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The Procurement Planning and Monitoring Report: Reducing Contraceptive Stockouts Through Data and Partnerships



Photo by WEI 2003

“Increased collaboration among countries and their donors is what makes the PPMR a unique and useful resource for managing contraceptive supplies.”

Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition Secretariat

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The Procurement Planning and Monitoring Report (PPMR) is a monthly report that describes the stock status of contraceptives in a number of developing countries. By encouraging countries to report standardized data and by informing both global and national partners of supply situations in countries, the PPMR serves as a catalyst for action—providing the critical information needed to prevent or mitigate stock imbalances: stockouts and under- and over-stocks.

The Origin of the PPMR

The Countries at Risk (CAR) group at the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition (RHSC) is a group of international organizations who coordinate to prevent country level stockouts of contraceptives, and to help countries manage supply challenges. Prior to the development of the PPMR, the CAR group relied on anecdotal reports of contraceptive stock levels in order to take action. This information was often out-of-date, incomplete, and time consuming to collect. In addition, there was no systematic data collection and thus no way to understand the history or context of the various issues. Thus, the group was limited in its ability to respond. Working with technical advisors from the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, CAR members began to develop a standardized format for the PPMR, which was launched in 2007. Bangladesh was the first country to report data, and by January 2010, the report had grown to include 16 countries: Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Paraguay, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Zambia.

CAR Group Participants:

- KfW Banking Group
- Marie Stopes International
- RHSC Secretariat
- United Nations Fund for Population Assistance (UNFPA)
- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
- World Bank
- USAID | DELIVER PROJECT



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Contents of the PPMR

Each PPMR begins with summary pages which show the critical actions recommended to resolve contraceptive stock issues. The main body of the PPMR includes two types of detailed data:

1. Commodity security updates: a short description of the commodity security situation in a particular country at the national level. See Figure 1 for an example.

Figure 1. Commodity Security Update Example from PPMR

Procurement: In August, UNFPA procured 7,500,000 million condoms for the family planning program of the Ministry. This will help to reduce condom stockouts in the MCH/family planning clinics in hospitals and health centers, as well as in the health posts. Note that since 2006, condoms for family planning were procured through HAPCO with HIV/AIDS resources. It was realized some months ago that this approach was leading to shortages in the MCH/FP clinics at facilities without an HIV/AIDS program and the related support of the SCMS-supported distribution system. Having condoms solely for family planning should help resolve these shortages.

2. Stock status data: Countries report stock status on a per-product basis in terms of months of stock,¹ giving an idea of how long the existing quantities will last at the current rate of consumption. Other important data items include the date the stock data were reported, the date of the next expected shipment, the supplier of the next expected shipment, as well as a “Comments” and “Action Recommended” section where countries can provide more context for the data, and make recommendations for actions. See Figure 2 for an example.

Figure 2. Product Stock Status Example from PPMR

Country/ Program Products	No ¹ New Data	Date ² Stock Data Reported	Months of Stock			Status ³	Level ⁴	AMC: ⁵	Receipt ⁶ Date of Next Expected Shipment	Supplier ⁷ of Next Expected Shipment	Comments ⁸	Action ⁹ Recommended
			Min	Max	Actual							
Depo-Provera	<input type="checkbox"/>	31-Aug-09	6	12	4	< Min	Central	54,062	9/09	MOH	210,000 ampoules of Depo are scheduled to enter into the warehouse in September 2009. (100,000 ampoules will be purchased by UNFPA and the remaining 110,000 units will be purchased by the MOH)	The pending shipment is expected to bring stock levels back up to their acceptable levels. There is approximately 7 months worth of stock at other levels of the system. No action requested.

The PPMR Provides Benefits to Countries and Donors

One of the PPMR’s most important functions is to provide a way for countries to communicate needs and updated data to donors of reproductive health commodities. Countries may request donors to provide emergency shipments, expedite existing shipments, or delay shipments to avoid overstocks or expiries. These requests are considered monthly by the CAR group, and actions are taken based on the donors’ involvement in the countries in question and the donors’ ability to respond.

