ESSENTIAL MEDICINES IMPROVE HEALTH AND SAVE LIVES.
However, the complex system that is needed to get them to people does not always function well. Shortages of medical products are common. Poor quality and high costs burden patients and health ministries. Antimicrobial resistance, fed by inappropriate use, is spreading and may greatly undermine progress in global health. Meanwhile, countries are striving to provide universal health coverage (UHC) and meet Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good health and well-being.

Building a well-functioning system
Addressing these needs and goals requires strong, responsive, and resilient pharmaceutical systems, from good governance and reliable information systems to skilled health workers. The end result: People have equitable and timely access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable medical products and services and know how to use them appropriately.

Supporting key interventions
Management Sciences for Health (MSH) has been a leader in pharmaceutical systems strengthening for more than two decades, in projects spanning more than 50 countries.

Our work includes:
• Optimizing pharmaceutical-sector financing, including resource allocation and use
• Strengthening pharmaceutical-sector leadership and governance and establishing sound policies and legislation
• Increasing institutional and human resource capacity for pharmaceutical management and services
• Strengthening pharmaceutical regulatory systems
• Increasing the availability and use of pharmaceutical information for decision making
• Improving pharmaceutical services, including product availability and patient-centered care, to achieve health outcomes

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One-third of the world’s population lacks access to essential medicine.

Falsified antimalarial medicines killed more than 120,000 children, in one year alone, in Africa.

Poorer households in low- and middle-income countries spend up to 9.5% of their income on medicines.

As little as $13 per capita could buy a basic package of 201 essential medicines, yet many people have limited access to them.¹

Drug-resistant infections lead to an estimated 700,000 deaths per year, and may contribute to 10 million deaths every year by 2050.²

Globally, two-thirds of antibiotics are sold without prescription.

Some 50% of patients worldwide do not adhere to recommended medications.

² https://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/interagency-coordination-group/IACG_final_report_EN.pdf?ua=1
MSH is a leader in pharmaceutical systems strengthening

Tanzania: Accredited Drug Dispensing Outlet (ADDO) program
MSH helped the medicines regulatory authority develop and roll out a public-private partnership to accredit more than 14,000 medicines shops nationwide. This has helped improve access to quality medicines in underserved areas that have frequent drug shortages. Six other countries in Africa and Asia are now applying the ADDO model. PROJECT: Sustainable Drug Seller Initiatives, DONOR: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Uganda: Data for supply chain decision making
MSH uses data from the national health information system to routinely collect stock status information from 4,000 public and private not-for-profit health facilities, analyze those data, and share them with health leaders to inform supply chain decisions, which has increased the overall availability of medicines. PROJECT: Uganda Health Supply Chain, DONOR: USAID

Kenya: A new avenue for affordable pharmaceutical products
MedSource, a wholly owned MSH subsidiary, offers pharmacies, health facilities, and institutions access to medicines and supplies from prequalified distributors and manufacturers. Members also receive business support; some 700 health care professionals have already received training in pharmacy, financial, regulatory, and inventory management.

Bangladesh: Electronic health information management tools
Working with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, MSH rolled out a dashboard that tracks reproductive health commodities and contraceptives at more than 29,000 service delivery points and e-TB Manager, which tracks and manages all aspects of TB patient care, to 331 sites. We also trained more than 11,800 health workers to better manage pharmaceuticals and are scaling up a pharmaceutical supply chain management portal. PROJECT: SIAPS & MTaPS, DONOR: USAID

Namibia: Improved availability of HIV treatment
We introduced a medicines registration system and helped develop a bachelor of pharmacy curriculum that scaled up the local training of pharmacy personnel and addressed a critical human resource shortage. MSH also supported the launch of an electronic dispensing tool for antiretrovirals and antiretroviral treatment patient monitoring and reporting in more than 80 public health facilities, increasing efficiency and reducing the number of patients lost to follow-up. PROJECT: SIAPS, DONOR: USAID

Ukraine: Enabling health sector reform
To help Ukraine provide more cost-effective care, MSH is supporting a health technology assessment (HTA) that identifies which medicines, medical devices, and treatment regimens should be a priority for its health system. We also supported the launch of Ukraine’s first medical Central Procurement Agency. We helped the government engage the private logistics sector in improving distribution and warehousing of antiretroviral and tuberculosis commodities to tackle Ukraine’s HIV epidemic. PROJECT: Safe, Affordable, and Effective Medicines for Ukrainians, DONOR: USAID

Philippines: A system to monitor medicine safety and efficacy
MSH is helping the country develop a national digital surveillance system to monitor safety and efficacy of TB medicines and is working on establishing collaborations with pharmacy schools to implement trainings to strengthen the Department of Health’s pharmacovigilance and medicines safety capacity. We are also helping the Department of Health procure and deploy an end-to-end, integrated electronic logistics management information system for an improved health supply chain under the country’s newly implemented UHC law. PROJECT: MTaPS, DONOR: USAID

For more information about our pharmaceutical systems strengthening work, please contact communications@msh.org.