



# USAID MEDICINES, TECHNOLOGIES, AND PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES (MTaPS) PROGRAM

*Improved Access. Improved Services. Better Health Outcomes.*

Photo by Fabrice Duhal

## MTaPS objectives

1. Pharmaceutical-sector governance strengthened
2. Institutional and human resource capacity for pharmaceutical management and services increased, including regulation of medical products
3. Availability and use of pharmaceutical information for decision making increased and global learning agenda advanced
4. Pharmaceutical-sector financing, including resource allocation and use, optimized
5. Pharmaceutical services, including product availability and patient-centered care, to achieve health outcomes improved

## The MTaPS Program is from the American People through USAID

Based on its decades of expertise in strengthening health systems to save lives and improve the health of people in low- and middle-income countries, USAID supports better governance and integrated, innovative, and sustainable strategies to strengthen pharmaceutical systems.

*Funded by the US Agency for International Development and led by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), the goal of the five-year USAID Medicines, Technologies, and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPS) Program (2018–2023) is to help low- and middle-income countries strengthen their pharmaceutical systems to ensure sustainable access to and appropriate use of safe, effective, quality-assured, and affordable essential medicines and pharmaceutical services.*



## STRENGTHENING PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY CHAIN SYSTEMS

**S**trong supply chain systems ensure uninterrupted availability of life-saving medicines and other health technologies for successful achievement of global goals, such as ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic, TB and malaria elimination, preventing maternal and childhood deaths, and improving health outcomes overall.

Ensuring the uninterrupted availability of quality-assured medicines and health technologies from the manufacturer to end users is the ultimate goal of pharmaceutical supply chain systems. However, strategies to strengthen key supply chain components are inadequate in many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), and systems cannot effectively manage local and global health program demands. Furthermore, the surge of new epidemics, the introduction of new medicines and technologies, and the need to adapt to new delivery strategies strain already challenged systems.

Through MTaPS and other programs, USAID provides technical assistance to improve country supply chain systems.<sup>1,2</sup> One of the three priority objectives in USAID's Vision for Health Systems Strengthening 2015–2019 is to "strengthen supply chain components to ensure the uninterrupted supply of quality-assured health commodities, including creating a supportive environment for commodity security."

Implementing an effective and efficient supply chain management system involves putting good supply chain governance with clear structure in place; strategically planning, designing, and implementing all functions and related processes; investing in human resources and institutional capacity to effectively and efficiently manage the supply chain systems;<sup>3</sup> and developing and implementing comprehensive information systems.

MTaPS supports ministries of health (MOHs), donors, and supply chain stakeholders to design and implement resilient supply chain management solutions that lead to self-reliance through county-led initiatives and local capacity building.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/global-health/health-systems/strengthening-pharmaceutical-systems>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.usaid.gov/selfreliance>

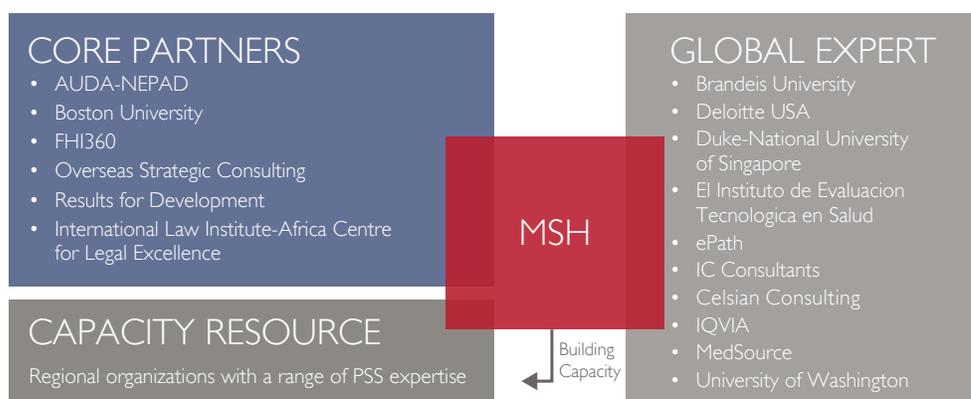
<sup>3</sup> Meeting Tomorrow's Health Challenges through Workforce Excellence in Supply Chain Management, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, 28–29 June, 2011

## MTaPS helps countries:

- Conduct stakeholder mapping of supply chain systems, establish/strengthen a supply chain governing body with identified stakeholders, and assist that body to develop a political strategy/supply governance plan
- Strengthen supply chain governance capacity to set clear rules and structures and disseminate information in collaboration with Global Health Supply Chain partners
- Integrate supply chain functions from the central level to the point of care for health commodities and develop and execute the integration plan, including change management, tools, training, and information systems
- Support the whole market view of medicine availability by incorporating data on private-sector procurement and consumer purchasing behaviors and developing a strategic plan, including market segmentation, to improve resource use
- Assess and implement end-to-end information systems for supply chain through detailed user and system requirement studies, global standards, and global digital health guiding principles
- Support improvements in data analytics, data use culture, dispensing, and product management practices at the point of care, including the use of electronic dispensing, stock management, and transaction management tools
- Support policy options analysis to develop a long-term investment plan to optimize a combination of domestic manufacturing and international procurement that will improve essential medicines availability and affordability
- Adopt the World Health Organization's new essential diagnostic list, essential medicines lists, and overall health technologies
- Assess supply chain system inefficiencies and provide alternative management practices
- Build their capacity to improve the quality of procured medicines and other health technologies, designate technical specifications of medicines/products, establish manufacturer prequalification processes in collaboration with the national medicines regulatory authority, and streamline and strengthen comprehensive post-marketing surveillance systems
- Analyze supply chain gains and expenditures, evaluate success and risk factors, identify causes of inefficiencies, develop strategies to address root causes and implement risk mitigation through outsourcing to third-party logistics providers, and advocate for policy changes where appropriate
- Establish a supply chain performance monitoring plan with key performance indicators and an annual performance review process with the supply chain oversight body

## The MTaPS Consortium

Led by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), the MTaPS consortium comprises core partners, global experts, and capacity resource partners. Core partners and global experts are listed below. Capacity resource partners include local organizations with regional or country-based knowledge, technical expertise, and networks (African Health Economics and Policy Association, African Collaborating Centre for Pharmacovigilance and Surveillance, Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network, Kilimanjaro School of Pharmacy, Muhimbili University, Pharmaceutical Systems Africa, U3 SystemsWork, and the University of Ibadan) and other partners (Columbus Consulting, Empower Swiss, and Softworks).



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