

Transfer of storage of HIV products to the Essential Medicines and Central Logistics Support Program in the Dominican Republic

With the support of the Joint United Nations HIV and AIDS Program (UNAIDS) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

And the technical support of GIS Consulting Group

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Background

The storage of products for the diagnosis and treatment of HIV requires special conditions and a strict inventory management. In 2004, with the support of cooperating agencies, the services of a private logistic operator with warehouses in Santo Domingo were contracted. Since 2018, the Ministry of Public Health (MSP) assumed the recurring costs of this contract, constituting a heavy financial burden for this entity.

In February 2021, a presidential Decree ratified the Essential Medicines and Central Logistics Support Program (PROMESE-CAL) as the entity with the authority to procure and carry out the logistics management for all the products distributed in the Dominican Republic Public Health System¹.

Based on the legal support provided by the Presidential Decree and with the purpose of optimizing the financial resources set aside for HIV control, the Vice Ministry of Collective Health and the Ministry of Public Health's Division of Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV (DIGECITSS) requested technical assistance from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to facilitate the transfer of HIV products from the private logistic provider to PROMESE-CAL. USAID coordinated this technical assistance through the Joint United Nations Program on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) in the Dominican Republic, which contracted the services of the GIS Consulting Group to facilitate the process.

Conditions and transfer plan

GIS carried out a rapid study to identify the conditions for the transfer and to develop, on this basis, a consensual transfer plan. This study determined that PROMESE-CAL had sufficient warehouse capacity to receive the volume of inventory to be transferred and to assume the responsibility for the storage operations, so that these would not represent an additional cost for the institution. The study established the requirement of adapting selected spaces for the storage of products at regular temperature and in cold rooms. The plan also included: the cancellation of the contract with the private provider and the outstanding payments, the disposition of expired products, and the allocation of vehicles and personnel for the transfer and reception of products.

¹ Decreto Presidencial 113-21 del Señor Presidente Luis Abinader, firmado el 19 de febrero 2021.





The transfer plan was presented, revised and validated by the authorized representatives from the Vice Ministry of Collective Health, DIGECITSS, PROMESE-CAL and USAID in a joint meeting that took place in March 2021.

Transfer of Products

After reaching the political agreements, an inter-institutional technical team was designated to implement the transfer plan. GIS provided training to the PROMESE-CAL staff in the management of HIV medications and supplies. PROMESE-CAL conditioned 280 cubic meters with their own financial resources, in order to store 4.2 million units of HIV medications and diagnostic supplies. The MSP concluded the administrative relation with the private provider, paying the pending invoices and terminating the contract.

The transfer of products to the PROMESE-CAL warehouse was complete on July 21, 2021. No disruption in the supply of products to the Regional Health Services were reported. It is estimated that this transfer of products to the PROMESE-CAL warehouse will save **US\$ 254,429 (RD\$ 14.4 millions) on an annual basis**; financial resources that can be then invested in other HIV control activities.

In a high-level closing event, all authorities supported this handover and expressed commitments for the technical and financial sustainability of HIV logistic management.



Recommended citation:

Ministerio de Salud Pública; PROMESE-CAL. (2021). Resumen Político: Transferencia del almacenamiento de productos de VIH al Programa de Medicamentos Esenciales y Central de apoyo Logístico (PROMESE/ CAL), República Dominicana. Con el apoyo de USAID y ONUSIDA. Julio de 2021.