

# Supply Chain Management System

Providing Quality Medicines for People Living with and Affected by HIV and AIDS

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## SCMS Update January 2007

### First shipment from South Africa regional distribution center to Mozambique

In order to rapidly fulfill a request for essential medicines for HIV/AIDS care and treatment, SCMS delivered its first shipment from the South African regional distribution center (RDC) to Mozambique on January 8.

In addition to Mozambique, the RDC in Johannesburg will deliver to neighboring countries Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. As these countries scale up their HIV/AIDS programs, the RDC can help to ensure that there is a rapid and reliable supply of essential medicines and other products.

There are numerous benefits of shipping first to an RDC and then to a country of destination including:

- Decreasing the delivery time of frequently requested antiretrovirals, HIV test kits and other commodities to respond quickly to country and program needs;
- Increasing the frequency of deliveries to enable space-constrained country warehouses to carry less inventory and minimize product wastage;
- Providing improved inventory management, preventing loss of or damage to products;
- Implementing additional quality assurance procedures to prevent counterfeits and assure product quality; and
- Reducing the paperwork burden and minimizing the number of separate pre-shipment inspections by consolidating orders and making single shipments of multiple products.

SCMS has also established an RDC in Accra, Ghana to serve west Africa, one in Georgia, USA to serve Latin America and the Caribbean, and is in the process of establishing one in Kenya to serve east Africa.

### Essential antiretroviral delivered to Zambia

Recently Zambia faced a shortage of an essential antiretroviral drug. There is only one manufacturer of the medication, and lead time from ordering to delivery is usually 12 weeks. SCMS was asked on November 30 to expedite an existing order of the drug, originally planned for delivery by the end of February. Regional distribution centers can help prevent stock-outs by storing commonly requested



SCMS regional distribution center in Accra, Ghana, stores essential medicines and supplies for HIV/AIDS care and treatment programs

#### SCMS Project Team

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drugs for unforecasted needs. In this case, there was inventory of the drug in the SCMS distribution center based in Ghana. On January 8, SCMS delivered enough bottles to treat patients for two months with the life-extending drugs and meet the client's short-term need.

A long-term objective of SCMS is to assist partners in establishing a regular, flexible supply that can adjust to actual demand and avoid the risk of stockouts or treatment interruptions.

## **Haiti conducts training in stock management for AIDS care and treatment**

As HIV/AIDS care and treatment programs increase the number of patients they serve in developing countries, local staff members must be able to manage the inventory of essential antiretroviral drugs and medicines for opportunistic infections such as tuberculosis. A well-managed inventory can ensure an uninterrupted, secure supply of products that are properly stored until needed.



*Trainer Moto Eomba leads participants in a "training of trainers" class in stock management, in Port au Prince, Haiti. Photo: Greg Roche*

In order to maximize the impact of limited training resources, in October SCMS conducted a training of trainers in the area of stock (inventory) management. Among these new “master trainers” are staff from Catholic Relief Services/Haiti and the Global Fund’s principal recipient, SOGEBANK Foundation. “This training has inspired me to go and train others in logistics for HIV commodities,” said one participant. The new master trainers then had the opportunity to put into practice what they learned when they, with the support of the two SCMS trainers, trained 40 staff from PEPFAR and other partners in stock management. The participants in the course were primarily pharmacists who are responsible for managing the stocks of essential medicines and supplies at HIV/AIDS treatment sites. By building the capacity of these trainers, SCMS aims to contribute to long-term, sustainable improvements of the supply chain in Haiti.

## **Nigeria begins development of logistics and health information system**

In Nigeria, more than 67,000 people are receiving antiretroviral treatment supported by PEPFAR, with plans to increase the number to 350,000 by 2008. One of the biggest challenges in rapid scale-up is having reliable, up-to-date information about the numbers and the locations of the patients receiving services. In November, the Government of Nigeria and the US Government project management team initiated development of a new information system that will strengthen the ability of the Government of Nigeria and its partners to plan, manage, and monitor the HIV/AIDS program. The Logistics and Health Program Management Information Platform is a Government of Nigeria system, based on a technology platform developed by SCMS team member Voxiva. The system will provide an efficient web-based data collection tool to facilitate and coordinate reporting on PEPFAR indicators by all implementing partners. The information system is a tool that will provide HIV/AIDS program managers with the key data necessary to plan effectively and make informed decisions, contributing to the ultimate goal of improving patient care.