



Photo Credit: GHSC-PSM

## **STRONG SUPPLY CHAINS: A VITAL LINK TO HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC CONTROL**

Stronger public health supply chains play a key role in increasing access to life-saving HIV/AIDS commodities for millions of people and reducing HIV prevalence in many countries. The USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program-Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) project continues the tremendous progress made by the global HIV community in achieving the UNAIDS 95-95-95 goals—95 percent of all people living with HIV tested by 2030, 95 percent on treatment, and 95 percent virally suppressed—with funding from the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

**GHSC-PSM helps high-burden countries achieve progress towards the 95-95-95 goals to help end the AIDS epidemic through HIV prevention, testing, treatment, and suppression of viral load.** The project supports these goals through accurate forecasting and quantification, procurement, commodity security and logistics, and innovative programs to reduce costs while maximizing availability. With support from PEPFAR, GHSC-PSM also conducts supply chain strengthening work for HIV/AIDS commodities in more than 30 countries to ensure supply chain sustainability.

### **HIV PREVENTION**

GHSC-PSM works with PEPFAR-supported countries to scale up their procurement of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), taken to reduce the risk of HIV infection. This includes working through regulatory issues, developing guidelines for estimating country PrEP and PEP commodity needs, and creating national forecasting models. Other activities related to prevention include timely and accurate procurement for voluntary medical male circumcision and strategic and cost-effective procurement of condoms in PEPFAR-supported countries.

### **SUPPORTING PATIENTS LIVING WITH HIV**

To help achieve HIV treatment goals, GHSC-PSM is supporting PEPFAR countries to transition to better and more effective first-line ARVs for both adults and pediatrics.

**TLD Transition.** Over the past 18 months, GHSC-PSM worked closely with PEPFAR-supported countries to transition from legacy ARVs to TLD as the

#### **BACKGROUND**

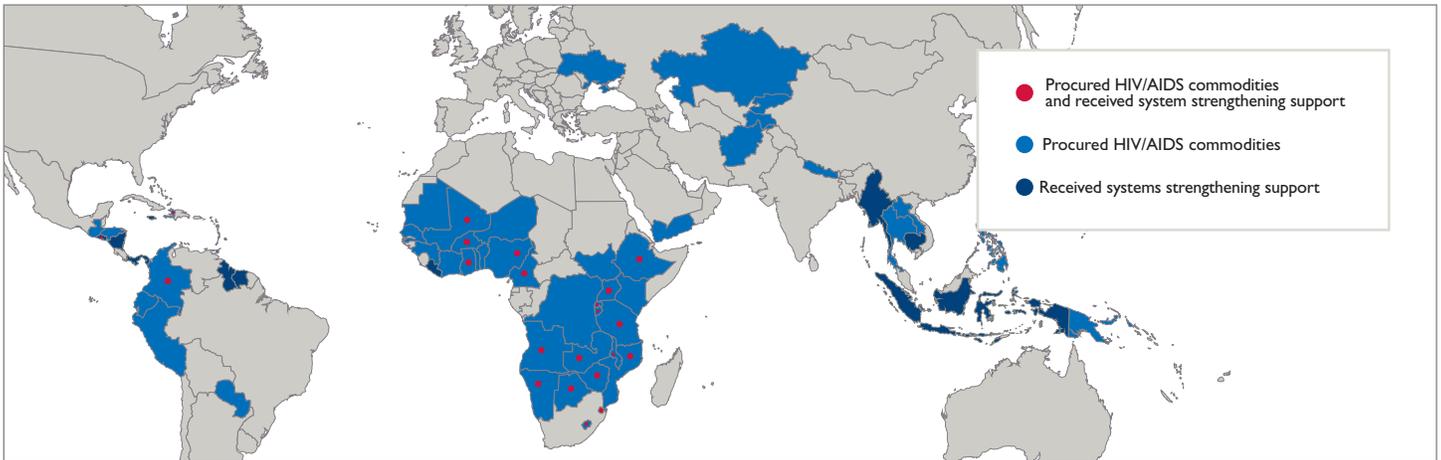
#### **HIV/AIDS COMMODITIES PROCURED**

- **TREATMENT** – Adult ARV, Pediatric ARV
- **TB/Isoniazid Prevention Therapy**
- **VL SUPPRESSION** – Viral Load reagents and consumables
- **PREVENTION** – PrEP, VMMC Kits and Condoms

preferred first-line therapy. To date 24 PEPFAR countries have successfully transitioned and to date the project has delivered over 41 million bottles of TLD.

