

Situational Report on **COVID-19** – May 2020

Situation Overview

In December 2019, China alerted the WHO to a new type of coronavirus that causes pneumonia-like symptoms in the city of Wuhan. This coronavirus has since been officially designated COVID-19. Due to the rapid global spread of COVID-19, cities and countries around the world have implemented restrictions on transportation and workplaces in an effort to contain the spread of the disease. GHSC-PSM is continuously gathering information on this dynamic situation and is working with internal teams, country leadership, and USAID and global stakeholders to mitigate supply chain risks.

Of particular concern are China and India as they are the sources for many of the raw and intermediate materials as well as finished pharmaceutical products (FPP) used for health programs around the world. As of April 29, 2020, manufacturing and logistics remain constrained due to lockdowns and cessation of flights in numerous countries, particularly India, and both are increasingly facing cost hikes due to rising global demand. Additionally, some manufacturers are being compelled to shift production from routine products to pandemic-related personal protective equipment (PPE), diagnostic tests, and pharmaceuticals, which is restricting their capacity for routine production.

Maintaining Routine Supply

In response to the impact of COVID-19 on procurement and supply mechanisms, GHSC-PSM is taking the following actions at each level to support our in-country partners:

Policy

The project is coordinating with USAID, global stakeholders, and national governments to implement flexible policies that maintain critical health supply chains.

Contracts

The project's actions to maintain routine supply include:

- Shifted to spot-bidding with logistics providers to be more competitive in obtaining cargo space, due to reduced air and ocean capacity in China, Europe, and India.
- Obtained pre-approval for certain ocean shipments to be able to respond quickly when costs changed.
- Seeking relaxed rules from USAID for securing charter flights
- Requesting product registration waivers until new suppliers can get their products registered

Governance

The project's actions to mitigate supply chain disruptions include:

- Encouraging countries to assign essential services classifications to health supply chains, including pharmaceutical, PPE, and other commodities, and to health product manufacturing facilities and logistics providers

Import/Export

- Working with USAID Missions to obtain blanket duty waivers for existing orders
- Working with USAID Missions to obtain essential personnel designations and secure safe passage for commodities crossing regional and international borders by land.

Quality Assurance (QA)

To reduce order delays, the project adjusted the QA process by increasing use of a risk-based approach to reduce inspections and testing. The project also introduced remote inspections for consignments that could not be inspected in person due to COVID-19 restrictions and is coordinating with the Global Fund on broader QA activities to mitigate impact to orders.

Collaboration

The project is coordinating with global donors and stakeholders to develop innovative means for responding to supply chain interruptions. Activities include:

- Participating in the Global Logistics Continuity Working Group (led by Logistics Cluster, WFP) on a global logistics network for humanitarian goods. Among other outputs, this may create options for moving global health products if commercial freight is not available.
- Participating in the Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) Technical Working Group with USAID, the Global Fund, Impact Malaria, and other parties to assess and coordinate actions to mitigate impact to malaria RDT supplies.
- Coordinating with UNICEF to share space to move commodities by charter plane from India to Nigeria.

Coordination with Suppliers and Logistics Contractors

The project is receiving regular updates (daily or as needed) from suppliers and logistics contractors to inform responses to mitigate impact. Activities have included:

- Due to the shutdown in India reducing production capacity for a malaria RDT supplier, the project shifted orders from the India supplier to a facility in South Korea.
- The project and has converted shipments from ocean to air and vice versa in order to respond to changing freight capacity.
- As destination countries began to restrict access across borders in March, the project expedited shipments that had not yet obtained waivers to destination countries where possible and pre-position cargo at destination as quickly as possible on available flights or by ocean.

Advocacy

The project is working with USAID, other U.S. government bodies, and global stakeholders to advocate for supply chain priorities with regards to reducing the spread of COVID-19 and to protecting routine global

health programs. The project continues to promote strong, resilient supply chains as critical to routine health programs as well as crisis situations. Activities include:

- Leveraging the WHO/WTO statement on need for cross-border movement of health products and partnering with other donors to advocate for similar flexibilities
- Provided information to the U.S. Congress to inform interventions to prepare and protect national and global health supply chains.
- Provided input to the U.S. Secretary of State to support advocacy efforts through the U.S. Embassy in India to facilitate the manufacture and movement of essential commodities including pharmaceuticals and malaria test kits

Technical Assistance

- In collaboration with the GHSC Francophone Task Order, the project updated the Emergency Supply Chain Playbook to include COVID-19 resources and conducted two webinars to share the resources with internal and global audiences.
- Developing a suite of job aids and resources to assist countries in their COVID-19 response.

