



USAID'S SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT STRENGTHENING PROJECT

SUCCESS STORY

Technical assistance to increase antiretroviral (ARV) availability during the COVID pandemic

BACKGROUND

The USAID's Supply Chain Management Strengthening Project (USAID/SCMS) aims to ensure a continuous supply of HIV related commodities particularly in PEPFAR-supported facilities, which serve a significant proportion of Haitian migrants and their descendants.

The Project began in January 2022, in the midst of a supply problem due -mainly- to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in international supply chains. Moreover, the Ministry of Public Health was compelled to increase the quantity of ARVs delivered to health facilities in order to reduce the frequency people on antiretroviral therapy (ART) were replenished. Due to the combination of these factors, by the end of 2021 the inventory security levels of a large proportion of products had been consumed and some were out of stock.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INTERVENTIONS

The first intervention supported by the USAID/SCMS project was a rapid analysis of the quality of the data generated by the information system of the Unified System for the Management of Medicines and Supplies (SUGEMI), administered by the Directorate of Medicines in Supplies (DMI). The DMI, with the technical assistance of USAID/SCMS, adjusted the methods for the processing and analysis of the data, and their visual presentation in a supply management dashboard. This updated and reviewed information was analyzed by technicians from the General Directorate of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS (DIGECITSS) and the DMI, which are members of the Medicines Technical Working Group (MTWG), to generate decisions to solve the supply problems:

- Internal redistributions were carried out from warehouses with overstock to those that were understocked.
- DIGECITSS issued guidelines for the replacement of undersupplied ARVs with therapeutic equivalents and requested urgent deliveries from international suppliers
- USAID/SCMS expedited a donation of 194,964 ARV units of Dolutegravir and Emtricitabine/Tenofovir, 3.1 million condoms and 113,000 rapid tests from USAID.
- In the absence of additional transportation, PROMESE-CAL reviewed the distribution schedules to make the routes more efficient
- Stock levels at health facilities were increased to three months of consumption to prevent future stockouts
- Direct support was provided to PEPFAR supported facilities to improve the adherence to SUGEMI procedures to estimate needs and requirements.

RESULTS

At the end of March 2022, the availability of all first line ARVs at the PROMESE-CAL warehouse was at normal levels, but stocks remained low, with risk of stockouts, at regional warehouses and health facilities. Remaining supply chain problems were progressively corrected by close monitoring of the stock levels, increasing the stock security levels and training in supply management directed to new staff. Table I displays for each of the tracer ARVs products the number of health facilities out stocked in January and September 2022. The percentage of facilities with availability of all ARV tracer products went from 76% (29/39) in January to 95% (37/39) in August.

Table I. Availability* of 1st line ARV (Tenofovir/ Emtricitabine/ Dolutegravir) in PEPFAR/USAID supported facilities

Health facilities	January	August
ACTIVO 20 30 SAI	0.8	2.9
AID for AIDS	1.0	3.7
BOCA CHICA	0.0	3.3
CENTRO DE PROMOCION Y SOLIDARIDAD HUMANA	2.7	3.5
CENTRO PRIMER NIVEL Y ESPECIALIZADO LOTES Y SERVICIOS	2.4	4.0
CLINICA DE FAMILIA LA ROMANA	4.2	2.1
CPN 5 LAS CINCO CASAS	0.2	2.0
CPNA YOLANDA GUZMAN	0.0	1.1
DR ANGEL CONTRERAS	0.2	2.0
DR ANTONIO MUSA	0.5	3.8
DR FRANCISCO ANTONIO GONZALVO	2.1	5.3
ESPERANZA Y CARIDAD	2.8	1.8
IDEV	0.6	3.1

RICARDO LIMARDO	0.0	3.1
SAN LORENZO DE LOS MINA MATERNO INFANTIL	4.1	15.1
YAMASA	4.6	1.8
Median	0.9	3.1

*Available moths based on monthly consumption

CONCLUSION

The main objective of the the USAID/SCMS project was to ensure a continuous supply of HIV related commodities. Despite the hurdles imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, this objective was largely completed by the end of year 1 of the project due to evidence-based decisions to speed up procurement processes, expedite donations and the strengthening of the supply chain performance. The accomplishments will continue to be consolidated during project years 2 and 3.