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USAID GLOBAL HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN PROGRAM
Procurement and Supply Management

IN CAMEROON, STRENGTHENING DISTRICT CAPACITY ON DATA USE TO IMPROVE MALARIA PRODUCT AVAILABILITY IN THE NORTH AND FAR NORTH REGIONS

Malaria product stock outs in health facilities (HFs) hampered proper diagnosis and treatment. With funding from the US President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), GHSC-PSM developed strategies to improve product availability in PMI-supported regions.

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Challenge Related to Data Quality and Use

Supervision visits and HF reports revealed frequent stockouts at HFs. GHSC-PSM identified the following root causes:

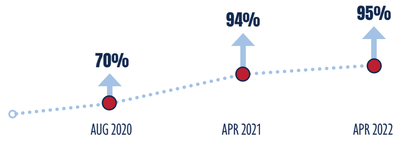
- Low logistics data availability and quality in national reporting data base.
- Inability of DHIS2 to distinguish missing data from zeros.
- Poor expression of needs by HFs or failure to transmit orders even when stocked out.
- Lack of capacity by district teams to analyze logistics data in DHIS2 for decision making.

GHSC-PSM Approach

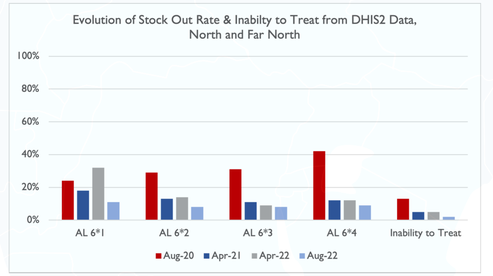
- With the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) in October 2020, trained 101 staff from 45 health districts in the North and Far North regions to analyze availability and quality of logistics data in DHIS2 and to use the data for supply chain decision making.
- Developed an Excel-based tool that uses DHIS2 data to produce color coded dashboards that highlight data completeness, coherence and stockouts.
- Coaches districts to analyze data and supports with airtime to facilitate access to DHIS2.
- Advocated for zeros to be visible in DHIS2 to distinguish stockouts from missing data.

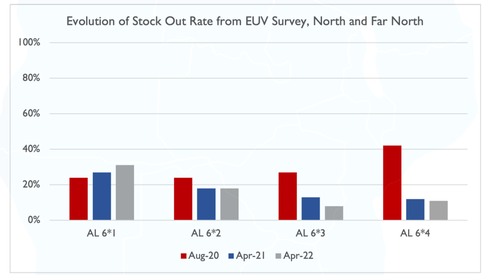
Results

- DHIS2 logistics reporting rates increased from 70% in August 2020 to 94% in April 2021 and 95% in April 2022.



- We improved data by advocating for a shift in distribution strategy from push to pull due to better data and the ability to determine facility needs.
- Stock outs decreased, as seen in the data below from DHIS2 and end-user verification (EUV) surveys.





Conclusion

- The move from a pull to a push system resulted in improved product availability, confirming the need for adaptability in the logistics cycle.
- A robust data collection, analysis, and use system helps ensure the uninterrupted availability of medicines for patient management.

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