

USAID MEDICINES, TECHNOLOGIES, AND PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES (MTaPS) PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The USAID Medicines, Technologies, and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPS) Program enables low- and middle-income countries to strengthen their pharmaceutical systems, which is pivotal to higher-performing health systems. MTaPS focuses on improving access to essential medical products and related services and on the appropriate use of medicines to ensure better health outcomes for all populations. The program brings expertise honed over decades of seminal pharmaceutical systems experience across more than 40 countries and builds sustainable gains in countries by including all actors in health care—government, civil society, the private sector, and academia. The program is implemented by a consortium of global and local partners and led by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), a global health nonprofit.



Photo credit: MTaPS Jordan

MAIN OBJECTIVES AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

I. Strengthen Pharmaceutical Sector Governance:

- Provide technical, legal, and planning support to the multistakeholder National Vaccines Procurement Modernization Committee (NVPMC) for the successful introduction of procurement regulatory reform.
- Provide technical assistance to the Government Procurement Department (GPD) in incorporating framework agreement procedures into its policies and practices.
- Provide technical assistance to the GPD in developing procurement negotiation procedures.
- Strengthen the technical capacities of pharmaceutical procurement stakeholders in the public sector.

II. Increase Institutional Capacity to Manage Pharmaceuticals and Services, Including Regulation of Medical Products:

- Produce a comprehensive assessment of Supply Chain Management (SCM) and governance with recommendations in coordination with stakeholders.
- Develop priority SCM policies, procedures, and guidelines to institutionalize and implement optimal and effective SCM practices.
- Develop an operational plan for the Ministry of Health (MOH) Procurement and Supply Directorate (PSD) in line with the ministry's overall strategy.

III. Optimize Pharmaceutical Sector Financing, Including Resource Allocation and Use:

- Collaborate with the MOH Financial Affairs Administration to prioritize financial management areas related to procurement and supply chain.

IV. Improve Pharmaceutical Services, Including Product Availability and Patient-Centered Care, to Achieve Desired Health Outcomes:

- Reactivate the multisectoral Advisory Committee for Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC) to support in overseeing the implementation of IPC interventions nationally.
- Strengthen and standardize hospitals' IPC practices among the public and private sectors.
- Strengthen the MOH IPC practices at primary healthcare level across the country.
- Support the MOH in conducting IPC assessments for priority clinical units in health facilities.
- Support the Royal Medical Services (RMS) in implementing a Comprehensive Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (ASP) for rationalizing the use of antimicrobials and strengthening IPC practices.
- Support the MOH in rationalizing the use of antimicrobials in its hospitals and in combating Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms (MDROs).
- Support the School Health Directorate (SHD) in raising awareness about Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) among school students.

KEY ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- Development of five priority regulatory actions including three legislative articles in the Government Procurement Bylaw (GPB) and two institutional policies in the Jordan Food and Drug Administration and in the MOH.
- Development of Procurement Framework Agreement Implementation Guidelines and training key stakeholders with GPD.
- Convening of a technical working group by the Minister of Finance consisting of procurement personnel from public health entities, namely the MOH, the RMS, and public-university hospitals, which collectively cover over 70% of the population.
- Integration of Institutional, standardized operating procedures for framework agreement implementation in GPD.
- Implementation of a comprehensive assessment of pharmaceutical supply chain with the MOH.
- Development of six policies and SOPs governing the main steps of supply chain management.
- Standardization of IPC practices in public and RMS health facilities by developing and conducting the certified and accredited "Healthcare Certified Infection Preventionist Training Course" for 35 and 28 IPC focal points from the MOH and RMS respectively.
- Strengthening IPC practices among MOH PHC centers by developing and conducting the "IPC Best Practices Training for Primary Healthcare Centers" for 68 MOH PHC centers from all governorates.
- Conducting Rapid IPC assessments of 30 MOH and private hospitals, building capacities of over 1,300 HCPs, and the development of a training module on COVID-19 based on national COVID-19 IPC guidelines.
- Development of 27 empirical treatment clinical protocols with RMS Al-Hussain Intensive Care Unit and four (4) empirical treatment and surgical prophylaxis protocols with MOH, aimed at rationalizing the use of antibiotics and curbing antimicrobial resistance.
- Development and dissemination of the "National Policy to Combat MDROs".
- Strengthening community awareness on AMR through awareness activities targeting students from 30 in 14 Health Affairs Directorates.
- Raising community awareness on AMR and rational use of antibiotics through the development of customized IEC materials.