

Ethiopia's experience: applying effective approaches contributing to improving availability and reducing wastage of essential medicines



Organizing medicine dispensary by bin ownership.

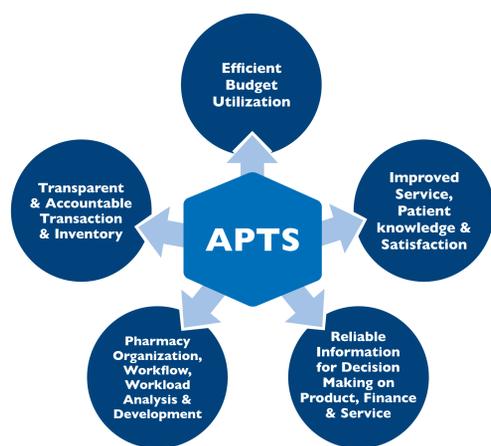
Background

Weaknesses in the governance of the Ethiopian pharmaceutical sector include:

- ➔ Lack of transparency and accountability in managing health facilities' medicines transactions, resulting in wastage of resources.
- ➔ Shortage of medicines and poor service quality.

To address these challenges, Ethiopia has implemented Auditable Pharmaceutical Transactions and Service (APTS) – a data-driven solution designed to establish accountable and transparent pharmacy practices at 350 hospitals throughout the country.

Five Result Areas of APTS



APTS Approach

- ➔ Develop regulations and directives for pharmaceutical transactions and services.
- ➔ Create a better physical inventory (PI) system, including preparation, count, and analysis to ensure effective use of the pharmacy workforce services.

- ➔ Conduct stock transfer (ST) based on stock status analysis (SSA).
- ➔ Conduct pharmaceutical cost analysis (Pareto analysis).
- ➔ Prioritize medicines for procurement based on WHO's VEN classification.
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- ➔ Implement bin ownership for tracking of expiry dates, stock status, and best availability.

- 0.9%** 0.9 percent average wastage rate for medicines, (below the 2 percent national target and the 4.7 percent measure from 2016).
- 81%** 81 percent of Hospitals implemented bin ownership which contributes to better tracking of expiry dates, performing of stock status analysis and stock transfer.
- 75%** 75- 100 percent availability of tracer medicines in 12 hospitals that implemented stock transfer as per the stock status analysis. While other hospitals that did not implement stock status analysis have essential medicine availability that range between 61-81 percent.

GHSC-PSM Provided:

- ➔ Technical support for the development of legislation, guidelines, and SOPs.
- ➔ Training on APTS principles .
- ➔ Initiating APTS at HFs.
- ➔ Pharmacy infrastructure design.
- ➔ Supply of shelving.
- ➔ Results-oriented supportive supervision.

Assesment of APTS Implimentation

Cross-sectional study conducted in 26 hospitals in September 2020 to assess APTS status.

Results

- 62%** 62 percent of hospitals that conducted Physical Inventory as per APTS principles took 1 to 4 days whereas those hospitals that did not follow APTS principles took 5 to 15 days
- 92%** 24 (92 percent) hospitals undertook stock status analysis to improve availability and reduce wastage – very important for diseases like seasonal malaria.



APTS inauguration at Dire Dawa.

Conclusion

APTS improved the regular practice of more efficient physical inventory, stock status analysis, and stock transfer, in turn contributing to improved pharmaceutical availability and reduced wastage. The MOH is working to scale up APTS to improve the pharmaceutical supply chain and pharmacy service practices at health facilities.

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