PROCUREMENT WORKSHOP IN LIVINGSTONE

The workshop was organized by the Ministry of Health and the Pharmaceutical Society of Zambia. It took place on 27 September 2013 at Wasawange Lodge in Livingstone. The participants were drawn from the Provincial Ministry of Health, Livingstone General Hospital, Batoka General Hospital, Choma, Gwembe, Siavonga and Kazungula. The local coordinator for the workshop was Ms Kalaluka Litebele from TIZ Livingstone.

PRESENTATIONS

The workshop started with introduction and a welcome address by the president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Zambia Mr Liyoka Liyoka. This was followed by a brief background about Medicines Transparency Alliance international and MeTA Zambia in particular by Mr Goodwell Lungu. He also discussed the objectives of the workshop being aimed at promoting transparency and accountability in public sector procurement of pharmaceutical products. The workshop's target was the procurement officers in public institutions in Livingstone though from the list of participants, much of Southern provinces had been covered.

And Loyce Lishimpi, formerly of the World Health Organisation in Lusaka and participated in the GGM made the presentation. She discussed Good Governance in Medicines – the results of a WHO/MOH project which was conducted in three phases. The first phase covering National Assessment and an Assessment report produced, the second phase involved the development of national Good Governance for Medicine Programme which was officially adopted by the Zambian government and the third phase has involved the implementation of national GGM programme. The implementation has involved the development of a GGM national strategy.

Ms Lishimpi also looked at the diverse nature of unethical practices in the country’s medicines chain. She noted that Zambia’s pharmaceutical sector was a target for corruption and unethical practice. Using a diagrammatical representation she listed corruption and unethical practices that occurred at different levels in the medicine chain:
At R&D and Clinical Trials, Patent, manufacturing, registration, pricing and selection – cartels come up, unethical donations and collusion. At procurement and import there can be falsification of safety/efficacy data, counterfeit/substandard and conflict of interest. Other vices include unethical promotion, over-invoicing, thefts and bribery affecting the whole chain or specific instances at distribution, inspection, prescription, dispensing and pharmacovigilance.

Mr Lyoko Nyambe from the Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority discussed procurement and handling of pharmaceutical products.

Further presentations were from the provincial Anticorruption Commission officer on the provisions of the law regarding corruption and what constituted corruption in procurement in the health sector. Transparency International executive director Goodwell Lungu discussed Citizens Expectation on Procurement of Medicines for public health institutions. He emphasized the fact that citizens viewed shortages and stock outs as manifestations of corruption –the possibility that procurement officers caused deliberate shortages to make urgent procurements that would force increases in prices and hence their own benefit through commissions.

**FACILITATORS**

Liyoka Liyoka  
MeTA Zambia/PSZ

Loyce Lishimpi  
Pharmacist formerly with WHO

Goodwell Lungu  
MeTA Zambia/TIZ

Anne Mungomba  
Southern Province Medical Officer

Kalaluka Litebele  
Local coordinator

**PARTICIPANTS**

Guissimon Phiri  
Gwembe

Sinachikupo Nchimunya  
Choma/Pemba

Simaimbula Kenao  
Kazungula

Chibubi Kaulu  
Sinazongwe

Simon Mwala  
Livingstone
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Susiku Nyambe  
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