Strategic Planning

- Reviewing supply plan and inventory data and conducting prioritization exercises across task orders and across procurers to ensure that the most urgent need is met (across products and countries)
- Assessing capacity for modification to countries' shelf life requirements
- Preordering and building stockpiles of key commodities
- To ensure storage space for expedited routine supplies and for COVID-19 commodities, the project encouraged countries to:
 - Move commodities as close to service delivery points as possible
 - Explore opportunities for supplementary storage (eg. private warehouses, containers)

Weekly updates from GHSC-PSM to USAID leadership, which include details on impact to specific commodity categories, is available on [Google drive](#).

Responding to COVID-19 Demand

In addition to ongoing efforts to mitigate disruptions to routine supply, the USG allocated additional funding to GHSC-PSM for COVID-19 response activities. This includes:

- Central funding for supply chain technical assistance and commodity procurement to eight countries
- Field support funding for commodity procurements.
- USG funding to procure health commodities for Italy
- USG diplomatic initiative funding for procurement of U.S.-sourced ventilators for 13 countries. The first country scheduled for procurement is South Africa, with an expected first delivery in FY2020 Q3.

Country Response

GHSC-PSM is responding to COVID-19 using flexible and innovative strategies. Examples include:

Angola

The project coordinated with a third-party logistics (3PL) company to arrange for containers to be stored in the 3PL's warehouse if needed due to increased COVID-19-related demand.

Botswana

The project is re-structuring planning so that refresher training on the quantification tools and process for ARVs, essential medicines and HIV-related lab commodities can be conducted remotely through virtual meetings.

Burkina Faso

- Added a COVID-19 job aid to the existing Emergency Supply Chain (ESC) Playbook disease guidelines
- Providing technical assistance on COVID-19 to the Centre of Health Emergency Response Operations (CORUS) and working with the MOH, COVID-19 Logistics Commission and USAID's MEASURE Evaluation project to integrate COVID-19 commodities and logistics data reporting tools into the ONEHEALTH platform developed by the MOH.

Burma

- The Government of Burma is accelerating the rollout of multi-month dispensing (MMD) to mitigate disruptions to access caused by COVID-19, with the goal of 100 percent of patients on MMD by June 2020, speeding up from the previous goal of 100 percent of patients on MMD by December 2021. The project is supporting the National AIDS Programme (NAP) in the MMD roll-out by analyzing stock status and pipeline data.
- The project is supporting the NAP and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in estimating procurement needs for routine supplies in the context of COVID-19 supply chain delays.

Eswatini

- Due to partial lockdown, after an initial hold on routine supportive supervision visits, the project resumed supportive supervision physically and remotely (by telephone) to support PPE and COVID-19 commodity management at the facility level.

Ethiopia

- Supporting the Global Health Security Agenda team in adapting the ESC Playbook to COVID-19.

Indonesia

- Developing a private sector partnership for viral load testing to respond to delays
- Supporting a change in patient regimen to single dose Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate (TDF) 300 by accelerating local manufacture procurement

Kenya

- Participating on the team advising the Kenyan Government on COVID-19 and assisted the National Emergency Operation Centre in quantifying and costing supplies that would be required to attend to approximately 100 COVID-19 cases.

Liberia

- Partnered with FHI360/LINKAGES and the National AIDS and STI Control Program to identify HIV commodity gaps in the 13 HIV high-burden facilities in Montserrado county, which is also a high-burden COVID-19 county, to inform the movement of commodities to these facilities based on OGAC guidance.
- Working with the USAID Mission to redirect funding to support pre-positioning and redistribution of PPE for health workers using existing GHSC-PSM transport mechanisms.
- Replacing in-person health facility visits with phone calls to continually engage with the health facilities.
- Coordinating with the National Malaria Control Program to explore remote options for malaria commodity quantification.

