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PROMOTING THE QUALITY OF MEDICINES

IMPROVING HEALTH SYSTEMS

Malaria is the primary cause of morbidity and mortality in Mali. The goal of the President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI) in Mali is to reduce malaria deaths and substantially decrease malaria morbidity towards the long-term goal of elimination.

Building capacity and health systems is one the core areas of PMI strategic focus for the period of 2015-2020. PMI has committed to build capacity to enable countries to implement their own programs. In this area, PMI has deployed efforts to assist countries to identify and eliminate poor quality and counterfeit malaria medicines from their market.

USAID and the U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention have been working collaboratively to assist the Malian Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene in strengthening the medicines quality assurance systems since 2008 through the following interventions:

- Organizational and human capacity building of the National Laboratory of Health to produce medicine quality control data to support the regulation of medicines;
- Post-marketing surveillance for medicines quality;
- Policy and regulatory enforcement against poor quality medicines.

GLOBAL STRATEGY

The Promoting the Quality of Medicines (PQM) program collaborates with medicines regulatory authorities, national quality control laboratories, academic institutions, and a variety of stakeholders to strengthen each country’s ability to ensure the quality of medicines. Since 2009, PQM has helped establish and develop medicines quality monitoring activities in 29 countries, enabling them to identify poor quality medicines and raising public awareness of their dangers. With PQM technical assistance, over 30 laboratories in Africa, Asia, and Latin America have significantly improved their compliance with internationally accepted standards of laboratory testing; 15 of those labs have achieved International Standardization Organization accreditation. PQM’s systems-based approach extends to medicines manufacturers and helps companies improve their compliance to good manufacturing practices, thereby ensuring the supply of essential priority medicines for public health.

PROMOTING THE QUALITY OF MEDICINES’ GOALS

BUDGET: \$580,000

TARGET AREAS: Nationwide

PROJECT CYCLE: 2015 – 2020

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

- A nation-wide program for monitoring the quality of antimalarial medicines established with a sentinel site in each of Mali’s region;
- More than 2,200 samples of antimalarial medicines collected from the public and private sector and screened for quality;
- National Health Laboratory performance improved through provision of lab equipment and empowering laboratory staff by training on analytical methods and quality management;
- The national pharmacovigilance program reactivated and strengthened with clear mandate, role and responsibility of institutions involved. Mali became 105th full member of the World Health Organization Program for International Drug Monitoring.