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Forecasting Essential Commodity Requirements to Achieve Universal ART Coverage in Namibia by 2019



Namibia's Ministry of Health and Social Services staff from the Division of Pharmaceutical Services, the Directorate of Special Programs and the National Health Training Centre engage in the forecasting of ARVs, HIV test kits and condoms after completing a three-day training in forecasting methodology and tools, facilitated by SCMS. Photo credit: MSH/SCMS staff.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Technical assistance to the MoHSS to consolidate and disseminate results of analysis for the 2015 annual HIV drug resistance EWI
- ▶ Support the MoHSS' NHTC to solicit input from stakeholders for incorporating into the pharmaceutical supply management content in the pharmacist assistants' pre-service curriculum
- ▶ Training trainers of health extension workers in managing inventories for service kits
- ▶ Technical assistance for supply chain performance improvement at Oshakati multi-regional medical depot
- ▶ Technical assistance to MoHSS to improve medicine use in the Kunene region
- ▶ Rolling out the mobile electronic dispensing tool and training to primary healthcare facilities in support of ART decentralization in five priority regions

The USAID-funded Supply Chain Management System (SCMS) project in Namibia collaborated with the Ministry of Health and Social Services' (MoHSS) National HIV/AIDS Control Program (NACOP) in the Directorate of Special Programs (DSP) and the Division of Pharmaceutical Services in September 2015 to conduct a three-year forecast of HIV treatment and prevention commodity requirements.

The forecast covered requirements for antiretroviral medicines (ARVs), HIV rapid test kits (RTKs) and male condoms for the period April 2016 to March 2019. A stakeholders' workshop preceded the actual quantification exercise where participants evaluated available data and the key forecasting assumptions and agreed on the important parameters for the quantification.

Thirty-four participants attended the workshop, including representatives from the MoHSS, USAID, CDC, WHO, UNICEF, UNAIDS, GIZ, MSH/ SIAPS, I-TECH, IntraHealth International, Catholic Aids Action, Society for Family Health and the Namibia Planned Parenthood Association. As part of this activity, SCMS conducted a hands-on training on a pharmaceutical quantification and cost estimation tool called Quantimed. The training aimed to build the capacity of key MoHSS staff to lead future pharmaceutical quantification activities, including the preparation, initiation and management of the process; collection, validation and analysis of morbidity and consumption data; and generation of long-term forecasts. Using actual national stock status data as at the end of June 2015, and the forecasted quantities for each ARV, trainees

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Namibia Adopts New WHO-recommended Antiretroviral and Anti-TB medicines

The Essential Medicine List Committee (EMLC) of the Namibian Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) reviewed 33 motivations for changes to the Namibia Essential Medicines List (Nemlist) at its meeting held in Windhoek, on September 17, 2015.

The EMLC is a multi-disciplinary team of health workers that reviews the Nemlist to ensure that it is responsive to changes in treatment guidelines and the country's disease patterns. The EMLC regularly reviews motivations for changes (addition, deletion or reclassification of medicines) to the Nemlist. SIAPS provided technical assistance to the EMLC secretariat in reviewing and compiling the scientific evidence for the motivations that were deliberated at the meeting.

The meeting, chaired by the MoHSS's Deputy Permanent Secretary, Dr. Norbert Forster, was attended by 15 participants who included members of the EMLC, the EMLC secretariat, and co-opted specialists. The EMLC membership also includes medical doctors, pharmacists, nurses, a health economist and program officers from the MoHSS. The EMLC finalized the terms of reference for the revision of Namibia Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs). The revised STGs will include an update on the management of patients on antiretroviral

therapy (ART) based on new recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO). An important change to be incorporated into the new ART guidelines will be the early treatment of all patients testing positive for HIV. The EMLC also resolved to adopt key recommendations of the 20th WHO Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines.

These include the addition of new antiretroviral medicines for managing patients who fail first and second line ART regimens. Darunavir and new formulations of abacavir and lamivudine will be added for treating HIV, while linezolid, meperonem, delamanid and bedaquiline will be added for treating patients infected with drug resistant tuberculosis. The regular review of the Nemlist and STGs is important because they govern the medicines to be procured and used for the public sector health care system in Namibia.

Contributed by: Bayobuya Phulu (Senior Technical Advisor, SIAPS) and Greatjoy Mazibuko (Senior Technical Manager, SIAPS)

Forecasting Essential Commodity Requirements

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were taken through the use of PipeLine for monitoring pharmaceutical stock status and planning procurements to avoid ARV stock outs and overstocking.



Mr. Robert Burn, the SCMS Principal Quantification Advisor explains how to configure a data set in Quantimed™ when using the tool for forecasting requirements and costs of antiretroviral medicines. Photo credit: MSH/SCMS staff.

In FY16, SCMS will continue building the capacity of the trainees to actively take up the role of quantification technical working group. The number of patients on ART is projected to increase from just over 140,000 at the end of June 2015 to about 218,943 at the end of March 2019. To finance the ARV requirements for this target population, the MoHSS needs to mobilize about N\$ 383 million (US\$ 30 million) in FY 2016/17, which will rise to about N\$ 515 million (US\$ 40 million) in FY 2018/19.

