

NEWSFLASH #15

May 2015

REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE - HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT (RCE-HSCM)

The East African Community (EAC) is seeking to address the challenge of strengthening vaccine and other health supply chains by addressing weaknesses in human resource capacity. In 2014, the EAC Sectoral Council of Ministers decided to establishment of a Regional Centre of Excellence (RCE) for Health Supply Chain Management (HSCM) hosted by the Republic of Rwanda, University of Rwanda (UR), School of Public Health. The centre fill focus on education and training, research and professionalization of health logistics and supply chain personnel.



Photo credit: University of Rwanda, School of Public Health

In early 2014, EAC conducted a feasibility assessment based on methodology adapted from the ["Human Resources for Supply Chain Assessment Guide and Tool"](#) developed by USAID|DELIVER in conjunction with PtD, and the ["Competency Compendium for Health Supply Chain Management"](#) developed by PtD. In this context People that Deliver has been engaged in a variety of activities relating to the development of the RCE-HSCM.

The landscape assessment found that in the EAC supply chain management functions for health commodities are currently performed mainly by health cadres without specific training (pharmacists, clinical officers, nurses) who are working in systems that are chronically under-staffed. The curricula of these cadres do not contain adequate HSCM training.

In March 2015, the PtD Executive Manager visited the proposed site for the RCE-HSCM in Rwanda and met with the RCE-HSCM staff. The visit was designed to engage with staff at the University of Rwanda to provide technical support to a range of activities related to the RCE-HSCM such as work plan review, business plan and curriculum development, and to obtain an on the ground understanding of the opportunities, progress and challenges faced by the University of Rwanda team as key implementers to this project.

This project has become a focal point for international co-operation between donors and implementing partners for progressing HR for SCM, lead by EAC and the UR. The PtD Secretariat will continue to provide technical input into the centre as it develops over the coming months.

CONTACT

PTD FOCUS COUNTRY – BURKINA FASO

Burkina Faso is one of seven PtD focus countries chosen at the 1st PtD Conference in Geneva in 2011, with the government also a current PtD Board member. Bioforce Institute conducted [a detailed survey of Burkina Faso's HR for SCM](#) in 2011 and has been acting on this data with the government and other technical partners to improve the capacity and professionalism of supply chain personnel.

PtD Country Visit – February 2015

In February 2015, the PtD Executive Manager visited Burkina Faso. Objectives for the visit included being a resource to SCM stakeholders in Burkina Faso to further HR for SCM professionalization in the country.

The PtD Executive Manager held several advocacy meetings with government and SCM partners in Burkina Faso. These meetings provided a good opportunity to learn from government officials, health supply chain leaders and SCM partners about the current activities regarding HR for SCM.

The visit was also meant to understand what the PtD Secretariat can do in the future to support HR for SCM development in Burkina Faso as a PtD focus country.



During the visit, the PtD Executive Manager had site visits to **CAMEG's (Centrale d'Achat des Médicaments Essentiels Génériques et des Consommables Médicaux)** central and regional warehouses in order to experience how CAMEG operates. CAMEG is the Office for the Purchase of Essential medicines in Burkina Faso.

The visit by the PtD Executive Manager has encouraged the government to consider private public partnership approaches to further strengthen the ability of local academic institutions to offer courses, and further facilitated the working together of SCM partners to provide support to the MoH for ongoing systematic and professional approaches. Work being carried out by Bioforce to measure the effectiveness of newly deployed health logisticians will be very important in providing evidence for further professionalization activities.

PtD Focal Points in Burkina Faso:

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PtD Board Members:

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For more information on Burkina Faso read: ["Professionalizing Health Logistics in Burkina Faso: Challenges, Implementation and Sustainability"](#)

CONTACT

THE 14TH TECHNET CONFERENCE

[TechNet](#) is a global technical network of professionals and practitioners committed to strengthening immunization services in developing countries – a network that was established in 1989 with WHO as its Secretariat. Since its creation, members of the network meet face-to-face every two years in order to discuss key immunization implementation challenges.

In addition to the members of the network and the national country participants, the conference attendees include global, regional and country staff of WHO and UNICEF, as well as key immunization partners of Gavi, NGOs and private-sector immunization equipment manufacturers and information technology vendors.

