The GDSN Opportunity for Global Health

The USAID Global Health Supply Chain–Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) project is implementing the GS1 Global Data Synchronisation Network™ (GDSN®) to exchange product master data for our product catalogue. This will enable GHSC-PSM to provide USAID-supported countries with the information they need to optimize decision making around order planning, procurement, shipping, and receiving via GHSC-PSM through improved master data quality. GHSC-PSM’s vision is that all of our trading partners, both upstream and downstream, will leverage the GDSN to operate off of the same high-quality master data supplied and maintained by our supplier partners.

MANUFACTURERS

Manufacturers develop an internal governance structure to collect, manage, and synchronise product master data with their trading partners. This process helps to ensure the quality of the data that the manufacturers are submitting to the GDSN. By using the GDSN, any changes to that product master data are disseminated to trading partners in near-real time.

LOGISTICS PROVIDERS

Utilizing the GDSN, logistics providers can routinely access product master data directly without relying on individual data requests for each shipment. As the GDSN maintains product master data including units of measures, volumetrics, product classifications, regulatory information, and other data pertinent to the logistics function, the inventory, fulfilment, and booking processes will be streamlined.

REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

Regulatory authorities can leverage the GDSN to access product attribute data required for issuing marketing authorisations and link that data to their registration database. As marketing authorisations are issued, registration numbers for trade items can be captured in the GDSN. This product master data can now be accessed by procurement agents, importers, and other government agencies to confirm eligibility for distribution in country.

SERVICE DELIVERY POINTS (SDPs)

When items are clearly identified and SDPs can access trusted master data, health workers are able to verify the legitimacy of products, safely administer them to patients according to specifications, and more easily capture and analyse results by linking the product with the patient.

MEDICAL STORES

Through their GDSN subscription, medical stores can access product master data, including weights and measures, before a product is received in the distribution centre. This enables the workforce to adequately prepare the space and storage requirements for incoming shipments and plan for optimal distribution based on fleet capacity. Enabled with pack size data, medical stores can make informed decisions regarding requisition fulfilment to SDPs.

PATIENTS

With access to accurate product master data through the GDSN, health workers across SDPs will be able to ensure the appropriate products are being issued to patients. This will ultimately reduce medication errors, enable effective product recalls, and reduce introduction of counterfeit products. Synchronisation and validation of data throughout the supply chain via the GDSN will greatly improve both patient safety and the patient experience.