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PtD GLOBAL INDABA

Zambia's journey to supply chain management technical independence through institutionalization in nursing, biomedical sciences and pharmacy colleges and universities

By

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Presented by the **USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program-Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) project** in Zambia

Background



Background – health supply chain

Pharmaceutical products play an important role in healthcare delivery in Zambia.

Zambian supply chain is challenged by insufficient numbers of staff trained in SCM and high attrition of trained staff.

Background – GHSC-PSM role

The USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program-Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) project works with the Zambian government to address these challenges and facilitate an effective, uninterrupted pharmaceutical supply system.

In 2017, GHSC-PSM engaged three institutions of higher learning to explore modalities of training in supply chain management in Zambia.

Method

Higher learning institutions and relevant professional societies met for two days in March 2017 to agree on a road map for introducing supply chain during pre-service training for Biomedical, Pharmacy and nursing students.

University of Zambia (UNZA) and the MOH facilitated these meetings.

Per the road map, GHSC-PSM trained teaching staff, developed learning modules, and validated with MOH and UNZA.

Once validated, the learning institutions began integrating the modules into their SCM curriculum.

Results (1)

SCM is now incorporated in the curricula of the preservice learning institutions to varying extents

- The vocational and undergraduate levels
- Tailored eLearning program for nursing and midwifery institutions

So far, the project trained

- 425 lecturers and tutors
- Over 4,000 students in all of Zambia's training institutions for nursing, biomedical sciences, and pharmacy

Results (2)

During the initial phases, practical delivery of SCM concepts was not adequate, however, training institutions are now working with preceptors from pharmacy and lab departments to provide students with hands-on SCM experience.

Training and periodic follow up at learning institutions have increased program buy in among SCM lecturers.

Discussion

GHSC-PSM found that implementation of preservice training reduces the cost of in-service human resource development as personnel graduate with SCM skills and competencies before they go to health facilities.



SCM training is important as it facilitates staff capacity building to strengthen commodity management for health care commodity security

Conclusion – next steps

The project and MOH will work to implement and standardize SCM training

Adding public and private learning institutions

Developing a postgraduate and Master of Science SCM curriculum

Strengthening SCM practical skills by incorporating SCM into internship programs

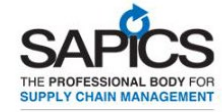


By increasing access to SCM training, resource-limited countries can widen the pool of well-trained staff available to be deployed to health care facilities countrywide.

Lessons learned

Implementation of SCM at higher learning institutions has reduced the need for in-service training for facility staff, from 40 trainings to 10 trainings per annum.

Assessing SCM as part of pharmacy internship and industrial attachment programs increases sustainability and can lead to Ministry of Health technical independence in this realm.



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