

# Technical Reference Teams

## Recommendation 1: Global Market Shaping

### Background

The UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children (the Commission) was formed in 2012 by the UN Secretary-General as part of the global Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) movement. EWEC challenges the global community to increase access to and appropriate use of essential medicines, medical devices, and health supplies that effectively address the leading preventable causes of death during pregnancy, childbirth, and childhood.

Led by a wide range of high-level leaders from around the world, the Commission developed a framework for action on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (RMNCH) products that can be applied nationally and utilized in global RMNCH initiatives. The framework outlines a priority list of 13 commodities, key barriers to access and use, and 10 cross-cutting recommendations to rapidly increase both access and use. By increasing access to and use of these 13 commodities, it is estimated that 6 million women and children can be saved by 2017.

### Moving forward

To help carry forward the Commission's recommendations at the global and national levels, **Global Technical Reference Teams (TRT)** were established. One group was formed for each of the 13 commodities and 10 recommendations, and an advocacy working group is dedicated to advancing cross-cutting goals. The groups carry out their work through a variety of mechanisms, including guidance documents and tools to support countries in their efforts to implement recommendations and address global and regional bottlenecks. These TRTs are coordinated by a Strategy and Coordination Team hosted by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).



PATH/Robin Brielik

Health workers in Uganda transport a box of vaccines from one village to another. Comprehensive market data on the supply and demand of lifesaving commodities will help meet consumers' needs and maintain reasonable prices.

### Spotlight on Recommendation 1

Demand for commodities is often unpredictable and inconsistent, making it difficult for manufacturers to plan and produce a supply that adequately meets consumers' needs. Consistently low supply keeps prices high, preventing demand growth and forcing product stocks to remain very low. These market realities often inhibit access to lifesaving commodities, especially among those most in need.

By the end of 2013, Recommendation 1—Global Marketing Shaping—calls for the implementation of effective global mechanisms such as pooled procurement and aggregated demand to increase the availability of quality, lifesaving commodities at an optimal price and volume. In order to meet this goal, the TRT will:

- Consolidate supply- and demand-side data by commodity.
- Create a web-based info-mediary with publicly available market data for each commodity.

- Identify potential market shaping interventions within the 13 prioritized commodities.

### Group membership

The UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) serve as co-conveners of the Recommendation 1 TRT.

Other key participant groups include: the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Partnership for Supply Chain Management, Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition, Results for Development, UNICEF, the United Nations Foundation, the United Nations Population Fund, and the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

### Progress to date

The Global Market Shaping TRT is working with global purchasers, pathfinder countries, partners, and suppliers to compile information for the 13 lifesaving commodities. Data are being compiled on ordering and pricing, procurements and forecasts, and consumption and demographics. The TRT is also generating data on major suppliers in low- and middle-income countries, along with capacity and pricing information.

### Upcoming activities

DFID, CHAI, and the Recommendation 1 TRT partners are working to compile information that will help create a more enabling environment for consistent supply and demand of commodities. The anticipated tools from the group include:

- A web-based info-mediary that will be publically available with regularly updated information and data (Q4 2013).
- Market-shaping frameworks and toolkits that will ultimately be published by USAID and other partners (TBD).
- A presentation to donors, commodity experts and ministries of health in pathfinder countries outlining potential interventions to support national plans (TBD).

### Available resources

The co-conveners of the Recommendation 1 TRT envision that the creation of the info-mediary with relevant market data and reference pricing will be useful in optimizing country-level procurement processes.

The group members are also available to consult with ministry of health officials and other partners in the pathfinder countries to support procurement or capacity building planning.

### Contact us

For more information or to request tools and technical assistance, please contact Hema Srinivasan, CHAI ([hsrinivasan@clintonhealthaccess.org](mailto:hsrinivasan@clintonhealthaccess.org)) and James Droop, DFID ([j-droop@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:j-droop@dfid.gov.uk)).