Nepal

In Nepal, GHSC-PSM provides supply chain technical assistance to government entities, including the Ministry of Health. With the arrival of COVID-19 procurements and donations in the country, the Government of Nepal (GON) expressed a desire to track these commodities. In less than three weeks, GHSC-PSM provided remote technical assistance to complete an eLMIS roll-out that had been delayed since November 2018. Using remote communication methods, the project updated the eLMIS for COVID-19 commodity tracking and coordinated with staff in 39 COVID-19 target facilities to install software and train users on the eLMIS. The project also created a COVID-19 dashboard within the eLMIS that the country's COVID-19 Crisis Management Committee is using for decision-making.

Pakistan

With support from the Government of Pakistan, the project assembled a COVID-19 team of supply chain, technology, laboratory and procurement experts. The team designed a number of tools including:

- [COVID-19 Travelers Surveillance Management Information System](#)
- [COVID-19 Inventory Management System](#)
- [COVID-19 Procurement Module](#)
- [COVID-19 PPE Online Calculator](#) and [training videos](#)
- [Advanced forecasting calculator](#)
- [Sindh COVID-19 training MIS](#)

Over 130 government staff in Pakistan have been trained on the tools, which are also being used internationally. Nepal's Ministry of Health and Population used Pakistan's COVID-19 PPE Online Calculator for a national quantification. The I+ Solutions Academy of the Netherlands adapted the COVID-19 Forecasting Calculator into an online course titled Quantification of PPE for COVID-19, offered in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian, with over 400 individuals from 69 countries trained as of May 8, 2020.

Procurement and Supply Management

Guidance for GHSC-PSM Countries

To prevent delays, GHSC-PSM country teams are asked to ensure that supply plans are up to date and MOS statuses are accurate. MOS status will be a key factor in prioritizing urgent orders. For questions related to individual orders, countries should contact their PMU Director.

Status Update and GHSC-PSM Response

- Pharmaceuticals, LLINs, family planning supplies, and diagnostic tests continue to face longer production lead times, logistics delays, and cost increases due to country restrictions and shifting

global demand. The project is monitoring this situation and working with suppliers, logistics providers, and country-level and global stakeholders including USAID, the WHO, UNICEF, the Global Fund, and others to mitigate risk within the changing supply chain environment.

- Destination countries are facing various levels of disruption including shutdowns, quarantines, and reduced interstate and international border crossings. The project is working with country offices, local governments, and global stakeholders to move commodities closer to service delivery points, to prepare alternative warehousing and logistics options, and to ensure proper safety and security measures are in place for staff and commodities.

Media

Even under normal circumstances, GHSC-PSM has a strict protocol that staff must follow when approached by the media. Essentially, staff may not engage with the media unless they have written approval from the Mission (if in-country) and USAID/W. Upon receipt of a media inquiry staff should immediately contact:

- [Veena Menon](mailto:vmenon@ghsc-psm.org), Knowledge Management and Communications Manager, vmenon@ghsc-psm.org and cc [Jane Gotiangco](mailto:jgotiangco@chemonics.com), Chemonics Director of Strategic Communications, jgotiangco@chemonics.com

Helpful Resources

GHSC-PSM

- [Emergency Supply Chain landing page](#)
- [COVID-19 Job Aid \(available in English, French and Spanish\)](#)
- [Questions to Consider to Maintain Routine Supply of Public Health Commodities and Support COVID-19 Response](#)
- [Actions to Take Now to Ensure Routine Supplies are Available: COVID-19 Response Recommendations](#)
- [Keeping Supply Chain Workers Safe During a Pandemic](#)
- [Use of Containers for Temporary Emergency Storage: Tips to Mitigate Temperature and Humidity](#)
- [Tips to Optimize Storage during Emergencies](#)

USAID

- [PEPFAR Technical Guidance in the Context of COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [PMI Technical Guidance in the Context of COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [USAID/OHA Call to Implementing Partners](#)
- [USAID Pediatric & Maternal Branch Updates](#)
- [USAID/OHA Quarter 1 Performance Overview](#)
- [USAID COVID-19 Global Response Fact Sheet #1](#)

WHO

- [WHO Guidance: Tailoring malaria interventions in the COVID-19 response](#)
- [WHO Technical guidance on laboratory testing for COVID-19.](#)
- [WHO Guidance for health workers](#)