

Strong pharmaceutical systems SAVE LIVES

ESSENTIAL MEDICINES IMPROVE HEALTH AND SAVE LIVES.

However, the complex system that is needed to get them to people does not always function well. Shortages of medical products are common. Poor quality and high costs burden patients and health ministries. Antimicrobial resistance, fed by inappropriate use, is spreading and may greatly undermine progress in global health. Meanwhile, countries are striving to provide universal health coverage (UHC) and meet Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good health and well-being.

Building a well-functioning system

Addressing these needs and goals requires strong, responsive, and resilient pharmaceutical systems, from good governance and reliable information systems to skilled health workers. The end result: People have equitable and timely access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable medical products and services and know how to use them appropriately.

Supporting key interventions

Management Sciences for Health (MSH) has been a leader in pharmaceutical systems strengthening for more than two decades, in projects spanning more than 50 countries.

Our work includes:

- Optimizing pharmaceutical-sector financing, including resource allocation and use
- Strengthening pharmaceutical-sector leadership and governance and establishing sound policies and legislation
- Increasing institutional and human resource capacity for pharmaceutical management and services
- Strengthening pharmaceutical regulatory systems
- Increasing the availability and use of pharmaceutical information for decision making
- Improving pharmaceutical services, including product availability and patient-centered care, to achieve health outcomes

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One-third of the world's population lacks access to essential medicine.

Falsified antimalarial medicines killed *more than* **120,000** children, in one year alone, in Africa.

Poorer households in low- and middle-income countries spend up to **9.5%** of their income on medicines.

As little as **\$13** per capita could buy a basic package of **201** essential medicines, yet many people have limited access to them.¹

Drug-resistant infections lead to an estimated **700,000** deaths per year, and may contribute to **10 million** deaths every year by **2050**.²

Globally, **two-thirds** of antibiotics are sold without prescription.

Some **50%** of patients worldwide do not adhere to recommended medications.

¹ [https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(16\)31599-9.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(16)31599-9.pdf)

² https://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/interagency-coordination-group/IACG_final_report_EN.pdf?ua=1



Stronger health systems. Greater health impact.

USAID-funded programs,
led by MSH, to strengthen
pharmaceutical systems

RPM

Rational Pharmaceutical
Management Project
(1992-2000)



RPM Plus

Rational Pharmaceutical
Management Plus Project
(2000-2008)



SPS 

Strengthening Pharmaceutical
Systems Program
(2008-2011)



SIAPS 

Systems for Improved Access to
Pharmaceuticals & Services Program
(2011- 2018)



MTaPS

Medicines, Technologies, and
Pharmaceutical Services Program
(2018-2023)

The MSH approach

to strengthening pharmaceutical systems for sustainability promotes country ownership and self-reliance by building on existing systems, supporting country-led coordination, and optimizing allocation and use of resources for medicines and related services.

MSH is a leader in pharmaceutical systems strengthening

Tanzania: *Accredited Drug Dispensing Outlet (ADDO) program*

MSH helped the medicines regulatory authority develop and roll out a public-private partnership to accredit more than 14,000 medicines shops nationwide. This has helped improve access to quality medicines in underserved areas that have frequent drug shortages. Six other countries in Africa and Asia are now applying the ADDO model. PROJECT: Sustainable Drug Seller Initiatives, DONOR: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Uganda: *Data for supply chain decision making*

MSH uses data from the national health information system to routinely collect stock status information from 4,000 public and private not-for-profit health facilities, analyze those data, and share them with health leaders to inform supply chain decisions, which has increased the overall availability of medicines. PROJECT: Uganda Health Supply Chain, DONOR: USAID

Kenya: *A new avenue for affordable pharmaceutical products*

MedSource, a wholly owned MSH subsidiary, offers pharmacies, health facilities, and institutions access to medicines and supplies from prequalified distributors and manufacturers. Members also receive business support; some 700 health care professionals have already received training in pharmacy, financial, regulatory, and inventory management.

Bangladesh: *Electronic health information management tools*

Working with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, MSH rolled out a dashboard that tracks reproductive health commodities and contraceptives at more than 29,000 service delivery points and e-TB Manager, which tracks and manages all aspects of TB patient care, to 331 sites. We also trained more than 11,800 health workers to better manage pharmaceuticals and are scaling up a pharmaceutical supply chain management portal. PROJECT: SIAPS & MTaPS, DONOR: USAID

Namibia: *Improved availability of HIV treatment*

We introduced a medicines registration system and helped develop a bachelor of pharmacy curriculum that scaled up the local training of pharmacy personnel and addressed a critical human resource shortage. MSH also supported the launch of an electronic dispensing tool for antiretrovirals and antiretroviral treatment patient monitoring and reporting in more than 80 public health facilities, increasing efficiency and reducing the number of patients lost to follow-up. PROJECT: SIAPS, DONOR: USAID

Ukraine: *Enabling health sector reform*

To help Ukraine provide more cost-effective care, MSH is supporting a health technology assessment (HTA) that identifies which medicines, medical devices, and treatment regimens should be a priority for its health system. We also supported the launch of Ukraine's first medical Central Procurement Agency. We helped the government engage the private logistics sector in improving distribution and warehousing of antiretroviral and tuberculosis commodities to tackle Ukraine's HIV epidemic. PROJECT: Safe, Affordable, and Effective Medicines for Ukrainians, DONOR: USAID

Philippines: *A system to monitor medicine safety and efficacy*

MSH is helping the country develop a national digital surveillance system to monitor safety and efficacy of TB medicines and is working on establishing collaborations with pharmacy schools to implement trainings to strengthen the Department of Health's pharmacovigilance and medicines safety capacity. We are also helping the Department of Health procure and deploy an end-to-end, integrated electronic logistics management information system for an improved health supply chain under the country's newly implemented UHC law. PROJECT: MTaPS, DONOR: USAID

For more information about our pharmaceutical systems strengthening work, please contact communications@msh.org.