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REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
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DEVELOPING A SUPPLY CHAIN TRAINING ROAD MAP FOR LIBERIA

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AVAILABILITY



QUALITY



EQUITY



CHOICE

DEVELOPING A SUPPLY CHAIN TRAINING ROAD MAP FOR LIBERIA

A Sustainable Approach to Manage Essential Medicines and
Related Commodities

THE STRATEGIC PILLARS OF THE COALITION

Availability, Equity, Quality and Choice



Increase the availability of RH products and supplies from the manufacturers through global and country-level supply systems to point-of-access supply provision



Ensure that women and men in low and middle-income countries can obtain and have confidence in safe and effective RH supplies that meet internationally recognized quality standards



Reduce the financial and product-related barriers that hinder access to the supplies people need to ensure their sexual and reproductive health



Enable women and men to choose from among a wider range of contraceptive and other RH supply options than currently available in the global marketplace

- Liberia lies in West Africa, bordered by Sierra Leone to the west, Guinea to the north, and Ivory Coast to the East
- In comparative terms Liberia is about the size of the State of Virginia
- Over the past three decades Liberia has been ravaged by a series of civil wars
- The civil wars left more than half a million Liberians dead
- A peace agreement in 2003 led to democratic elections in 2005 but to date Liberia remains one of the poorest countries in the world
- Slowly, the country had been recovering from the lingering effects of war but a debilitating Ebola virus outbreak has left the country on its knees





- As of October 18th, **2014**, 4657 persons had been infected by EVD resulting in **2694** deaths
- If the country had functional systems, including an efficient supply chain system, the devastating effects of the Ebola epidemic could have been minimized
- To date a majority of health care facilities remain closed, with donors and partners running most of the Ebola Treatment Units

- Before the Ebola outbreak the Liberia SC system already faced a number of challenges. These included:
 - Poor coordination, leading to under/over stocking of commodities at various levels e.g.
 - In July 2014, 64% of public healthcare facilities did not have Depo-Provera, 90% did not have ergometrine, 66% did not have Microgynon 30, 71% did not have male condoms, and 78% did not have oxytocin
 - Poor forecasting and quantification of commodities
 - Poor record keeping and management of data and information
 - Erratic distribution and irrational use of commodities at service delivery points

- Even though the root cause of the challenges are multifold inadequately trained staff is one of the too causes
- Currently most SCM functions in the country are performed by untrained staff, some with as little as three years of formal education
- To date, no exercise has attempted to map SC management training in Liberia
- In addition, no work has been done to assess and review the various curricula used for SCM training in the country
- Funded by RHSC, Pharmaceutical Systems Africa working with the SCMU of the MOHSW and the University of Liberia, is developing a comprehensive road map for SCM training activities in Liberia

ABOUT PHARMACEUTICAL SYSTEMS AFRICA



- Pharmaceutical Systems Africa (PSA) is an international organization with experience in low-income countries, particularly those emerging out of civil or economic strife
- PSA is registered in the USA, Liberia, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia
- Over the past two years, PSA has been working on grant from multilateral donors to strengthen the supply chain system in Liberia
- Through these grants, PSA assisted the country to recruit international academicians to fill critical positions in Pharmacy training sector
- In addition, international Supply Chain Advisors were seconded to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
- In addition to Liberia, PSA plays an active role in the training of pharmacy personnel and other supply chain cadres in other African countries

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT



The overall goal of the project is to improve pharmaceutical supply chain training in Liberia

The specific objectives of the project include the following:

- Map SCM training activities in Liberia (both pre- and in-service)
- Assess SCM training curricula in the country (by cadre and by level of training)
- Develop a SCM training road for the country (based on competency framework, training capacity, and resources available)
- Adapt the SCM Training Road Map into policy

KEY IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



Key Implementing Partners for the project include the following:

1. Supply Chain Management Unit (SCMU) in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (The SCMU is the main implementer for all supply chain activities in Liberia)
2. The School of Pharmacy, University of Liberia;
3. The Pharmaceutical Association of Liberia;
4. The Nursing Council of Liberia;
5. The Pharmacy Board of Liberia;
6. International organizations: The project receives technical support from **RHSC** and the **PtD Initiative**. We also work closely with the USAID/DELIVER project (a key player in the supply chain system in Liberia), UNICEF, UNFPA and CHAI

ACTIVITIES (1)

Map SCM training activities in Liberia

This activity will include establishing the following:

- The number and location of institutions providing SCM training
- The qualifications and capacity of persons providing SCM/Training
- The cadres in the system who received any form of training in SCM (including competence mapping by cadre)
- The number and nature of other organizations providing SCM training courses (mainly in-service)

ACTIVITIES (2)

Assess SCM training curricula in the country

- SCM modules for pharmacists
- SCM modules for dispensers training courses
- SCM modules for nurses and midwives
- SCM modules for business schools
- SCM modules for any other cadres

ACTIVITIES (3)

Develop a training road map for supply chain management training in Liberia, including:

- Institutional requirement
- Curricula requirements
- Resource requirements (human and financial)
- Timelines for implementation

APPROACH



- Desk review of key documents, such as MOHSW workforce and job descriptions
- Key informant interviews with key SCM personnel
- Focus group discussions
- Stakeholders' consensus meetings

EXPECTED OUTCOMES



- Supply chain competences mapped
- Institutions providing training mapped
- SCM curricula in the country developed/reviewed and recommendations for improvement suggested
- A clear road map for SCM training developed

CHALLENGES

- The emergence of the Ebola epidemic has changed country priorities. Current priorities are on survival. System strengthening activities of any nature, are of little consequence to a nation on the brink
- The country's education system, from elementary level, has always been weak; trying to address challenges at a tertiary level needs innovative thinking
- The experts base in the country is poor. Even after a road map is in place it may require additional resources to capacitate a few individuals in the system to serve as mentors and instructors for SCM programs
- An uncoordinated education system presents challenges for various institutions to work together