



Providing quality medicines for people  
living with and affected by HIV and AIDS



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## World AIDS Day, December 1, 2009

Dear friends and colleagues,

By the end of 2008, some four million people had access to ARV therapy in low- and middle-income countries—a dramatic 36 percent increase over the year before and a five-fold increase in five years. This significant improvement and important progress in prevention of new infections and growing pediatric programs is confirmed in the UNAIDS 09 AIDS epidemic update published for World AIDS Day. Our programs in 16 countries have helped transform public health supply chains to support this rapid scale-up. SCMS now procures ARVs to support at least one million people on treatment.

On this World AIDS Day, we celebrate what has been accomplished in such a short time. Working in partnership, countless governments, ministries of health, donors, non-government organizations, faith-based organizations and others have replaced resignation with hope for millions of people living with HIV/AIDS. This rapid scale-up was made possible in part by the strengthening of public health supply chains globally, regionally and nationally to deliver the vital commodities needed to operate treatment programs.

But as we celebrate this success we face a global economic crisis and, as a result, the sobering reality that many programs are now facing a leveling off of available resources. To support patients currently on treatment and to add those in need, we must all find ways to do more with existing funds.

An integrated supply chain that links multiple procurement functions and coordinates across stakeholders can lower costs for commodities, shipping, warehousing and distribution. By pooling procurement, buying generic medicines when possible, shipping by sea and land rather than air, and in many other ways SCMS is helping reduce costs for our clients and the US taxpayer. Every dollar saved in the supply chain can be redirected to treatment, care, testing and prevention for more people who need it.

In the next year we at SCMS will redouble our efforts to reduce costs in the supply chain so that limitations in funding do not have to mean a slowing down of the scale up in treatment. In addition to treatment, we will increasingly support prevention initiatives like male circumcision and prevention of mother-to-child transmission.

We thank our more than 400 staff worldwide for their commitment to excellence and for the labor of love that is this work. And we look forward to continuing and expanding our partnerships with you, our colleagues, to save even more lives through stronger supply chains.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Owens", written in a cursive style.

Richard C. Owens, Jr.  
Project Director

### SCMS Project Team

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