



Pharmaceutical Information Dashboard, closing data gaps in Namibia

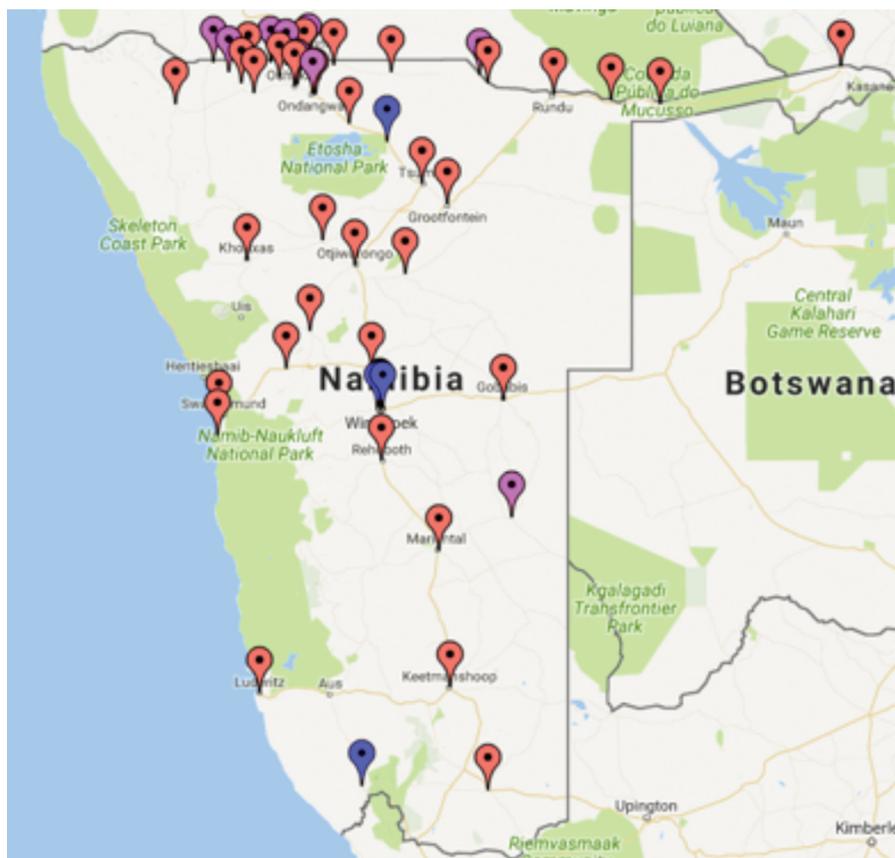
Quick facts

- The Namibian health commodities pipeline has been managed with manual paper-based tools.
- Aggregating reports on the stock status of essential medicines and patient information from paper-based systems to inform decision making has been a challenge.
- Lack of stock status visibility led to critical stockouts of antiretroviral medicines.
- Decision making in emergency stockout situations has been delayed by lack of information on stock status.

Dashboard for Health Facilities

To ensure that the USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program-Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) project fulfils the mandate of uninterrupted supplies of health commodities in support of US government funded public health initiatives around the world, the project heavily relies on accurate data from facility based pharmaceutical electronic tools to monitor antiretroviral (ARV) stock levels, patient uptake and regimen trends, which informs forecasting, supply planning and rational distribution of ARVs and related commodities. The electronic dispensing tool (EDT), the facility electronic stock card (FESC), Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS)'s web-based Pharmaceutical Information Dashboard (PMIS Dashboard), are being used in Namibia to monitor patient and stock information and facilitate evidence-based decision making for pharmaceutical supply planning and to anticipate and manage emergency situations such as stockouts of medicines.

With financial and technical support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded projects, the MoHSS in 2016 launched the Dashboard for Pharmaceutical Information, an investment that cost over N\$7 million. The Dashboard is a national-level information system that aggregates data from several pharmaceutical management electronic tools and displays it in tables and visuals for easy interpretation and decision making by managers of the MoHSS. It is a computerized stock management system for the efficient flow of pharmaceutical information at all central and regional medical stores and district referral hospitals. It has gradually replaced the paper-based stock card currently in use.



Health facilities across Namibia have transitioned from using manual paper-based inventory management systems to electronic information systems. These tools include, the Electronic Dispensing Tool (EDT) which is a health facility desktop software for antiretroviral therapy (ART) pharmacy management and reporting, the EDT National Database facilitates the flow, storage, and collation of ART data at the central level and the Facility Electronic Stock Card (FESC) which is a simple electronic stock control card. These tools register daily transactions and produces monthly ART reports that feed into the Pharmaceutical Information Dashboard.

