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INCREASING ACCESS TO QUALITY MEDICINES AND SUPPLIES FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

A few preventable diseases account for a large proportion of maternal and child deaths globally, including post-partum hemorrhage and eclampsia for women, prematurity and sepsis for newborns, and diarrhea and pneumonia for children.

The USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program-Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) project provides USAID missions, bureaus, and operating units with a worldwide mechanism to support USAID's goal of preventing child and maternal deaths through increasing access to quality-assured commodities for maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH).

GHSC-PSM strengthens supply chains for MNCH commodities in 20 countries through technical assistance and procurement that focus on:

- Strengthening MNCH commodity systems
- Increasing access, appropriate use of, and demand for MNCH commodities and services
- Improving the supply of quality-assured MNCH commodities

SUPPLY CHAIN SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

MNCH funding is committed to strengthening end-to-end supply chains systems through a range of supply chain investments and technical assistance activities.

Improving the quality of MNCH commodities in the private sector. For many families and individuals, the private sector is the first point of contact when seeking MNCH services. GHSC-PSM is working to support private sector actors – such as domestic wholesalers and distributors – to increase their offerings of quality MNCH commodities.

Safeguarding commodity quality during warehousing and distribution. In Mozambique, GHSC-PSM is piloting ambient

BACKGROUND

MATERNAL, NEWBORN, AND CHILD HEALTH COMMODITIES PROCURED

- Maternal health: oxytocin, magnesium sulfate
- Newborn health: chlorhexidine, gentamicin, resuscitation devices
- Child health: amoxicillin, oral rehydration salts, zinc
- Other MNCH commodities

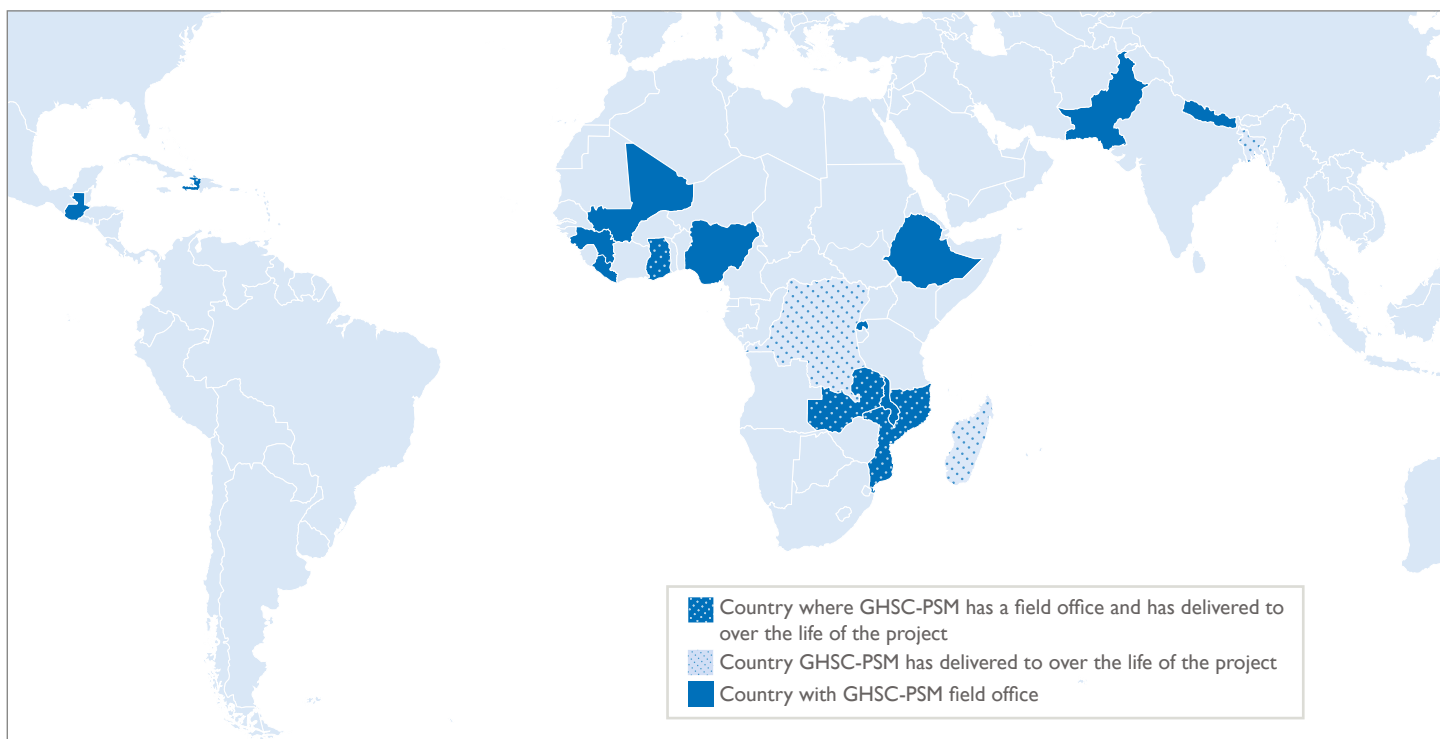
KEY PARTNERSHIPS

- Maternal Health Supplies Caucus
- UNICEF
- World Health Organization

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temperature monitoring using low-cost sensors and cloud technology to ensure products are distributed and stored at the recommended temperature. Storage temperatures directly affect product quality, and interventions such as continuous temperature monitoring will help ensure that patients receive high-quality MNCH medicines when they receive health care services.

Ensuring quality of MNCH medicines throughout the supply chain. At the global and country level, GHSC-PSM works to increase appropriate management of oxytocin. Oxytocin is the WHO-recommended first-line medicine for preventing and treating postpartum hemorrhage, the leading cause of maternal mortality in low-income countries. GHSC-PSM has developed messaging frameworks, technical reviews and assisted programs (such as in Ghana) with developing a strategy to ensure the quality of oxytocin throughout the supply chain.

Improving the availability of data on MNCH commodities for improved decision making. Through investments in national logistics management and information systems (LMIS), GHSC-PSM is improving the availability of data on MNCH commodities. In countries with limited LMIS systems, GHSC-PSM has rolled out recurring data collection at service delivery points to ensure that decision makers and program managers understand stock levels and identify supply chain risks.

GLOBAL COLLABORATION

GHSC-PSM provides MNCH technical leadership at national and global levels. The project facilitates collaboration and coordination with implementing partners, UN organizations, and other funders. Currently, GHSC-PSM chairs the Maternal Health Supplies Caucus and provides supply chain information for priority MNCH health challenges.

In all countries, the project prioritizes coordination with national programs and technical working groups to develop strategies that incorporate MNCH issues. GHSC-PSM also collaborates with other in-country partners, service delivery projects and other key stakeholders to ensure that commodities for mothers, newborns, and children are available when and where they are needed.

GLOBAL COMMODITY PROCUREMENT AND LOGISTICS

GHSC-PSM supports the procurement of the key life-saving products identified by The United Nations (UN) Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children (UNCoLSC). GHSC-PSM procures a limited number of commodities on behalf of USAID-supported programs, as most MNCH products are procured by national procurement agencies.