



# USAID MEDICINES, TECHNOLOGIES, AND PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES (MTaPS) PROGRAM

*Improved Access. Improved Services. Better Health Outcomes.*

Photo by Mark Tuschman

## MTaPS objectives

1. Pharmaceutical-sector governance strengthened
2. Institutional and human resource capacity for pharmaceutical management and services increased, including regulation of medical products
3. Availability and use of pharmaceutical information for decision making increased and global learning agenda advanced
4. Pharmaceutical-sector financing, including resource allocation and use, optimized
5. Pharmaceutical services, including product availability and patient-centered care, to achieve health outcomes improved

## The MTaPS Program is from the American People through USAID

Based on its decades of expertise in strengthening health systems to save lives and improve the health of people in low- and middle-income countries, USAID supports better governance and integrated, innovative, and sustainable strategies to strengthen pharmaceutical systems.

*Funded by the US Agency for International Development and led by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), the goal of the five-year USAID Medicines, Technologies, and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPS) Program (2018–2023) is to help low- and middle-income countries strengthen their pharmaceutical systems to ensure sustainable access to and appropriate use of safe, effective, quality-assured, and affordable essential medicines and pharmaceutical services.*



## SUPPORTING THE GOAL OF ACHIEVING AN AIDS-FREE GENERATION

An AIDS-free world requires resilient and sustainable pharmaceutical systems that ensure universal access to the best available diagnostic, preventive, and treatment tools.

Extraordinary achievements have been made in the global HIV response over the past 15 years. Since 2010, the number of new HIV/AIDS infections has dropped by 16%; HIV-related deaths have been cut by 43%; and, by 2017, more than 21.7 million people were on antiretroviral therapy (ART).<sup>1,2</sup> Following on this progress, the international community has committed to ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030—an ambitious target for Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015.

The US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), is focusing on sustainable control of the HIV epidemic and on addressing ART coverage gaps in key populations to achieve better health outcomes for people living with HIV/AIDS.<sup>3</sup> To achieve these goals, sustainable and resilient pharmaceutical systems must be in place to ensure universal access to efficacious and cost-effective diagnostic, preventive, and treatment tools.

USAID MTaPS assists countries in implementing the strategic directions of the global strategy on HIV, 2016–2021:

- Information for focused action (knowing the epidemic and the response—who and where)
- Interventions for impact (covering the range of services needed, including pharmaceutical service delivery)
- Delivering for equity (covering the populations in need of services)
- Innovation for acceleration (looking towards the future)

<sup>1</sup> WHO (2016). Global health sector strategy on HIV 2016–2021: Towards ending AIDS. Available at: <https://www.who.int/hiv/strategy2016-2021/ghss-hiv/en/>

<sup>2</sup> UNAIDS (2018). Global HIV & AIDS statistics—2018 fact sheet. Available at: <http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/fact-sheet>

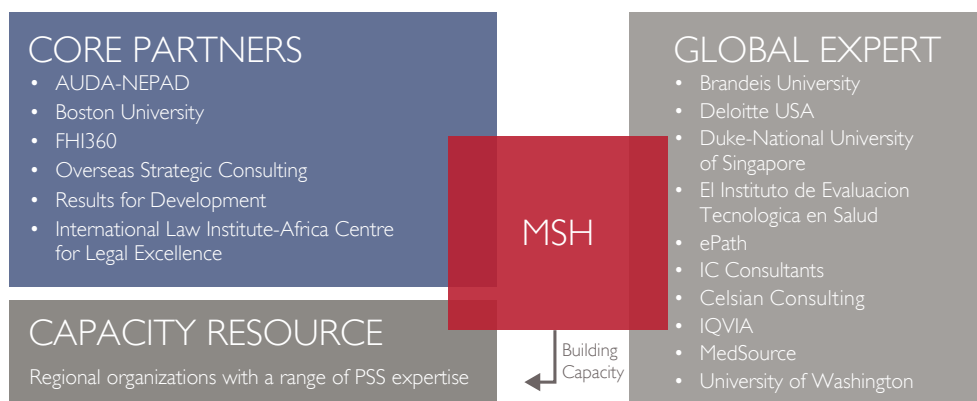
<sup>3</sup> PEPFAR. 2019 Country Operational Plan Guidance for all PEPFAR Countries. Available at: <https://www.pepfar.gov/documents/organization/288160.pdf>

## MTaPS helps countries:

- Roll out new treatment guidelines, including national strategies for the rapid adoption, introduction, and implementation of new ART regimens
- Establish functional early warning systems and dashboards for detection and prevention of stock-outs, overstock, and wastage of antiretroviral (ARV) medicines and supplies
- Strengthen the supply chain at the national and subnational levels
- Support national pharmaceutical health information systems including:
  - Improvement of information for decision making on HIV program management, patient care, and access to diagnostics and medicines through the availability and interoperability of electronic tools, data warehousing, and analytics
  - Rolling out existing open-source electronic platforms including the Electronic Dispensing Tool (EDT), RxSolution, and Quantimed for forecasting of ARV supplies
- Build capacity for the development of national program monitoring systems to implement uninterrupted HIV treatment services
- Support Global Fund programs and activities and strengthen coordination of the delivery of HIV/AIDS services
- Improve direct service and provide technical support to ART sites on enhancing adherence and retention of patients on ART
- Improve patient safety by introducing MTaPS-developed electronic active pharmacovigilance tools and building capacity for timely management of adverse events
- Improve ART for pregnant women and support for clinic personnel, especially in areas related to pharmaceutical service delivery and management of ARVs and essential medicines

## The MTaPS Consortium

Led by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), the MTaPS consortium comprises core partners, global experts, and capacity resource partners. Core partners and global experts are listed below. Capacity resource partners include local organizations with regional or country-based knowledge, technical expertise, and networks (African Health Economics and Policy Association, African Collaborating Centre for Pharmacovigilance and Surveillance, Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network, Kilimanjaro School of Pharmacy, Muhimbili University, Pharmaceutical Systems Africa, U3 SystemsWork, and the University of Ibadan) and other partners (Columbus Consulting, Empower Swiss, and Softworks).



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