USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

IN BRIEF:
MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH FY 2024 UPDATES

SELECT MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH (MNCH) ACTIVITIES COMPLETED BY USAID GLOBAL HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN PROGRAM-PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY MANAGEMENT (GHSC-PSM) IN FISCAL YEAR 2024

BY THE NUMBERS

17
Provided technical assistance to 17 countries to support their MNCH health programs.

$28.5 million
Over the life of the project, delivered over $28.5 million in MNCH products, including supplying medicines to community health workers at the last mile in FY 2024.

100%
Achieved 100 percent on-time delivery for MNCH products in FY 2024.

In addition to these milestones, GHSC-PSM has impacted the global MNCH supply chain in several ways:

Developed procurement, storage, and distribution resources to improve MNCH commodity management

How Improving Ethiopian Financing of Maternal Health Commodities Improved Medicine Availability

This brief (and accompanying **report**) documents the country's efforts to improve maternal health (MH) outcomes through long-term funding for quality MH medicines. The Government of Ethiopia has been steadily increasing its funding for MH commodities since 2018 after GHSC-PSM advocacy. Alongside the case study, GHSC-PSM **hosted a webinar** to discuss the key results and impact of the work.

Winning the Logistics Game: A guide for health logisticians to transform their operations and swiftly deliver medicines and supplies to their communities

Designed for logisticians, warehouse operators and other public health stakeholders, this guide shares best practices and lessons learned from the previously piloted Center of Excellence, explaining how to operationalize its tenets. It introduces key concepts like inventory turnover; using throughput to coordinate activities; and receiving best practices. With these concepts in place, the guide provides tools and approaches for achieving excellence. The project also **hosted a webinar** on this topic.

Assessment of the Newborn Respiratory Ecosystem Including Newborn Medical Equipment, Commodities and Provider Capacity

GHSC-PSM, the Ghana Ministry of Health, and Ghana Health Service, published this report (and corresponding **technical brief**) evaluating the newborn health ecosystem in Northern and Upper West regions of Ghana. The study helped identify opportunities to enhance newborn health programming, including gaps across a patient's oxygen journey, especially for small and sick newborns. Lessons from the study are being leveraged to inform other countries' strategies for improving newborn health.

No Funding, No Product: Solutions to address insufficient and uncertain funding for select maternal, newborn and child medicines

Despite progress, many health providers cannot access quality-assured MNCH medicines. Essential medicines such as antibiotics, anesthetics, and antianemia medicines are often country-financed and underfunded, making them unavailable to those who need them. GHSC-PSM has supported dozens of governments and countless health system stakeholders to develop strategies and tools to engage, advocate and monitor allocated funding of MNCH medicines.

This brief report describes the complex challenges of increasing funding for quality essential medicines and country experiences with MNCH product financing to inform other contexts.

Midwives Veronique Sandouno and Mama Sia Leno work with GHSC-PSM to improve oxytocin management in Wonkifong, Guinea. Photo credit: GHSC-PSM

Contributed to the global MNCH commodity and supply chain knowledge base

Support to Maternal Health Supplies Caucus
A representative of GHSC-PSM co-chaired the Maternal Health Supplies Caucus and played a leadership role in the Caucus's new tranexamic acid (TXA) working group, which aims to increase the availability of this critical PPH medicine.

Global coordination efforts to improve newborn health
GHSC-PSM co-hosted **a webinar** with USAID and UNICEF on the breadth of respiratory ecosystem equipment for small and sick newborn care. Presenters discussed challenges around the availability of medical equipment and oxygen therapies and shared lessons learned from **the assessment GHSC-PSM conducted in Ghana**. Attendees included biomedical engineers, neonatologists, technicians, public health experts, and other clinical staff from various countries.

Global Digital Development Forum
The project contributed its expertise via **panel session** at this conference on digital supply chain solutions and tools to improve health outcomes, including for mothers and children. GHSC-PSM presenters discussed proven, scalable, and adaptable solutions that have been deployed in project-supported countries such as Zambia and Liberia to effectively optimize supply chain operations.

2024 Africa Supply Chain Excellence Awards
Jointly with Zambia's Ministry of Health, GHSC-PSM was recognized as a finalist at the **2024 Africa Supply Chain Excellence Awards** (ASCEA) for its work using the **Consumption Anomaly Detection tool** to strengthen the Zambian health supply chain.

WHO Convening on maternal and newborn health
GHSC-PSM participated in the Technical Convening on Prioritizing WHO-recommended Maternal and Newborn Health Commodities in Geneva, Switzerland in FY 2024. Participants reviewed and validated a list of critical commodities that countries should prioritize for maternal and newborn health. The project's assessment of the newborn oxygen ecosystem in Ghana **was presented**, and we continue to engage these global stakeholders to support the scale-up and implementation guidance.

Improved data analytics and information systems for MNCH commodity decision-making

Data Tools Catalog
GHSC-PSM continued updating its catalog of data analytics tools that supply chain staff use alongside electronic Logistic Management Information Systems (eLMIS) to analyze MNCH commodity data and inform commodity management decisions. The catalog includes 44 unique tools and provides a blueprint of analytics tools that have proven effective in supporting critical supply chain decisions.

