



Regional Centre of Excellence for Vaccines,
Immunization and Health Supply Chain
Management (RCE-VIHSCM)



EAC Regional Workshop for Policy Makers on Enhancing Access to Medicines and Vaccines

**EAC Regional Centre of Excellence for Vaccines, Immunization
& Health Supply Chain Management (RCE-VIHSCM) in collaboration with
WHO Geneva/ WHO AFRO/ WHO EAC Country Offices**

*November 12-14, 2018
Arusha, Tanzania*

Context

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Goal 3 aims to ‘Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages’, outlining targets that can only be reached if access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all is achieved.

However, lack of access to essential medicines remains one of the most serious global public health problems. Although considerable progress has been made in the last forty years since the introduction of the essential medicines concept, not all people have benefited equally from improvements in the provision of health care services, nor from low-cost, effective treatments with essential medicines.

To improve medicines situations, multiple stakeholders from different parts of health systems and financing need to share their different views of medicines in health systems, engage across boundaries in dialogue to better understand each other, balance their competing or converging interests, and find ways to create change.

Aims & objectives

The aim of the 3-day workshop is to highlight the importance of medicines in health systems, and to enhance knowledge and skills of key stakeholders on improving access to medicines in low- and middle-income countries using a health systems approach, thereby drawing on the WHO framework ‘systems framework for access to medicines’. Practical ways by which policy makers can work together to ensure availability, quality, affordability, and adequate use of medicines will be key concepts that will surface throughout each of the topics discussed, taking into account the wider health system context and using the concept of Universal Health Coverage as a guiding principle.

Specifically, after completing the workshop, the participants will be able to

- Understand and explain the different roles medicines play in health systems, and the roles and responsibilities of different system actors with respect to medicines in health systems;

- Illustrate the competing objectives that system stakeholders face when striving toward greater availability of and more equitable access to high quality medicines, at affordable costs for households and the community, and with appropriate use to achieve target health outcomes;
- Assess the potential of different medicines policies and management approaches to balance these competing objectives, and identify the facilitators of and barriers to success of specific strategies, in a given context;
- Share information and experiences on innovative tools and mechanisms available to countries in order to improve access to medicines in the respective countries.
- Lay out strategies for monitoring desired and potential unintended outcomes of specific medicines policy and management strategies in a given setting.

Workshop delivery

The workshop will be delivered by experts from the WHO (WHO Geneva and WHO AFRO) and from the RCE-VIHSCM, who all have considerable experience and expertise in the areas of health systems & medicines policies.

After the workshop, the WHO focal point in each of the member states will provide technical support to the policy makers with implementation and integration of the recommendations & actions points in the country health plans and strategies in their respective countries.

Target audience

The target audience of this workshop consists of high-level management and decision-makers within the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Trade /or Ministry of Industries and Medicine Regulatory Agencies. from each partner state (Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya). In addition, the EAC WHO countries office and representatives of Development Partners (i.e. DFID, EU, AU, BMGF, USAID) and the EAC Regional Economic Community will be invited to attend the workshop.

Dates, location & fees

The EAC Regional Workshop for Policy Makers on Enhancing Access to Medicines and Vaccines will take place from **November 12-14, 2018**, in **Arusha**, Tanzania.

Participation fees of EAC participants from the Ministries and national authorities will be covered by the RCE-VIHSCM; development partners are expected to cover their own transport and accommodation.

Further information

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