The MoHSS will use the results to mobilize additional resources to meet the ambitious national HIV treatment targets. This will achieve commodity security for people living with HIV/AIDS as Namibia prepares for full-scale implementation of the HIV test and treat approach in line with the UNAIDS 90-90-90 fast track strategy of achieving HIV epidemic control by the end of the year 2020.

Compiled by: Benjamin Ongeri, Senior Technical Manager, SCMS

Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance and Hospital Acquired Infections: A SIAPS Collaboration with Namibia's School of Medicine

The USAID-funded SIAPS project collaborated with the University Of Namibia School Of Medicine (UNAM-SOM) to train health care personnel in preventing and controlling antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and hospital acquired infections (HAI).

This two-day workshop, conducted from October 27 – 29, 2015 at the UNAM-SOM, was attended by 15 participants. They included the nurses in charge of infection control at the Intermediate Hospital Katutura and the Windhoek Central Hospital; medical students and lecturers from the UNAM-SOM.

The activity is part of the ongoing collaboration between the UNAM-SOM and the German-based University of Bonn, in promoting rational use of medicines, preventing hospital acquired infections and preventing the development of antimicrobial resistance, particularly HIV drug resistance (HIV-DR) and drug resistant TB (DR-TB).

The workshop focused on practical skills for reducing the spread of infections, such as proper hand hygiene procedures during invasive surgical procedures.

Participants also learned about the resistance patterns of common microorganisms in Namibia, based on laboratory data from the Namibia Institute of Pathology. SIAPS introduced the participants to a key strategy for reducing the



A nurse from the Windhoek Central Hospital (in gloves) demonstrates how to maintain an infection free environment during the insertion of intravenous (IV) lines. Photo by SIAPS/Namibia Staff.

development of antimicrobial resistance through the rational use of antimicrobial medicines. SIAPS continues to support initiatives for preserving for future generations the currently used antimicrobials, especially antiretroviral and anti-TB medicines.



Mr. Lazarus Indongo (2nd from the right) the Deputy Director: Division Pharmaceutical Services and other members of Namibia's Essential Medicine List Committee (EMLC) deliberate at a meeting held in Windhoek, Namibia, to incorporate vital changes required to bring Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and the Nemlist in line with new World Health Organisation recommendations for managing people living with HIV. Photo by SIAPS/Namibia Staff.

Contributed: Bayobuya Phulu (Senior Technical Advisor, SIAPS/Namibia), Greatjoy Mazibuko (Senior Technical Manager, SIAPS/Namibia)

Incorporating a Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Module into Pharmacist Assistants' Pre-service Training for Better Management of Commodities for HIV and Other Disease Conditions

In October 2015, the USAID-funded Supply Chain Management System (SCMS) project supported the National Health Training Center (NHTC) of the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) to incorporate a pharmaceutical supply chain module into the pharmacist assistants' (PAs) pre-service training curriculum and align the curriculum with the Namibia Qualifications Authority (NQA) accreditation requirements.

As part of this activity, SCMS trained twenty NHTC tutors on Competence Based Education and Training (CBET) and curriculum development. A technical working group (TWG) composed of selected tutors and stakeholders from the public and private sector spearheaded the curriculum review process.

At the first TWG meeting, the Deputy Director in the MoHSS Division of Pharmaceutical Services, Mr. Lazarus Indongo, acknowledged the zeal and teamwork that was exhibited by the TWG members.

He noted that incorporating a pharmaceutical supply chain management module into the PA curriculum will offer a firm base for PAs to competently work in pharmaceutical supply chain management in the public and private sectors of Namibia. The adequate availability of PAs who are competent in pharmaceutical supply chain management is a critical enabler of Namibia's efforts of controlling the HIV epidemic and



The Deputy Director of the National Health Training Network, Sr Ottilie Kutenda (left) listens to Mr. Aggrey Mayumbelo, a practicing pharmacist assistant (PA), on important considerations for updating the PA curriculum. Photo credit: MSH/Namibia. October 2015.

providing decentralized, more accessible and quality HIV/AIDS treatment services to the nation. The revised curriculum will contribute to filling the current pharmaceutical supply chain skills gap in the public sector pharmaceutical system as envisioned by the people that deliver initiative.

Contributed: Harriet Rachel Kagoya, Nasser Mbaziira, Greatjoy Mazibuko and Chipo Chirefu-Toto, SCMS in Namibia

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

The SIAPS/SCMS Namibia e-Newsletter is a bi-monthly newsletter that keeps you abreast of activities funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by MSH Namibia.

Key focus areas are HIV /AIDS Management:

1. Strengthening Pharmaceutical Supply Chain
2. Pharmaceutical Service Delivery
3. Human Resource Capacity Development
4. Pharmaceutical Tools and Management Information System

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

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