

- [Gail Mkele](#) <sup>[1]</sup>

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Strong leadership and management are important factors in the delivery of quality health services, efficient use of resources, and achievement of positive health outcomes.

Against this backdrop, the Committee of Heads of Pharmaceutical Services in South Africa identified the need to develop and strengthen leadership and management skills among pharmacists, with the aim of improving delivery of pharmaceutical services in the country. The Heads of Pharmaceutical Services approached the Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS) Program <sup>[2]</sup> predecessor, the USAID-funded Systems for Pharmaceuticals and Services (SPS) Project, to assist in developing or customizing a program that would meet this need within the country's pharmaceutical services sector. Led by MSH, SPS adapted MSH's Leadership Development Program (LDP) and combined it with technical pharmaceutical modules to create the Pharmaceutical Leadership Development Program (PLDP), which was piloted in 2011.

Over the last four years, MSH/SIAPS has led the PLDP roll-out in seven of South Africa's nine

provinces.

This 12-minute video [3] gives insights into the creation and structure of the program. As the video shows, participants not only have developed their own personal management and leadership skills, but also have learned to use proven practices and tools to improve pharmaceutical service delivery in their facilities and within their districts. The video shares results achieved thus far and shows how participants have worked in teams to identify workplace challenges and implement sustainable interventions to address these challenges.

To learn more about the PLDP journey, we invite you to watch the video [3]:

*This post originally appeared on The Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS) Program [2] website. Led by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), and funded by the US Agency for International Development [4] (USAID), SIAPS continues the USAID legacy of improving pharmaceutical management for better health outcomes.*

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**Source URL:** <http://www.msh.org/news-events/stories/rising-to-the-challenge-developing-the-pharmaceutical-leadership-development>

**Links:**

[1] <http://www.msh.org/users/gail-mkele>

[2] <http://siapsprogram.org/2015/05/12/rising-to-the-challenge-developing-the-pharmaceutical-leadership-development-program-pldp-in-south-africa/>

[3] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDK412iAGUk>

[4] <http://www.usaid.gov>