For 2015, the 14th TechNet Conference is being held in Bangkok, Thailand from 11-15 May 2015. The theme of the Conference will be: ***"Immunization Supply Chain and Logistics: Current Challenges, Innovations and Future Prospects"***. The agenda will be organized so that the following 8 topics are covered:

1. Vaccine products, delivery technologies and innovations
2. Vaccine management planning, policies and practice
3. Human resources for logistics
4. Cold chain equipment & management systems
5. Temperature monitoring in the cold chain
6. Network design and supply chain optimization
7. Distribution and transportation systems
8. LMIS and data for management

This year People that Deliver has been one of the key planning partners for the TechNet Conference and is aiding facilitating of a full day session, **"Managing the System" focusing on HR for health supply chain management**.

The session will provide updates on global initiatives, such as PtD, Gavi Alliance Supply Chain Strategy, and efforts to strengthen HR for SCM including [a summary of resources that have been developed to support countries to plan & implement HR for SCM strengthening activities](#).

Representatives from Ministries of Health will discuss innovative and effective approaches to improving human resources for supply chain management, both broad-based and specific to the needs of cold chain and vaccine management. The session will explore implementation challenges and lessons learned, and highlight opportunities that can be leveraged from the wider array of human resources for health initiatives. **Outputs from the workshop can be found at <http://www.technet-21.org/en/>.**

CONTACT

SUPPLY CHAIN CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT:

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY

Editorial by Dr Lloyd Matowe

Access to essential medicines remains a challenge in most developing countries. Over the past decade, international organizations, including USAID, the Global Fund, Gavi Alliance, and the World Bank, among others, have invested heavily in making essential medicines, particularly those for HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria, available to those in countries who ordinarily cannot afford them. However, commodity procurement per se is not sufficient to improve health outcomes. Access to essential medicines must be linked to functional supply chain management systems, which enable efficient procurement, distribution, and rational use of life-saving medicines.

Despite years of investment in supply chain systems, particularly by the well-meaning USAID-funded programs, systems remain weak in many resource-limited countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. The recent Ebola crisis in West Africa, for example, exposed supply chain systems which were intrinsically weak and incapable of responding adequately to country needs, despite the countries having been host to technical assistance for years. This then begs the question: is there need to change our approaches to capacity development?

Recent developments in the area of global supply chain technical assistance seem to indicate that USAID would like to see change. With new players emerging in global supply chain capacity development, now may be the time to invest in new approaches that focus on impact. Critically, and most crucially, implementing countries are demanding change and demonstrating their willingness to contribute to new solutions to their old supply chain management problems.

The UNDP defines capacity development as the “process through which individuals, organizations and societies obtain, strengthen and maintain the capabilities to set and achieve their own development objectives over time”¹. The key phrase in this definition is ‘their own’. Yet traditional approaches to capacity development for supply chains have relied on workplans and strategies that are ‘boxed and ready’. These are refined by consultants en route, and tweaked after initial meetings in the countries. This overuse of STTA (short term technical assistance) is alienating partners and beneficiaries in the countries, prompting demand for change.

In summary, to maximize impact, future capacity development for supply chains must engage those it purports to support. Implementation should also be on a country-by-country basis, putting at the forefront the notion that one size does not fit all. Most importantly, partner engagement must be for the entire cycle from the initial assessment, the formulation of an intervention, its implementation, and finally evaluating its success. In a sense, engagement must recognize that though some of the country counterparts may not be experts in supply chain, nobody can deny they have a deeper knowledge of their own country.

Dr Lloyd Matowe is the executive director of Pharmaceutical Systems Africa, an international consultancy firm supporting developing countries to strengthen their supply chains and address system and managerial challenges. Lloyd Matowe represents Pharmaceutical Systems Africa on the PtD Board, but the opinions contained herein are his own.

CONTACT

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Executive Manager, People that Deliver

P4, Temporary Appointment (12 months w. possibility to extend additional 12 months)

UNICEF Supply Division, Copenhagen, Denmark

Application Deadline: 22-May-15

The incumbent will serve as the Executive Manager of the secretariat for the People that Deliver (PtD) Initiative. The Executive Manager is the head of the PtD secretariat and is responsible for efficient execution of all functions of the secretariat. The PtD secretariat is hosted by UNICEF and the Executive Manager reports to the Chief Supply Chain Strengthening, Directors Office, UNICEF Supply Division for all delegated authorities and administrative responsibilities within UNICEF.

