



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

Improved Access. Improved Services. Better Health Outcomes.

PHARMACEUTICAL SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING E-LEARNING

The MTA^{PS} 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.

WHY IS E-LEARNING IMPORTANT TO PHARMACEUTICAL SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING?

In low- and middle-income countries, many government departments face critical and chronic shortages of managerial and technical experts for key pharmaceutical system functions in regional and local facilities. Geographically scattered workforces, accessibility challenges, and emergencies, such as infectious disease outbreaks and conflict, are just a few factors that put stress on the education systems, workforce development initiatives, and institutional capacity development efforts that can address these shortages.

E-learning is a delivery method for capacity development and strengthening, which reaches large audiences by employing a variety of virtual learning tools (e.g., online learning management platforms with course materials in one place, interactive audiovisual media toolkits, and virtual communities of practice). Capacity development goes beyond training to optimize workforce performance in a sustainable manner via four pathways of improvement: staffing, skills, working conditions, and motivation. E-learning advances the sustainability of capacity development programs by increasing their adaptability to various contexts and facilitating widespread and ongoing use of the curriculum.

MTAPS' APPROACH TO E-LEARNING

MTaPS' approach to e-learning is multipronged. It places importance on instructional design; the application of adult learning principles and a competency approach; the use of a variety of interactive methods; and the integration and sustainability of the country's e-learning program for ongoing use in pharmaceutical systems strengthening. MTA^{PS}-supported e-learning programs employ the flexibility of being both synchronous (live) and asynchronous (self-paced), accommodating both face-to-face and distance learning via online and, as appropriate for the context, offline tools.

MTaPS supports countries to:

- Assess their e-learning capabilities
- Increase acceptance, competence, and use of digital approaches
- Develop e-learning strategies
- Develop, manage, and maintain e-learning courses and platforms based on national and international guidelines
- Integrate e-learning into the learning culture and process of the Ministry of Health, such as continuing education and professional licensing programs



COUNTRY EXAMPLES

MALI

MTaPS supported the development of antimicrobial resistance e-learning courses and an accompanying platform, which are hosted on a government website. MTaPS also trained the focal points who are managing the e-learning platform.

BURKINA FASO

MTaPS trained the focal points responsible for managing the government's e-learning platforms.

TANZANIA

MTaPS supported the Ministry of Health to establish a pool of trainers and upload e-courses to the Ministry of Health's

Learning Management System. The program is managed by a trained local focal point and is integrated in continuing professional development accreditation.

KENYA

MTaPS worked with the regulatory authorities and numerous professional associations to embed infection prevention and control training in in-service professional development.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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MTAPS OPEN ACCESS E-LEARNING MATERIALS

Course Title and Location	Modules	Overview
Pharmaceutical Systems Strengthening (PSS) 101 https://www.globalhealthlearning.org/program/pharmaceutical-systems-strengthening	10	Overview of PSS, including strengthening quality assurance systems, combating antimicrobial resistance, pharmaceutical sector governance, and logistics for health commodities
Good Governance in the Management of Medicines https://www.globalhealthlearning.org/course/good-governance-management-medicines	8	Importance of good governance in pharmaceutical management, including key interventions to promote good governance and considerations for implementing improvement strategies
Antimicrobial Resistance (Part 1) https://www.globalhealthlearning.org/course/antimicrobial-resistance-part-1-0	3	Basic principles of antimicrobial resistance, including its impact on individuals and society
Antimicrobial Resistance (Part 2) https://www.globalhealthlearning.org/course/antimicrobial-resistance-part-2	6	Contributing factors to development and spread of antimicrobial resistance, including interventions to address these factors
Pharmacovigilance https://elearning.rwandafda.gov.rw:8080/elearning/login/index.php	3	Overview of pharmacovigilance, including quality defects, medication errors, causality assessment, active surveillance methods, risk management, and data management
LeaderNet MTaPS courses https://leadernet.org/current-courses/	N/A	Infection prevention and control; PSS for maternal, newborn, and child health; RxSolution; Quant TB; and many more



The USAID Medicines, Technologies, and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPS) Program enables low- and middle-income countries to strengthen their pharmaceutical systems, which is pivotal to better health outcomes and higher-performing health systems. The program is implemented by a consortium of global and local partners, led by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), a global health nonprofit.

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