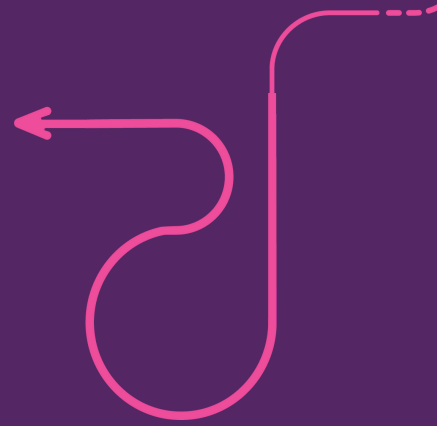


Last Mile Assurance (LMA) as a Trigger for Strengthening the Health Supply Chain Workforce

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THE CHALLENGE

Ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) supplies at the last mile demands a skilled, recognized and dedicated workforce at all levels of the supply chain, to guarantee adequate forecasting and stock levels, visibility of supplies across the supply chain, and quality of products throughout storage and transportation, in conformity with GDSP standards.

THE SOLUTION

The UNFPA Last Mile Assurance process consists of 4 activities designed to gain insight into the complexity of supply chains through which SRH products flow, evaluate the capacity of the supply chain workforce, and diagnose key issues that prevent women and girls from accessing supplies at the last mile. This evidence-based process collects data on inventory, record-keeping practices, conditions at facilities, and human resources, from central warehouses to SDPs. Every year, 40 countries are selected for on-site verifications, training of personnel, and establishment of action plans for strengthening of the supply chain workforce, in collaboration with governments and other partners.

THE RESULTS

The LMA process impacts supply chains across the globe through collection, analysis and dissemination of data to UNFPA partners, as well as capacity building of supply chain workers at the central, decentralized and SDP levels. Yearly, LMA provides online data collection coaching to personnel from +80 partners in over 50 countries, for maintenance of accurate inventory record-keeping, as well as training on quantification and forecasting. The team deploys expert consultants to 40 countries per year, where approximately 600 facilities are visited and +1,300 facility personnel receive on-the-job training to uphold or improve their skills in supply chain management.

SUSTAINABILITY & TRANSFERABILITY

The LMA process positions human resource capacity development at the core of its work, by collaborating with UNFPA partners to identify supply chain system strengthening priorities, develop recommendations that build the capacity of facility staff, and allow the health supply chain workforce to affect change at the last mile.

LMA methodologies and tools are standardized and applicable across countries, and can be adopted by governments, for regular supply chain monitoring. LMA activities are rolled-out in partnership with UNFPA Country Offices, governments and other key stakeholders, who actively engage in data collection, onsite visits, personnel training, and systems strengthening interventions.