

## Regional Medical Store staff trained in warehouse operations management

SCMS supported the Warehouse Operations Management and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) training conducted at the Rundu and Oshakati Multi-Regional Medical stores on the 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> July 2011, respectively.

Thirty-four multi-regional medical stores staff were trained in warehouse operation management and the use of the revised SOPs in managing the day-to-day warehouse operations. The SOPs were recently revised with SCMS support in order to streamline basic storage and inventory control of medicines in the two multi-regional medical stores. The SOPs guide staff on operational processes, to minimize redundancy, lag time and thereby improve efficiency. The training was facilitated by Regional Pharmacists from the Rundu and Oshakati Multi-Regional Medical Stores and SCMS staff.

The implementation of the revised SOPs will minimize unnecessary work processes and enhance documentation through the electronic Syspro system that has been updated through SCMS support. Posters highlighting key operational procedures were also developed and are being used in the stores to support implementation of good warehouse practices that were learned during the training.



*Kavango Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Maina Wambugu addressing participants at the training.*

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Annual Pharmacists' Forum: 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> August 2011
2. Official launch of the NACS Program: 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2011
3. Infection Control and Syspro equipment hand-over to MoHSS at Rundu: 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011
4. MSH Namibia projects review meeting: 9<sup>th</sup>- 11<sup>th</sup> August 2011
5. BLC/NANASO data collection exercise: 15<sup>th</sup> August - 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011



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### **BLC project supports NANASO to prepare for the National CSO mapping**

BLC project supported the Namibia Network of AIDS Service Organization (NANASO) to prepare for the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) mapping exercise.

The support included development of data collection tools, data collection training a consultant, data collectors assisting NANASO staff and logistics for the data collection. This mapping will take place from 15<sup>th</sup> August to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2011. The aim is to assess the capacities of Civil Society Organizations to enable NANASO develop targeted capacity strengthening interventions for HIV/AIDS service organizations in the country.

***MoHSS / SPS  
abstracts accepted  
for oral presentation  
at the 2011 ICIUM***

**F**ive of the nine abstracts submitted by the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) have been accepted for oral presentation at the upcoming International Conference on Improving Use of Medicines (ICIUM) to be held in Antalya, Turkey from 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

The abstracts were co-authored by MoHSS staff and their MSH/SPS counterparts to disseminate key successes strengthening pharmaceutical systems in the delivery of health services with funding from USAID. The abstracts accepted for oral presentation are:

- Tracking of Inter-Facility Patient Transfers and Retention on Antiretroviral Treatment in Namibia
- Using Mobile Technology to strengthen HIV/AIDS management in remote areas
- Strengthening patient Adherence monitoring through the Electronic Dispensing Tool (EDT)
- The Namibia Treatment Literacy Approach: Empowering Patients with Knowledge on Antiretroviral Therapy through Audiovisual Materials
- Use of an indicator-based system for assessing, monitoring and improving pharmacy practice.

The number of the abstracts accepted by the conference organizers highlight a fruitful partnership between MoHSS and the USAID-funded Strengthening Pharmaceutical Systems (SPS) Program which seeks to improve the quality of care and access to medicines for the Namibia population.

***MSH/SCMS supports MoHSS NACS  
refresher training***



*Ms. Hilde Liisa Nashandi (center) Health Programme Administrator: MoHSS' Primary Health Care Directorate, demonstrates how to prepare the fortified blended flour to participants at the training. Photo by MSH staff*

**S**CMS co-facilitated the Nutrition, Assessment, Counselling and Support Program (NACS) refresher training which took place at Okahandja on the 4<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2011.

The training was organized by the Food and Nutrition sub-division of the Primary Health Care (PHC) Directorate in the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS). A total of 43 participants were trained. The participants were nurses who will be involved in the implementation of the NACS program at ART and PHC clinics in the four northern regions of Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana and Oshikoto.

The overall objective of the training was to strengthen the capacity of health workers to effectively screen, counsel, treat, refer and follow-up acute and moderately malnourished under five children, PLHIV, pregnant and post partum women.

Key aspects of the training included:

- An introduction to basic nutrition principles
- Nutrition requirements for the target population
- Overview of the NACS Program
- Inventory management
- Monitoring and supervision of the implementation

SCMS provided training on inventory management which focused on the importance of effective management of Therapeutic and Supplementary Foods (TSF). After the training TSF were delivered to all clinics whose staff had participated in the training to facilitate immediate implementation.

A supportive visit is scheduled to take place in August to monitor the implementation and provide ongoing support to the pilot sites. The NACS program is scheduled for launch on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2011.

## SPS supports data verification and clean-up exercise to improve ART data quality

SPS staff joined the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) staff from the Subdivision: Response, Monitoring and Evaluation (RM&E), Intermediate Hospital Katutura and Division: Pharmaceutical Services in a data verification and clean up exercise at Intermediate Hospital Katutura in Windhoek in the month of July. The exercise entailed:

- Comparing ART patient data in the Electronic Dispensing Tool (EDT) in the pharmacy and the electronic Patient Management System (ePMS) in the ART clinic
- Identifying discrepancies between patient records in the two systems
- Using the patient files to establish the correct details to update the two databases accordingly

The exercise will improve overall ART data quality and ensure that policy and management decisions are based on accurate data. Discussions are underway to conduct similar exercises in other ART sites in the country.

## SPS supports UNAM and MoHSS staff to attend the first Africa Regional Conference on Tuberculosis (TB) Pharmaceutical Management

The first Africa Regional Conference on Tuberculosis (TB) Pharmaceutical Management organised by MSH was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. The SPS Program supported Dr. Tim Rennie from the University of Namibia's new Department of Pharmacy and Ms. Naita Nashilongo of the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) to attend the conference.

The conference discussed actions for improving TB pharmaceutical human resources among other key issues. Namibia recently completed a TB pharmaceutical management assessment. The participation of UNAM and MoHSS in the conference will therefore strengthen the implementation of recommendations highlighted in the assessment report.

## SCMS delivers the USAID Namibia Condom-Lubricant Donation to the Society for Family Health (SFH)

In July 2011, SCMS procured and delivered 800,000 sachets of condom lubricants to the Society for Family Health (SFH). The procurement was funded by USAID. SFH is a non-governmental organization that implements HIV prevention programs targeting the military, the police and Most At Risk Populations (MARPs) including female sex workers, truckers and out-of-school youths.



Administration and Procurement Coordinator at the SFH, Ms. Diana Mouton (left) shakes hands with MSH/SCMS' Senior Program Associate, Mr. Benjamin Ongeri after inspecting the condom consignment soon after its arrival. Photo by MSH staff.

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## SPS supports the University of Namibia's School of Medicine (SoM) first edition of Seven Stars Newsletter.

The newsletter will contribute to the promotion of the Medicine and Pharmacy Degree Courses, thereby encouraging potential students to apply for the two courses.

"The Newsletter is a means for meaningful dialogue and a vehicle for socio-cultural discourse focusing on medical education in particular but also on the wider debate on human resource development or health" says UNAM SoM Founding Dean, Prof. Peter Nayarang'o.

