



Transport and Distribution

In 2023, inSupply Health and JSI conducted a joint landscaping assessment to identify opportunities for strengthening data use culture and processes within the public sector supply chain. The assessment used a mixed-method approach, collecting both quantitative and qualitative data, with stock status measured by physical inventory checks. Key findings highlighted the Ministry of Health's efforts to promote data use through a national training manual, HMIS systems, 177 key performance indicators (KPIs), and Performance Monitoring Teams (PMTs) across all levels. PMTs at the woreda and health facility levels were the most functional, though engagement from pharmacy departments remained limited.

The assessment revealed that inventory accuracy for eight Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (RMNCH) products was 100% across the facilities visited, with overall availability at 78%. Stockouts were infrequent and mainly caused by supply shipment delays, particularly for certain vaccines. The report recommends revitalizing PMT governance, enhancing data analysis skills among members, and establishing robust monitoring and evaluation systems to improve decision-making and supply chain performance.

*Themes: 1. Forecasting and Quantification 2. Inventory Control Procedures 3. **Transport & Distribution** 4. Logistics Management Information Systems 5. Data Demand and Use 6. Performance Monitoring Teams 7. Recognition and Capacity Building*

The Ethiopian Pharmaceuticals Supply Service (EPSS) has a well-structured system for delivering RMNCH commodities from central warehouses to health facilities, helping to prevent delays and reduce lead times. The distribution cycle is bimonthly, with EPSS utilizing its own fleet of vehicles for transport. Written procedures are in place to guide delivery methods and schedules.

Challenges

Despite the structured system, delays in commodity deliveries occur due to the aging vehicle fleet. Many vehicles have been in use for over 10 years without proper servicing, leading to breakdowns and longer lead times. In Dire Dawa, most facilities benefit from direct deliveries, while facilities in Jarso Woreda, except Jarso Health Center, receive indirect deliveries via the Woreda, further increasing lead times and complicating logistics.

Recommendations

To address these challenges, it is recommended to support the Ministry of Health and EPSS in implementing strategic interventions that optimize the logistics system, strengthen last-mile delivery capacity, and improve inventory management.

“The vehicles currently available are old, and they have been used for around 10 years. Couple of instances where the vehicles have broken down and delayed distribution.”, Key informant.