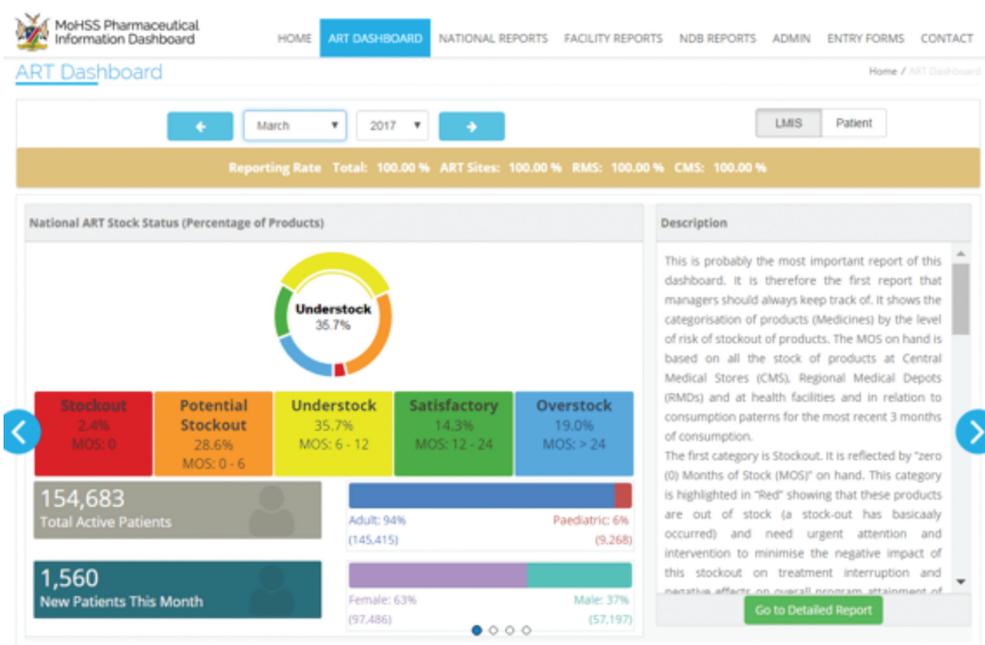
GHSC-PSM took over the management of MoHSS tools and systems from the Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals & Services (SIAPS) program in April 2018. Since then the FESC, EDT and the dashboard have been updated to facilitate new antiretroviral therapy (ART) program initiatives such as Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), Tuberculosis (TB) preventive therapy and the transition to new optimal ART regimens, including the new World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended, dolutegravir containing ART regimens. Key updates to the information systems and tools have been the addition of features to improve accountability, for pharmaceutical products with budget modules on the FESC and electronic uploads of orders to the Central Medical Stores, that facilitates tracking of allocated budget usage and order fill rates by the Central and Regional Warehouses.

The system simplifies pharmaceutical inventory control, provides real-time information about what is in stock and allows pharmacy staff to devote more time to patient care.

More than 20 hospitals and clinics, district and referral hospitals across Namibia are already making use of the Dashboard and providing the necessary data it needs to function. The use of the Dashboard is another milestone in the productive collaboration in health between the US government and Namibia.

Key Features of the Dashboard system

- ART Dashboard: provides a summary of the number of people accessing HIV treatment and serves as an early warning on potential stockouts of ARV medications.
- Pharmaceutical Dashboard: provides stock status for all essential health products at all central and regional medical stores and health facilities.
- PMIS Dashboard: incorporates 22 essential pharmaceutical information management indicators.



The Pharmaceutical Information Dashboard provides national statistics on the ART. It has an inbuilt early warning system that alerts supply chain staff of potential stock-outs of medicines, vaccines, and clinical supplies. Also embedded into this versatile tool are 22 essential pharmaceutical information indicators tracked by MoHSS on a regular basis that provide a nation-wide view of the status of pharmaceutical service delivery.

Over 300 MoHSS managers accessing the Dashboard for supply chain decision-making.

The Dashboard has enhanced data visibility within the entire in-country supply chain and, most importantly, helping to ensure that patients continue to receive the critical health commodities they need through facilitating evidenced-based decision making for supply chain decisions. The dashboard through the latest GHSC-PSM supported enhancements has also allowed the tracking and monitoring of pharmaceutical budgets increasing accountability for pharmaceuticals.