Qualifications of Successful Candidate

Education

Advanced university degree from a recognised academic institution in one or more of the following areas is preferred: Supply Chain Management, Business Administration, Management, International Economics, Engineering, International Development, Contract/Commercial Law, or areas directly related to logistics operations or UNICEF programme areas. A Bachelors degree combined with demonstrated 10 years of professional work experience and understanding of relevant functions may be considered in lieu of the advanced university degree, preferably combined with credited courses or certifications from relevant professional bodies in supply chain management, procurement, contracting or logistics.

Work Experience

- Minimum eight years of relevant experience in human resources for health systems, supply chain management and/or major health partnerships/initiatives focused on developing countries health systems
- Proven conceptual understanding of and strong practical experience in supporting institutionalization and sustainability within developing country health programs – especially as related to supply chain management and/or human resources
- Proven experience leading or managing multi-stakeholder initiatives, preferably in early stages of development
- Experience in development programmes; a mix of field and headquarters postings are advantageous
- Knowledgeable about relevant global health agencies (e.g., donors, technical agencies, implementing partners and NGOs) working in supply chain management and/or human resources for health

Technical Knowledge

- Has a working knowledge of health supply chains and logistics in the development context.
- Understands the role of health supply chains in the broader context of national health systems.
- Applies human resources capacity development theory to health supply chains.

How to apply

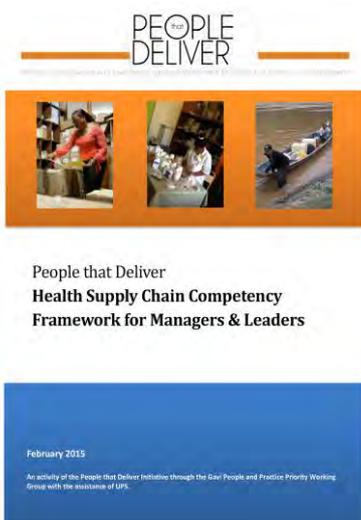
You can apply to the above position by creating your profile, and application at web site:

<http://www.unicef.org/about/employ/index.php>

CONTACT

SUGGESTED RESOURCES AND UPDATES FROM THE PTD SECRETARIAT

- ["Health Supply Chain Competency Framework for Managers & Leaders"](#) by People that Deliver, March 2015. The framework defines the skills, competencies and associated behaviours that are required for effective supply chain management. It can be used to map existing competencies, develop job descriptions and review curriculum.
- [Health Supply Chain Case Studies](#) by Tiffany Deng and Taylor Wilkerson, LMI, compiled for People that Deliver, March 2015,



- [Data for Management: It's Not Just Another Report](#) - report on the vaccine supply chain by VillageReach, April 2015
- Book: ["Effective Health Logistics for Better Health Care Services"](#) by Heem S. Shakya, March 2015
- [Realist Review of UN sources – HR for SCM of health commodities](#) by People that Deliver, March 2015
- [The top ten global health supply chain issues: Perspectives from the field](#) by N. Privett, D. Gonsalvez, Operations Research for Health Care 3 (2014).

Get Engaged with People that Deliver

- Join a PtD working group (e-mail info@peoplethatdeliver.org)
- Become a PtD Twitter follower (@PplthatDeliver)
- Update [LAPTOP](#) with SCM courses offered by your own institution
- Submit your SCM tools to the [PSM Toolbox](#)
- Tell us your HR for SCM stories or projects
- Use PtD tools and evidence: <http://www.peoplethatdeliver.org/resources>

For more information, contact:

The PtD Secretariat: info@peoplethatdeliver.org or

PtD Executive Manager: executivemanagerptd@unicef.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 11-15, 2015: **14th TechNet Conference**, Bangkok, Thailand.

May 31- June 2, 2015: **SAPICs Annual Conference**, Sun City, South Africa.

June 3-4, 2015: **Annual Fleet Forum Conference**, Rome, Italy

June 18, 2015: **CILT Annual Conference**, Warwickshire, UK.

September 27-30, 2015: **Council for Supply Chain Mgmt Professionals**, San Diego, USA

CONTACT