

Challenges & Opportunities Providing Quality Medication to the People of Ethiopia



Background

Ethiopia's health supply chain characteristics include:

- Counterfeit and illegal trade.
- Inadequate supply of quality and affordable essential medication.
- High levels of waste and stockouts.
- Increased demand for medication.
- Lack of visibility for supply and demand.
- Minimal verification capabilities of medicine quality and authenticity.

Challenges

While implementation of global standards is needed, the path to traceability is challenging:

- Awareness about the importance of global supply chain standards is low.
- Regulatory and supply chain business processes to support implementation are inadequate.
- Global standards are poorly understood.
- Capacity of supporting industries such as printing, packaging, labeling, hardware, and software is inadequate.
- Need for policy framework to introduce global standards to improve performance of the supply chain.

Opportunities

The landscape assessment conducted by the Technical Working Group identified great opportunities, including:

- Stakeholder involvement: A National Steering Committee (including the Ministry of Health); the Food, Medicine and Health Care Administration and Control Authority; the Pharmaceuticals Fund and Supply Agency; manufacturing organizations; and health care providers.
- Implementation of a national strategy to develop the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector with a focus on export.
- Experience provided by global initiatives and increase in manufacturer and supplier compliance.
- Growth in use of mobile technology, including a verification app by JSI to allow patients to verify the quality of malaria medication, one of the most used and counterfeited products.
- High-level government commitment to developing a policy framework for implementation of global standards.