to the SCMP. The participants also recommended developing a guideline for the users and orienting them to it, as well as the issuance of a government order for mandatory use of the specifications. This final document will support policy makers and health managers in conducting more transparent and competitive bidding and the proper acquisition of medical equipment for health facilities.

### **DGFP STAFF TRAINED ON WIMSV3 AND UIMSV3**

Furthering the effort to scale up the service delivery point dashboard module countrywide, SIAPS has recently upgraded the Upazila Inventory Management System (UIMS) and the Warehouse Inventory Management System (WIMS) according to the requirements of the users and policy-level officials of DGFP and USAID. The rollout is planned to be completed by September 2015. Toward this end, SIAPS facilitated training for 95 DGFP staff (15 female) on WIMSV3 and UIMSV3 in February and March 2015. These trainings were held to orient users on the upgraded versions and to enhance their knowledge and skill level. As of March 2015, all 21 warehouses of DGFP have started using the upgraded WIMSV3. Since April 2015, the 20 piloting upazilas have started using UIMSV3.

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## **WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO HEAR FROM YOU**

Please send comments to Liza Talukder at [ltalukder@msh.org](mailto:ltalukder@msh.org).

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