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POOLED PROCUREMENT NETWORKS - East Africa Case Study

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Pooled Procurement

Pooled procurement is purchasing done by one procurement office on behalf of a group of organizations, facilities, health systems or countries (Ghoneim, Mpundu & Mabirizi, 2016)

The levels of pooled procurement are: (WHO 2017)

- **Level 1:** Informed Buying
- **Level 2:** Coordinated Informed Buying
- **Level 3:** Group Contacting
- **Level 4:** Central Contacting
The EACPP Initiative is a collaborative initiative within these EAC countries: Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. The main objective is to increase access to quality essential medicines and medical supplies within the EAC region. The EACPP Initiative provides the following attractions:

- Product Growth
- Savings Growth
- Procurement Value Growth

The EACPP Initiative undertakes supply chain management of quality essential pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical products from local and international manufacturers/distributors. The pooled procurement initiative facilitates audit and prequalification of suppliers, procurement, distribution and transportation of the products.
Challenges and barriers during Covid-19

• Sourcing of pre-qualified suppliers both locally and internationally for Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs).
• Price fluctuations of the PPEs and medical products due to high demand leading to unaffordable products.
• Lack of information sharing or database on prices and suppliers among the various stakeholders.
• Lengthy delivery times from the international suppliers leading to staggered lead times.
• Unsustainability in PPE supply due to staggered lead times.
• Harmonization of specifications of the PPEs due to different regulatory and registration requirements from the different countries.
• Delays in importation due to country lockdown restrictions.
Quality and Safety of Essential Medicines

- The EAC pooled procurement has a mandate to source quality essential medicine and medical supplies at lower prices.
- Quality and safety is ensured through:
  - Joint supplier Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) audits and inspections.
  - Harmonization of the pharmaceutical specifications based on the ISO standards.
  - Product quality testing, analysis and reporting.
  - Supplier and manufacturer pre-qualification policies and procedures.
  - Supplier performance reviews.
Enablers of Pooled Procurement

- **Stakeholders**: Through the different Drug Supply Organisations participating in the pooled procurement activities such as Joint GMP audits.

- **Technology**: Supports communication of the essential medicine stock needs from the stakeholders to the suppliers.

- **Central Contacting**: Facilitating and coordination done centrally promotes efficiency and effectiveness of the pooled procurement process.
Recommendations

The Commonwealth Health Ministers can aid in:

➔ Creating a platform to enhance information sharing within the different commonwealth countries.
➔ Data sharing can be done on:
  a) prices on quality medical products
  b) pre-qualified suppliers
  c) supplier performance reviews
➔ This can create an equitable and sustainable access to quality and affordable medicines and vaccines in East Africa.
➔ This will ultimately increase Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in East Africa and Africa at large.
THANK YOU

FOR YOUR ATTENTION