

USAID GLOBAL HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN PROGRAM

Procurement and Supply Management



AN INTEGRATED SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT COURSE IS BUILDING CAPACITY IN ANGOLA

The USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) project with the Angola Ministry of Health (MoH) developed a national post-graduate course in integrated supply chain management (SCM) for health commodities, including malaria, HIV/AIDS, and family planning to professionalize SCM in Angola.

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BACKGROUND

A skilled workforce is essential for effective SCM across public health programs. In Angola, the public health sector lacked dedicated roles for SCM, leading to SCM activities being conducted on an ad hoc basis by staff with other competing primary duties. Further, health professionals did not have the necessary skills, standardized processes, or education to guide decision-making and strengthen Angola's health systems.

Two assessments identified knowledge gaps and human resource needs in the health supply chain and the need for professional education to increase qualified SCM professionals in the national health workforce.

APPROACH

The GHSC-PSM with the Angola MoH developed a post-graduate course for public health supply chain professionals held at the National School of Public Health from April 2019 to March 2020.

The course is the first step towards SCM professionalization and a career path within the Angolan public health system:

- The curriculum consisted of 20 modules, including integrated supply chain management, transportation and fleet management, quantification, human resources and leadership, cold chain management, and modules that apply the course learnings to the workplace.
- Sought to increase senior MoH knowledge and skills to improve SCM and coordination, establish standards and a formal process that will institutionalize SCM within the MoH.
- A workforce development specialist managed the overall course and online curriculum platform. Course instructors were MoH, GHSC-PSM staff, and dedicated subject matter experts that taught courses on topics new to the Angola context.

Participants were required to have a minimum of five years of experience in public health, a bachelor's degree, and pass a test to qualify.



Class in collaboration with LOGIVAC Center of Benin in November 2019. The Vaccine National Program Director and key professionals of the program participated. Photo credit: GHSC-PSM/ Helena António

RESULTS

The course strengthens Angola's national health workforce by professionalizing SCM and creating a pool of qualified professionals for SCM positions, including senior-level positions in the MoH. Long-term outcomes will be identified in the post-course assessment; however, some immediate results include:

- Interest from national MoH programs in students taking on SCM specific roles.
- Human Resources is considering creating a career path within the MoH.
- An anticipated 30 participants will graduate from the initial course with a certificate in Post-Graduate Specialization in Health Supply Chain Management, becoming the first formally certified professionals in the Angola public health supply chain sector.
- Graduates will be better prepared to improve access to health commodities, including malaria, HIV/AIDS, and family planning in the future and reduce the need for training over the long term.

“The SCM [supply chain management] post-graduate course added a great value to my academic and professional life and was a unique experience. During the training we learned an arsenal of knowledge which will make all the difference when applied in the National Health System in our daily practice of work.”

– Enoque Lúcio, Course Participant

The MoH is recruiting a second set of participants and funding from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to continue running the course.

COVID-19 has delayed the post-course assessment. The course will be adapted for the second group of participants to meet new standards due to the pandemic.

GHSC-PSM continues to work with the Angola MoH to establish a supply chain career pathway within the Ministry.



Field visit to Bolloré in September 2019, a private transport and logistics company, as part of the Transportation and Fleet Management module. Photo Credit: GHSC-PSM/ Ana Eusébio