LIBERIA

Designing and implementing data analytics tools to improve MNCH stocks
GHSC-PSM helped operationalize and train independent users of two advanced tools in Liberia, the Data Extraction tool and **Consumption Anomaly Detection (CAD) tool**. These tools optimize stock monitoring for commodities in health facilities and medical stores. They are also open source, which allows other countries to adapt and use them.

MALAWI

In Malawi, GHSC-PSM tailored the code of CAD and implemented it to streamline stock data for analysis. CAD flags or detects anomalies in consumption for improved commodity management. The refactored tool was designed and launched to complement the country's eLMIS and overall data ecosystem.

Promoting data visibility through the Health Uninterrupted podcast

GHSC-PSM launched a new podcast series, Health Uninterrupted, to share the stories and voices of staff in project offices worldwide, showcasing how we're strengthening supply chains and ensuring the uninterrupted supply of essential commodities to the countries we serve. The first episode in the series features Olukemi Sofa, GHSC-PSM's MNCH Manager in Nigeria. The episode focuses on how the project is using End-Use Verification survey results to increase data visibility, improve storage of oxytocin, and support our government partners in Nigeria with their decision-making for MNCH commodities.

MORE DATA SUPPORT

Procurement costing tools for quantification of newborn and child health medical devices

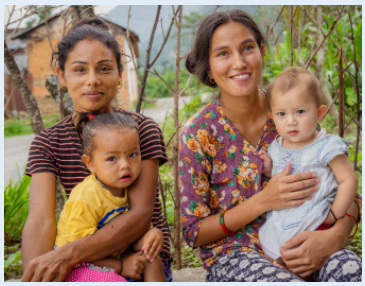
In FY 2024, GHSC-PSM developed newborn and pediatric oxygen package costing tools. Both tools facilitate the quantification of equipment for newborn and child health including a reference sheet listing specifications, costs, and recommended quantities of medical devices and consumables. The tools enable decisionmakers to judiciously allocate funding for the procurement of newborn and child health medical devices and commodities.

Enhanced MNCH supply chains in project-supported countries

Sampling and testing HDP medicines in Ghana, Malawi and Nigeria

GHSC-PSM, Monash University, the Burnet Institute, and the USAID Promoting the Quality of Medicines Plus (PQM+) program developed a quality sampling and testing protocol for magnesium sulfate, aspirin, and select antihypertensives, medicines which manage hypertensive disorders of pregnancy (HDP). After receiving the appropriate approvals from local regulatory agencies, GHSC-PSM collected samples of these medicines across all three study countries. The samples are being quality tested by Monash University. Following the study, the project will share its results with the global health community, including for considered publication in a peer-reviewed, open-access journal. The results will reveal to what extent HDP medicines are properly procured and managed in the supply chain to maintain their effectiveness and identify potential challenges in maintaining the quality of HDP medicines.

NEPAL



Improving oxytocin availability in Nepal

The project concluded its support to Nepal's Ministry of Health (MOH) in FY 2024, which resulted in **significant improvements** in the availability and storage of oxytocin in the public health system. More information on how this achieved in **this video from GHSC-PSM**.

GUINEA

> Watch the video on this work

Guinea integrates oxytocin into the vaccine cold chain

GHSC-PSM provides technical assistance to Guinea's MOH to address improper storage of oxytocin, which needs to be kept cold. The project co-created a plan to address the challenges, including through a **stakeholder workshop** on the quality of postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) medicines and the integration of oxytocin into the vaccine cold chain. Following the workshop, the MOH issued a ministerial directive to store oxytocin in the vaccine cold chain throughout the health system. As a result of this work, Guinea's Directorate of Family Health and Nutrition and National Vaccine Program have a formal agreement to collaborate on this integration.

In April 2024, GHSC-PSM worked with national stakeholders to collect data in 65 sampled health facilities in 20 health districts across all administrative regions of the country to evaluate the effectiveness of these measures. The data indicated that oxytocin was stored at nearly 100 percent nationally in the vaccine cold chain, ensuring that it is effective when administered to mothers in any part of the country.

GHANA

Supporting Ghana's MNCH supply chain

GHSC-PSM worked with Ghana Health Service's Family Health Division (FHD) to quantify MNCH medicines in FY 2024, to allow for better visibility and planning. This included two newly introduced PPH commodities, carbetocin and TXA. Approximately 19 priority MNCH commodities were quantified, informing the national funding requirements from 2024 to 2027. GHSC-PSM and FHD also finalized a list of requirements to determine health facility needs for newborn oxygen equipment and enumerated those needs for facilities across the country to inform procurement. They used data collected during a **project assessment** of the newborn oxygen ecosystem that identified significant gaps in breathing devices for newborn care in Ghana, especially for pulse oximeters and continuous positive air pressure (CPAP) devices. The project will procure about $850,000 worth of these devices to support newborn care at over 350 health facilities.