

**International Association of Public Health
Logisticians (IAPHL) Nigeria Chapter
Inaugural Workshop Report**

Theme:

**‘Enhancing Supply Chain Competencies to
Advance Universal Health Coverage’**

Venue:

GHSC-PSM Office, Utako, Abuja

Date:

November 17, 2018

Introduction

The International Association of Public Health Logisticians (IAPHL) is dedicated to improving public health supply chain management and commodity security by promoting the professional development of public health logisticians. IAPHL recognizes the important, yet often undervalued role public health logisticians play in providing lifesaving health services especially in developing countries where SCM is not often recognized as a profession that requires specialized training. The association was established to promote the professionalization of the field of public health logistics through education and information sharing. In August 2017, members started to meet regularly to discuss pertinent supply chain issues and have formed a coordination framework that has enabled IAPHL in Nigeria to expand the network of public health logistics by encouraging vibrant discussions anchored by experts in various thematic areas related to supply chain management. It is in light of this that the IAPHL Nigeria Chapter planned and conducted a one-day inaugural workshop themed *'Enhancing Supply Chain Competencies to Advance Universal Health Coverage'* on November 17, 2018. The workshop was conducted with support from Global Health Supply Chain -Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM), who hosted the workshop at their office, and Africa Resource Centre (ARC). The workshop was attended by 95 participants, most of whom were IAPHL members. At the end of the workshop, 15 participants indicated interest to join IAPHL.

Aim and Objectives

The aim of the workshop was to leverage on the robust knowledge-base of its members and those of its partner organizations in Nigeria to improve health outcomes in Nigeria and in other developing countries. The key objective of the workshop was to highlight the level of expertise existing currently in the health supply chain system in the country, with a view to showcase ways in which these considerable expertise can be harnessed to improve public health supply chain practices at various levels of the Nigerian health care supply chain including primary health centres, teaching hospitals, private hospital, public-private health facilities etc. towards the goal of improving universal health coverage and ultimately safer societies. The workshop sought to bring together diverse groups of health supply chain experts and academicians to discuss existing challenges and identify workable solutions to the issues around availability of essential health supplies in the country. Also, to provide a learning and collaboration platform within and across institutions and professions and promote system-wide improvements in the health supply chain sector as a whole, while emphasising the role public health logisticians can play towards a healthier society.

Workshop Activities:

a. Panel Discussions/Presentations

1. **The Role of Leadership for Advancing Supply Chain Accountability:** Mr. Innocent Igbeunam, Deputy Country Director- Supply Chain Operations, GHSC-PSM, speaking on this topic, said accountability is accepting to be in charge, delivering quality results consistently and establishing standards. He used the RACI chart to explain leadership as being Responsible-Accountable-Consulted-Informed.
2. **The Role of Leadership for Advancing Supply Chain Accountability:** The Case of Drug Management Transformation in Kaduna State: Dr. Ramatu Abdulakdir, Executive Secretary, Kaduna State Drugs and Medical Supplies Management Agency, focused on transformative leadership and defined it as challenging the status quo, modeling a way, inspiring others to act and inspiring a vision. She stated that Supply Chain Management

(SCM) is beyond procurement, warehousing, inventory management and distribution and requires transformative leadership to function as it should.

3. **Fostering Public-Private Partnerships to Improve Supply Management of Essential Medicines:** Mr. Gbenga Peters, MD/CEO General & Health Logistics International Limited (GHLI-L), defined Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) as contractual agreements between a public agency (federal, state or local) and a private sector entity. He stated that there is a need to foster PPPs because they increase efficiency and use available resources for infrastructure and service delivery more effectively and that if done well, PPPs could also reform sectors through a reallocation of roles, incentives and improve accountability.
4. **Ensuring Quality of Maternal Health Medicines:** Mr. Arinze Awiligwe of Concept Foundation, said in his presentation that poor quality medicines increase mortality and morbidity and also cause loss of confidence in health systems and health workers. To ensure the availability and distribution of quality medicines, he stated that unique partnerships between public and private organisations to provide access to life-saving innovations and supporting potential access in LMICs subject to WHO recommendations, including good supply and distribution practices of medicines are needed.

b. Breakout Sessions

The breakout sessions were conducted where 30 – 35 participants in 4 groups discussed questions bordering on *Human Resource for Health Supply Chain* in the areas of supply chain learning and job opportunities and leveraging knowledge in supply chain. Supply chain experts served as hosts and moderators for the discussion. Some of the questions discussed were:

- i. There is pre-service training in SCM in some pharmacy schools in Nigeria. Should this be expanded to other colleges/professions? It was established that supply chain courses are not for pharmacists alone and that pre-service training should be expanded to other professions and colleges.
- ii. Do years of experience in the field of SCM count when seeking job opportunities in Nigeria? It was agreed that years of experience matter as there are no certifications yet.
- iii. What kind of programs exist to encourage mentorship for SCM? Organizations like IAPHL and other universities like Howard University offer SCM mentorship to young people interested in a career in SCM.

c. Workshop Evaluation

Participants carried out an evaluation exercise during the workshop to assess the workshop. Results showed that participants liked the panel discussions most, disliked how time was managed, would attend future workshops by the IAPHL Nigeria chapter and voted for bi-annual workshops. Overall, participants were happy for the opportunity to network with others in the field of SCM.

Recommendations

1. Consider allowing members to attend future workshops even if they miss out on registering.
2. Create more awareness for future workshop to enable better participation from members.
3. Include practical/hands-on sessions for participants during workshops.

Next Steps

1. Plan towards organizing the next IAPHL Nigeria Chapter workshop.