**DTG 10 Transition.** Prior to the U.S. FDA tentative approval of the new pediatric strawberry-flavored dispersible table – dolutegravir (DTG) 10 mg – in November 2020, GHSC-PSM developed a transition tool to allow PEPFAR-supported countries to simulate the start dates and pace of the transition. The tool helps them understand the consequences of any supply chain decisions regarding expiries of legacy products and how much to order. Initial orders are expected to arrive in 12 countries by summer 2021.

**Multi-Month Dispensing (MMD).** The project has supported PEPFAR countries in their scale up to MMD for ARV treatment, including the procurement of 90- and 180-count bottles, which greatly reduces barriers to treatment for patients, decongest clinics to reduce COVID-19



transmission, and cost effectiveness for Ministries of Health, among other benefits.

**TB Prevention Therapy (TPT).** The project also supports countries in their scale-up of TB Prevention Therapy and transition to new TB prevention regimens like 3HP, a critical component of any national HIV/AIDS program.

**Viral Load Suppression.** GHSC-PSM supports countries in reaching their viral load (VL) and early infant diagnosis (EID) suppression targets. In 2020, the project realized global contracts with three key suppliers of VL/EID reagents and consumables, generating an estimated savings of about \$15 to \$20 million per year. GHSC-PSM also conducts quarterly viral load instrument surveys to inform procurement decisions and to determine if additional instrument capacity is necessary before further investments are made. Every quarter, GHSC-PSM provides training to health ministry and national quantification team personnel on VL and EID laboratory commodity forecasting and supply planning using ForLabPlus, which now includes COVID-19, and Pipeline software.

## DATA FOR DECISION-MAKING

GHSC-PSM is implementing multiple initiatives for increased end-to-end supply chain data visibility, analytics and use. This data can inform in-country distribution and accessibility to lifesaving HIV commodities.

**SC-FACT.** Under the Supply Chain – Facility-level AIDS Commodity Tracking (SC-FACT) initiative, the project tracks monthly stock data in PEPFAR countries at all service delivery site levels on first-and second-line adult and pediatric ARVs, rapid test kits (RTKs), and condoms—reviewing data from more than 11,500 facilities in 12 countries to date.

**Warehouse ADVISER.** GHSC-PSM reviews monthly inventory data for more than 20 HIV medicines and commodities at central and regional warehouse levels in 22 PEPFAR countries for 104 warehouses to identify stock imbalances. The monthly report includes data generated at this

level on the status of first-line ARV drawdown, the transition to TLD and HIV commodity stock-out risk to USAID and PEPFAR. Warehouse ADVISER, an online dashboard, ensures access to and use of these data, and improves capacity for data visualizations.

## HELPING INDIVIDUALS KNOW THEIR STATUS

GHSC-PSM contributes to the first UNAIDS goal—for 95 percent of people living with HIV to know their status—by collaborating with the Global Health Supply Chain HIV RTK Program (GHSC-RTK) to coordinate countries’ RTK orders and deliveries through GHSC-PSM in-country offices. GHSC-PSM helps countries forecast and quantify the number of RTKs they need and shares countries’ 18-month RTK supply plans with GHSC-RTK. GHSC-PSM collects and manages data on stock status at levels ranging from the central and regional warehouses, down to inventory at health facilities. Through its Stock Tracking, Oversight, and Planning for HIV (STOP-HIV) initiatives, the project works to improve visibility and use of this data.

## GLOBAL COORDINATION

GHSC-PSM shares supply chain updates with the broader PEPFAR community through a bi-monthly newsletter with over 1,000 subscribers including donors, clinical implementing partners, US government agencies, and in-country stakeholders. By sharing health supply chain data at the global level, and by building capacity for local data collection and use, progress toward a patient-centric supply chain can be ensured to achieve PEPFAR’s epidemic control goals.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Jackie Sallet  
 HIV/AIDS Task Order Director  
[jsallet@ghsc-psm.org](mailto:jsallet@ghsc-psm.org)