



Ensuring Access to RH Commodities in Post Ebola Countries.

Lessons from Liberia on Rebuilding Resilient Supply Chain Systems

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Background (1)

- Liberia is situated in West Africa, bordered by Sierra Leone, Guinea, and the Ivory Coast.
- In comparative terms, Liberia is about the size of the State of Virginia in the USA and has approximately half the population.



Background (2)

- Over the past few decades, Liberia has been ravaged by a series of civil wars which left more than half a million people dead and many displaced.
- A peace agreement led to democratic elections in 2005 but today Liberia remains one of the poorest countries in the world.
- Slowly, the country had been recovering from the effects of war but a debilitating Ebola virus outbreak left the country again on its knees.

Statement of the Problem 1

- As of May, 2015, when the country was declared Ebola free, 10,817 persons had been infected by the EVD, resulting in 4,785 deaths.
- The Ebola epidemic accentuated the challenges of the inadequate capacity to manage health commodities in the country.
- The disruptions in provision of routine services, with inability of the system to adequately respond to the epidemic and a loss of community trust in services.
- Inadequate capacity to manage medicines and related health products can lead to increased costs to systems as well as wastage and untreated patients for a variety of health conditions.

Statement of the Problem 2

- Inadequately trained staff is chief among the causes of the supply chain weaknesses in Liberia.
- Currently, most supply chain management functions, particularly at SDPs, in the country are performed by untrained or inadequately trained staff, some with as little as three years of formal education.

Consequences of Inadequate Capacity to Manage the Supply Chain System

Product	Percentage/Number of Facilities Stocked-out HF = 690	
	July 2014	July 2015
Depo-Provera	64% (442)	43.1%(297)
Ergometrine	90%(621)	20%(138)
Microgynon 30	66%(455)	33.75%(233)
Male condoms	71%(490)	30%(207)
Oxytocin	78%(538)	18%(124)

Statement of the Problem 3

- As of 2014, no exercise had attempted to quantify the magnitude of Liberia's SC challenges and recommend strategies to address these challenges.
- Funded by the RHSC Innovation Fund, Pharmaceutical Systems Africa, together with the Supply Chain Management Unit (SCMU) of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW) and the University of Liberia, and supported by the PtD Initiative, worked to develop a roadmap for SCM training in Liberia.

About Pharmaceutical Systems Africa

- Pharmaceutical Systems Africa (PSA) is an international organization with experience in low-income countries.
- PSA is registered in the USA, Liberia, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia.
- Over the past two years, PSA has been working on grants from multilateral donors to strengthen the supply chain system in Liberia.
- Through these grants, PSA assisted the country to significantly improve the quality of Pharmacy in the country

Goal and Objectives of the Project

The overall goal of the project was to improve pharmaceutical supply chain training in Liberia.

The specific objectives of the project included the following:

- Map SCM training activities in Liberia (both pre- and in-service)
- Assess SCM training curricula in the country (by cadre and by level of training)
- Develop a SCM training road for the country (based on competency framework, training capacity, and resources available)
- Adapt the SCM Training Road Map into policy.

Approach

- Desk review of key documents, such as MOHSW workforce and job descriptions
- Key informant interviews with key SCM personnel
- Focus group discussions
- Stakeholders' consensus meetings

Map SCM Training Activities

This activity included establishing the following:

- The number and location of institutions providing SCM training
- The qualifications and capacity of persons providing SCM/Training
- The cadres in the system who received any form of training in SCM (including competence mapping by cadre)
- The number and nature of other organizations providing SCM training courses (mainly in-service)

Assessing SCM Training curricula

- SCM modules for pharmacists
- SCM modules for dispensers training courses
- SCM modules for nurses and midwives
- SCM modules for business schools
- SCM modules for any other cadres (Supply Chain Coordinators, Drug Depot Focal Persons, and Depot Assistant)

Develop a Training Road Map

- A clear road map for SCM training developed
 - Existing competences
 - Institutional requirements
 - Curricula requirements
 - Resource requirements (human and financial)
 - Timelines for implementation

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For most women, including women who want to have children, contraception is not an option; it is a basic health care necessity.

-- Louise Slaughter