



Ethiopia's journey toward traceability

for patient safety and efficiency in the healthcare supply chain



Traceability pilot

During the course of a year, the Traceability Working Group is testing verification and traceability capabilities in Ethiopia's pharmaceutical supply chain through four pilots: (1) End user verification of product authenticity; (2) Verification if a product entered the country legally; (3) Product recall from the facility level and (4) Product recall from the patient level.



Patient safety

Global standards in healthcare help support the five patient rights: right patient, right drug or device, right time, right dose and right route. Supply chain visibility with improved traceability and transparency will help fight counterfeit medication. Finally, the use of global standards will improve the recall process by linking the medical product to the patient.



Awareness

Implementation is impossible without all stakeholders in the supply chain fully understanding and endorsing the use of standards. Awareness creation is therefore very important. Stakeholders will be informed and trained on the importance of standards through workshops, (social) media and one-on-one meetings.



Roadmap

A roadmap for the implementation of traceability from manufacturer to the patient will be developed. The document will discuss policy recommendations, time lines, roles and responsibilities.



Efficiency

Greater visibility, traceability and transparency through the use of global standards will improve efficiency in the healthcare supply chain. The implementation of standards enables organizations to develop effective information systems for electronic record management and will eliminate waste and inefficiencies in the supply chain.



Assessment

An assessment will help us understand the current landscape in terms of stakeholder awareness, gaps in legislation, and technology platforms needed for the implementation of global standards. The result of the assessment will be used as an input for a roadmap for Ethiopia to implement global standards in the healthcare sector.



Information revolution

This is one of the four transformation agendas of the Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health. The ministry and its specialized agencies have embarked on initiatives critical to build information systems fit for the purpose of ensuring patient safety and efficiency. Implementation of global standards is one such undertaking.



GS1 standards

GS1 standards ensure globally unique identification and enable cross-border compatibility of supply chain solutions. This means all stakeholders can efficiently and effectively comply with various local and global requirements, and achieve interoperability and compatibility within their organization, between organizations and across borders.



100 million inhabitants, one of the oldest nations in the world, over 82 languages, more than 79 ethnicities and home to Lucy, a human fossil believed to have existed over 3 million years ago.



About 20 percent of pharmaceuticals are locally manufactured. This number is expected to grow significantly in the coming years. The public sector has approximately 340 hospitals, 3,500 health centers and 16,000 health posts providing health services.



Important stakeholders including the government, manufacturers, and healthcare providers are supporters of the initiative to develop a roadmap for the implementation of global standards.