LOCATION: WFP Meeting Room, Cox’s Bazar

DATE: 23 September 2019

CHAIR: Health Sector, Logistics Sector


ACTION POINTS:

- The Health Sector and the Logistics Sector to bilaterally discuss the costs involved for the quality assessment and obtain a tentative timeline for the exercise with QUAMED. A two-stage process will be followed in the assessment exercise.
- WHO to share location maps and SOPs with partners for access to prepositioned supplies in case of emergency. Partners to approach WHO if additional information is required regarding the access to prepositioned stocks.
- Partners have been urged to coordinate their drug disposal with WHO.

AGENDA:

1. Previous action points
2. Emergency Prepositioned Stock
3. Update on Disposal of Expired Drugs
4. Quality Assessment Update
5. Storage Updates: Temperature Controlled Units
6. AOB

1. Previous action points

- The bed net inventory mapping survey received very few responses as most organizations reported that they did not maintain such an inventory as part of their dengue preparedness activities.
- UNICEF is currently reviewing a Long Term Agreement with six national pharmaceutical companies after recently conducting a technical evaluation of pharmaceutical companies’ compliance with standards for Good Manufacturing Principles (GMPs). The evaluation team has chosen eleven products following the evaluation, with specifications on the form and the presentation/strength. Production lines were evaluated and chosen based on the production of specific medicines. DGDA will be consulted with for the import of any items not manufactured within Bangladesh.

2. Emergency Prepositioned Stock

- As per Health Sector contingency planning, it is anticipated that the camps might be cut off from supplies or vital emergency response following any massive disaster such as a cyclone. Lifesaving medicines, health and trauma kits, and logistics equipment have therefore been prepositioned in containers across six locations in the camps for use in an emergency.

https://logcluster.org/sector/bangl17
https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/bangladesh/health
3. Update on Disposal of Expired Drugs

- WHO has assisted several partners with disposal of their expired drugs by sending these to PRISM, the only company certified in Bangladesh to carry out the disposal activities which can also support more organisations to do so. Partners can coordinate truckloads with WHO and are asked to specify the weight along with the expiry dates of the loads. WHO will send out an email separately on this.
- A certificate will be provided following disposal by PRISM.

4. Quality Assessment Update

- WHO provided a brief summary of the work conducted to date on quality assessments of distributors and manufacturers of medicines from the local pharmaceutical market.
- The Health Sector, along with the Logistics Sector and other partners will seek a third-party quality assessment through QUAMED, a non-profit association engaged in quality assessments of essential drugs, in order to provide a tool that can support partners to conduct a risk assessment of the local market for the purposes of their own procurement. Government representatives will be engaged during the assessments.
- A list of 71 medicines has been proposed for the risk assessment, including 39 from the WHO essential list.

A two-step process is being considered right now:

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<th>Step</th>
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| Step 1 | Technical Assistance from QUAMED to support partner risk assessments | • Generate a map of local production lines per product (focus on 71 commonly used items) using the ten leading local manufacturers as per local market share.  
• Reflect the status of available key evaluations/quality reports (e.g. WHO public inspection reports, EUDRA GMP, USFDA, verify if there is a PIC/S inspection, etc.) against each item per production line, which will show a risk scale of the product per production line.  
• Allocate colour code to different assessments.  
• Identify the leading distributors of Bangladesh and select top ten distributors based on the level of sourcing from agreed low risk threshold production lines identified above.  
• Match item-production line map with the distributor data. | One month |
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| Step 2 | GDP/GSP Audit | • Make the outcome accessible to all Health Sector partners to support their own risk assessments. | • Carry out field GDP and GSP assessments of the selected leading distributors. • Make the outcome accessible to all Health Sector partners. | One month |

5. Storage Updates: Temperature Controlled Units

- The Logistics Sector received the first two consignments of items for storage in the temperature-controlled units at the Madhu Chara Logistics Hub from two partner organisations.
- Partners can send their service request to the Logistics Sector at bangladesh.clustercargo@wfp.org for storage of items requiring temperature control.

6. AOB

- A partner inquired on the storage of medicines classified as “narcotics”, and the difference from the storage of controlled medicines. It has been advised that controlled medicines (diazepam, and other sedatives) do not require permission for storage, but that specific narcotics such as morphine, fentanyl, etc. require licenses and permissions for their procurement and storage. There are also some restrictions on the import of specific controlled medicines and psychotropic drugs.

Contacts

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