The PPMR also encourages regular monitoring of stock data in countries and strengthens accountability and transparency for both donors and the countries they serve by linking country stock status and donor shipment data in a routine, standard format. Some countries already have formats in which the same data are presented to the local reproductive health community. The PPMR is meant to complement those formats, though some countries use it as a vehicle to transmit data to national stakeholders.

For partners involved in the CAR group, the benefits of the PPMR include regular visibility into country-level supply situations and notice of issues which may affect their ability to deliver products in a timely manner. Donors in the CAR group regularly engage with their own country offices to discuss issues raised in the PPMR. Through data provided on when the next shipment is expected and from whom, donors can also ensure that their planned

¹Months of stock equal the actual quantity on hand divided by the average monthly consumption (AMC).

shipments match the countries' expectations, and clarify any misunderstandings about quantity, receipt date, or product before a shipment arrives.

Acting on PPMR Data

The goal of the CAR group through the PPMR is to respond to stock emergencies and help countries avoid stockouts and overstocks. Successful responses have included:

- **Mobilizing resources:** In the Dominican Republic, UNFPA provided donations of combined oral contraceptives, male condoms, and depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA) to mitigate existing stockouts caused by a delay in the allocation of the country's own funds for purchase of contraceptives.
- **Expediting existing shipments to avert shortages or stockouts:** Shipments of intra-uterine devices (IUDs) to Uganda, implants to Rwanda, and combined oral contraceptives to El Salvador were all expedited to avoid impending stockouts.
- **Transferring products between countries to address stock imbalances:** As a result of PPMR data, stakeholders were able to transfer IUDs from Mozambique to Rwanda and from Malawi to Kenya. In both cases, the IUDs were received as donations from USAID, and the USAID Missions in each country facilitated the transfers, relieving overstock in the originating country while alleviating a stockout in the receiving country.

The PPMR Encourages Both Short-Term and Long-Term Solutions

When Kenya began regularly reporting in the PPMR in July 2008, it was quickly apparent that without rapid replenishment, stockouts would occur.

As the PPMR alerted donors to the developing stock issues, they began discussions with their country offices, as well as with the Ministry of Health. These discussions ultimately led to emergency shipments from three different donors to prevent and mitigate the stockouts.

More importantly, the issues of forecasting and procurement planning were also raised and an annual forecasting exercise was institutionalized to help prevent similar situations from occurring in the future.

Expanding the PPMR

Expanding coverage of the PPMR to additional countries would enable more countries to benefit from connections to the international donor community. It would also provide them with a standardized format to report on national stock levels, thereby increasing supply chain visibility and accountability. The ability to expand PPMR reporting into a new country depends on the ready availability of data on stock levels and the presence of a partner in-country who can access, compile and report the data, and having partner approval to share it.

Better-quality data are prerequisites to clearer and more rapid decision-making by both donors and countries.

Conclusion

The PPMR is an important tool to help countries and global partners effectively manage contraceptive stocks and avoid stockouts. By providing visibility into national contraceptive supply chains, it encourages better planning and coordination, more accountability, and more efficient allocation of resources. Ultimately, it strengthens contraceptive security.

Related Links

CAR group page on the RHSC website: <http://www.rhsupplies.org/working-groups/systems-strengthening/countries-at-risk.html>

Reproductive Health Interchange database: <http://rhi.rhsupplies.org/rhi/index.do?>

RHSC website: <http://www.rhsupplies.org>

UNFPA website: <http://www.unfpa.org>

USAID | DELIVER PROJECT website: <http://deliver.jsi.com>

USAID website: <http://www.usaid.gov>

World Bank website: <http://www.worldbank.org>

If you are interested in providing data for the PPMR, please contact askdeliver@jsi.com.

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*The **Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition** is a global partnership of over 100 public, private, and non-governmental organizations dedicated to ensuring that all people in low- and middle-income countries can access and use affordable, high-quality supplies to ensure their better reproductive health. Since 2004, the Coalition has been at the forefront of international efforts to secure reproductive health supplies by increasing resources, strengthening systems, and building effective partnerships.*

The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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