



USAID | MALAWI

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2012-13 SUPPLY CHAIN FACT SHEET

Key Message

Increasing access to health commodities for improved health outcomes

Funding (FY 2012)

\$15.6 million

Partners

John Snow, Inc.

Geographic Location

Country-wide

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Program Overview

USAID is supporting the Government of Malawi (GoM) to increase the country's capacity to undertake and sustain uninterrupted supply of life-saving health commodities to the various points of use - at health care facilities up to the community level, through direct procurement of reproductive health and anti-malaria commodities, secured storage and monthly distribution of essential medicines, malarial commodities and family planning commodities to over 600 healthcare facilities. Furthermore, USAID through its DELIVER Project has continued to build institutional capacity of Ministry of Health (MoH) Procurement and Supply Management staff, and train district health facility staff on supply chain management.

Program Impact

USAID led a multi donor team to develop the first ever joint strategy for supply chain integration in Malawi. This will serve as a roadmap for unifying the multiple vertical supply chain systems in Malawi into the national system, and as a catalyst for achieving operational efficiencies and cost savings.

USAID through its DELIVER Project supported the MoH to conduct a 3-year national quantification exercise for health commodities. The estimated quantities and costs of medicines informed the budgetary decisions by the GoM during the annual national budget planning exercise. USAID has also supported MoH to address the chronic shortage of health workers for drug management at the health facilities. Over 1,000 health surveillance assistants were trained in 2012 to serve as drug store clerks at health centers as a short term measure. Meanwhile, USAID is contributing to the GoM goal of increasing the supply chain workforce in the country by funding the training of pharmacy assistants at the Malawi College of Medicine. The Pharmacy Assistants will be employed and posted to health centers upon graduation to assume full responsibilities for supply chain of health commodities. These efforts will improve the management and accountability of medicines by health centers.

Availability of adequate, timely and quality data is a critical requirement for optimum supply chain management. USAID is providing technical assistance to the MoH to maintain a functional Logistics Management Information system, which enables the health facilities to collect, report and transmit drug consumption data to the district and national levels on a monthly basis, using paper-based and computerized tools. The data is useful for estimating drug needs at each health facility as well as resupply quantities, procurement planning, and monitoring drug utilization patterns in health facilities. It is also helpful in assessing stock out rates and drug expiration at health facilities.