

SCMS IN BRIEF



In Nigeria, Building Local Capacity from Day One:

INTEGRATING LOGISTICS SYSTEMS INTO PROGRAM START-UP

During the first years of PEPFAR, drug logistics was often an after-thought for Implementing Partners (IPs). In Nigeria ad hoc systems were established to enable each IP to deliver as many supplies as needed to the sites they supported. Multiple supply chains often serving the same sites are inefficient, costly and hinder sustainability. Significant work is needed to integrate these parallel systems—each with its unique design parameters and operating procedures—into a unified HIV/AIDS logistics system. Working with a new IP, SCMS harmonized their system with the existing national HIV/AIDS commodity logistics system.

From early 2008, SCMS worked with a new PEPFAR IP, the Nigerian Indigenous Capacity Building Project (NICaB) to design a logistics system that would roll-out in tandem with their ART site activation plan. SCMS joined NICaB in assessing ART site capacity to provide comprehensive HIV/AIDS services, and to manage the requisite drugs, lab equipment and supplies, and other commodities. Following the assessment, SCMS lead a system design workshop involving NICaB and clinic-based staff. Features of Nigeria's national HIV/AIDS logistics system were reviewed and adapted for the NICaB system, allowing both harmonization with the



national system and customization to meet NICaB's specific program needs. National system tools, including standard operating procedure manuals, logistics management information system forms, inventory control procedures, job-aids, and monitoring and supervision checklists, along with a training curriculum, were adapted and used to train personnel and implement the system while NICaB rolled out its support to the first four ART sites.

NICaB was the first PEPFAR IP in Nigeria to harmonize its supply chain with the national HIV/AIDS commodity logistics system—a critical step in transitioning PEPFAR activities to sustainable national structures. It is the only IP that has undertaken the rigorous process to establish a robust logistics system from the start of its activities while leveraging resources from other programs. The willingness of NICaB to adopt most of the national system design parameters has

resulted in established IPs requesting SCMS assistance to harmonize their supply chains with the national system.

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As PEPFAR broadens its commitment to working with indigenous organizations, logistics system design must be incorporated into the start-up activities of these new partners. The systems should leverage existing national systems for managing HIV/AIDS commodities, making adjustments for performance improvements where needed. Two key elements that should be harmonized are logistics management information systems, and inventory control systems, since they are the foundations on which integrated logistics systems can be built.

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ABOUT SCMS

The Supply Chain Management System (SCMS) was established to collaborate within country and global partners to ensure a reliable, cost-effective and secure supply of high quality medicines and health products for HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment. SCMS is funded as part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Visit us at www.scms.pfscm.org.

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the US Agency for International Development or the United States government.