Strengthening Supply Chain and Pharmaceutical Systems for Sustained Health Impact

For more than three decades, Management Sciences for Health has partnered with countries to build high-performing supply chains that ensure reliable access to safe, effective, quality-assured medicines and people-centered pharmaceutical services. MSH takes a holistic approach that fosters country-led innovation, whole-of-society engagement and collaboration, private-sector engagement, and effective leadership and governance. This ensures both reliable, affordable access to and sustainable delivery of medical products when and where they are needed and their appropriate use to save lives and improve health.

MSH’s holistic, integrated approaches strengthen supply chain and pharmaceutical systems to save and improve lives.
Supply Chains

MSH’s targeted technical assistance and operational support help countries professionalize their supply chains, optimize operating efficiencies, enable end-to-end data visibility, and improve performance. We:

- Supported **Ukraine** in creating and operationalizing a new Central Procurement Agency and introducing managed entry agreements
- Assisted **Uganda** in establishing a Ministry of Health (MOH) Quantification and Procurement Planning Unit, developing a 10-year roadmap that has been embraced across ministries, and digitizing the entire supply chain at national and facility levels
- Enabled **Bangladesh** to quickly develop and deploy an online COVID-19 supply chain and logistics platform and facilitated **Rwanda’s** integration of supply chain data into the national DHIS2 and data warehouse
- Helped the **Philippines** to develop its national supply strategic plan and roadmap and to implement and scale up an electronic logistics management information system, which is now used at two-thirds of universal health care sites for data-informed decision making

**ENGAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

In **Ukraine**, MSH helped the MOH outsource warehousing and distribution of 1.2 million COVID-19 vaccine doses and contract last-mile distribution of HIV, TB, and hepatitis medicines to a private logistics company for significantly increased delivery efficiency. In **Uganda**, we helped the private not-for-profit Joint Medical Store—now a direct USAID contractor—to streamline warehouse flow and outsource last-mile distribution, raising on-time, in-full delivery from under 50% to over 90%. In **Nigeria** and the **Philippines**, our research supported advocacy for integrating private fourth-party logistics service providers with the public supply chain.
Regulatory Systems

MSH helps countries build and strengthen systems to ensure the quality, safety, and efficacy of medical products. We:

- Assisted 16 MTaPS-supported countries in developing, improving, and enforcing 367 evidence-based medicines policies, laws, regulations, and standards.
- Helped Bangladesh automate drug licensing processes and scale up pharmacovigilance and vaccine surveillance.
- Facilitated training and accreditation for private drug shops in Bangladesh, Liberia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda; guided Rwanda in developing accreditation standards for hospital pharmaceutical services; and supported Uganda in strengthening dispensaries and private wholesalers to achieve certification standards.

IMPROVING DATA MANAGEMENT

In Uganda, MSH built a pharmaceutical information portal, integrating logistics and dispensing data from warehouses and public and private facilities, that improves visibility across the supply chain. In Indonesia, we strengthened capacity for tracking pharmaceutical expenditures. In the Philippines, we created a mobile app to prevent stock-outs of COVID-19 commodities. In Ukraine, MSH improved tracking of 12,000 tons of medicines and supplies to 4,000 health facilities.
Pharmaceutical Services

MSH helps countries strengthen systems for selecting and prioritizing medical products, promoting their rational dispensing and use, preventing health care-associated infections, and slowing the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). We:

- Assisted 17 countries in advancing the use of health technology assessment (HTA) to prioritize and integrate new products, including Ukraine, which achieved the fastest HTA rollout in any country despite invasion and war.
- Supported COVID-19 vaccine registration, distribution, inventory tracking, and promotion in 12 countries.
- Collaborated with UNICEF and other partners to advocate for country-level action to improve access to and appropriate use of childhood pneumonia medicines.
- Helped 13 countries to develop and execute national AMR action plans and 12 countries to strengthen facility infection prevention and control (IPC) practices.

STRENGTHENING CROSS-CUTTING SYSTEMS

Workforce
In Uganda, MSH’s supervision, assessment, and recognition strategy nearly tripled scores for prescribing quality, while in Madagascar, district pharmacies with high scores rose from 5% to 27% and those with poor scores declined from 30% to 5%. During COVID-19, MTaPS accelerated IPC training for more than 42,000 health workers in 14 countries and developed locally led eLearning platforms in 7 countries.

Financing
MSH’s primary health care costing tool is used in Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone to optimize resource allocation. In Ukraine, MSH helped launch and expand the national medicines reimbursement program. In Kenya, we created MedSource, which aggregates purchases by small private pharmacies, facilities, and labs to negotiate reduced medicine prices for their patients.

Governance
Globally, MSH worked with the World Health Organization on guidance on managing pharmaceutical-sector conflicts of interest and with USAID on a guide to social accountability for access to and appropriate use of maternal, newborn, and child health medicines. In Ukraine, we helped develop antifraud protections in the national Affordable Medicines Program.

As a contractor under USAID’s NextGen Global Health Supply Chain Comprehensive Technical Assistance (CompTA) program (2024–2034), MSH leads a consortium of specialized commercial and nongovernmental organization partners that brings together the best in global expertise and local innovation. MSH’s team is uniquely positioned to support countries in building better-performing supply chains that draw on the capabilities and resources of the public and private sectors; to provide operational and technical support to increase access to health commodities; and to improve pharmaceutical services, management systems, and regulatory capacity to ensure sustainable achievement of health impact.