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Tanzania Vision 2025 and Beyond: **Health Supply Chain Summit 2018**

TECHNICAL ISSUE BRIEF

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From October 10-11, 2018, the first-ever Tanzania Health Supply Chain Summit (HSCS) was held in Dar es Salaam. Under the theme of “Tanzania Vision 2025 and Beyond,” the summit brought together more than 200 participants from the public and private sectors, including government officials, academia, supply chain implementing partners, donors, health commodities investors, and in-country logisticians for two days of intensive programming and collaboration. By increasing awareness and establishing cooperation across the wide range of stakeholders in Tanzania’s supply chain ecosystem, the HSCS aimed to inspire immediate and future innovations to resolve supply chain bottlenecks. The implications of the 2025 vision for Tanzania are limitless, and this summit sought to demonstrate how the supply chain community can most effectively mobilize stakeholders, mitigate risks, and overcome challenges to make our collective vision a reality.

BACKGROUND & VISION

Currently, few opportunities exist for stakeholders across Tanzania's health supply chain community to convene and share success stories, best practices, challenges, and lessons learned. Innovative solutions are not developed in isolation, which is why the [Tanzania Health Supply Chain Summit \(HSCS\)](#) was formed to foster collaboration towards progress on Tanzania's most pressing supply chain challenges. This summit was envisioned as a hub for stakeholders to learn, engage, and innovate through plenary sessions, technical breakouts, networking events, and an exhibition. In sharing and replicating our best practices, public and private sector entities alike are empowered to strengthen their delivery of health commodities and improve the lives of all Tanzanians.

PLANNING & SUPPORT MODEL

The HSCS was organized by a group of supply chain implementing partners (SCIPs) in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children (MoHCDGEC). The group of SCIPs is part of the Supply Chain Partners Forum, which was established recently to bring together stakeholders and align priorities and resources for supply chain interventions in Tanzania. The Global Health Supply Chain Technical Assistance-Tanzania Program (GHSC TA-TZ) spearheaded the HSCS as part of a broad strategic effort to facilitate closer collaboration among SCIPs. The summit received strong support and involvement from the Government of Tanzania (GoT), including leadership from the MoHCDGEC, the President's Office-Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), and the Medical Stores Department (MSD).



Key summit planning activities and achievements included:

- **Registration.** Reached out to supply chain stakeholders and registered over 250 participants for the summit within a span of 3 days.
- **Communications.** Developed a comprehensive [summit website](#) featuring updates on the summit's programming and schedule, speaker bios and information, and registration forms. The website was used post-summit to share photos and presentations.
- **Marketing.** Prepared a variety of marketing materials for the summit, including a unique logo, conference booklets and folders for participants, and banners and backdrops for display throughout the summit.
- **Partnerships.** Facilitated collaboration across a range of different supply chain implementing partners to contribute funding to the summit, with 8 committed sponsors and 10 exhibiting organizations at HSCS.
- **Publicity.** Invited and managed local media/press to cover parts of the HSCS, including facilitation of a pre-summit orientation, summit press coverage, and post-summit press coverage.

SUMMIT OUTCOMES

Seven plenary sessions and six parallel streams were held at the HSCS. Through this formal programming, as well as networking events, the Summit was able to foster greater unity among supply chain implementing partners and create excitement for future meetings and HSCSs. The Summit also achieved strengthened collaboration between SCIPs, MoHCDGEC, MSD, and PO-RALG towards the implementation of key recommendations from the Holistic Supply Chain Review, as conveyed through the enthusiasm around guest speeches by MoHCDGEC's Deputy Minister and PO-RALG's Deputy Permanent Secretary.



MoHCDGEC Deputy Minister Hon. Dr. Faustine Engelbert Ndugulile (MP) opening HSCS 2018

Summit participants discussed topics including data, innovation, private sector engagement, health financing, and sustainability. Some high-level conclusions from HSCS 2018 include:

- **Data:** There are several initiatives to improve data visibility and use, particularly at the last mile. Efforts to integrate facility-level data with other systems through Health Information Exchange best practices should be prioritized and accelerated.
- **Innovation:** A pilot activity to leverage drones for medicine delivery in Mwanza was discussed, and the Government of Tanzania is interested in further exploring the benefits and safety implications of using drones for medicine delivery.
- **Private Sector Engagement:** Strategic engagement with private sector can benefit last-mile logistics. Assessments of needs and prioritization of industries will be important for attracting investors.
- **Health Financing:** Increased focus should be placed on adding funding to existing interventions rather than duplicating efforts. Fiscal space analysis should be conducted on the health budget and its trickle-down effects on health commodities. Storage space and services should be increased to meet people's needs where they are (e.g. Kagera, Songea, Simiyu, etc.) and the social insurance fund should be expanded.
- **Sustainability:** Reduction of donor dependency will be critical to sustainability of the health supply chain. Increased transparency and involvement of implementers, government, end users, and other key stakeholders at early stages of planning and implementation can help build sustainability into projects and ensure they are aligned with government priorities and plans.



PO-RALG Deputy Minister Mhe. Josephat Sinkamba Kandege closing the summit

USAID GHSC TA-TZ was launched in June 2016. The program provides technical assistance to the Tanzanian government to support the development of agile, robust, and sustainable health supply chains that will contribute towards improving the health status of Tanzanians. The project team is led by Guidehouse (formerly PwC Public Sector) and includes John Snow Inc., Abt Associates, VillageReach, the University of Dar es Salaam, and Pharmaceutical Systems Africa. This partnership brings together international and domestic expertise in supply chain and organizational management, health financing, public health policy, and private sector partnerships.