



GHS2024 Conference Workshops

Day One - Tuesday 18 2024, 1:30pm-6:00pm – Room C3.4

Office of Global Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Lessons learned and ways forward for MCM stockpiling, pooled procurement, and supply chains

Disease outbreaks often worsen pre-existing gaps in healthcare systems, such as fragile supply chains, stockouts, and disruptions to primary health services, like vaccinations. COVID-19 highlighted yet again the importance of countries investing in Pandemic Preparedness, Prevention, and Response (PPPR) as a priority to strengthen national and economic security. To ensure timely access, investment is necessary to strengthen supply chains, procurement mechanisms, and stockpiles of critical medicines and vaccines, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the world attempted to give a concrete answer to needed solidarity to ensure timely access to essential medical countermeasures (MCMs) by all populations around the world with a multi-stakeholder initiative aiming at accelerating the development, manufacturing, and procurement of such products. However, having to conceptualize and implement actions during a health emergency highlighted the limitations and complexities of achieving the desired goals in a timely manner. In response to this, governments around the world are now negotiating commitments to have frameworks and structures in place for the next health emergency. Furthermore, the focus of the efforts should also be on building a sustainable supply chain of inputs in the production cycles of the essential MCMs. This presents an opportunity to develop regional or sub-regional networks that include all stakeholders contributing along the value chain of the final product to ensure more resilient healthcare services.

This workshop aims to analyze the challenges and distill lessons learned in stockpiling medical products, pooled procurement, and supply chain management from previous pandemics and health emergencies. The attendees will discuss and share best practices for safeguarding and strengthening MCM supply chains (including raw material and ancillaries), procurement and stockpiling in emergencies. It will also talk about the best practices in pooled procurement policies that can lay the foundations to help improve timely access to and quality of products during a complex public health emergency. The workshop will conclude with the exploration of potential solutions and innovative approaches to address the risks posed by future shocks, such as another pandemic, a geopolitical crisis, a natural disaster, or climate change, to timely and equitable access to essential medical products.

Target audience: Policymakers, government officials, academics, and public health experts who work to address or explore issues in MCM supply chains, procurement, and stockpiling.