Use of Interactive Decision-making Tools to Prevent Stockouts of HIV Medicines and Related Commodities



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BACKGROUND

Although the Dominican Republic (DR) has implemented an efficient unified pharmaceutical supply management system (SUGEMI by the Spanish acronym), there were stockout of antiretroviral (ART) during 2020 and 2021. These were mainly attributed to international delivery delays and local logistics distribution difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The limited information and evidence available on the global supply chain disruptions and the lack of coordination among the Ministry of Health's (MoH) HIV Program and procurement department, and the network of health care providers (SNS, by the Spanish acronym) prevented these decision makers from anticipating the crisis in time to undertake joint situation analysis and take effective actions to prevent stockouts.

DESCRIPTION

In order to avoid similar crisis in the future, in 2021 projects funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the DR supported the MoH and SNS to develop an electronic dashboard to analyze the availability of ARVs and HIV-related commodities.

The dashboard is fed by data provided by the SUGEMI information systems which served as the source for this dashboard. A sequence of graphics displays the availability and consumption information for ARTs and other HIV-related commodities at health facilities, and regional and central warehouses and tracks the procurement of products from international providers.

LESSONS LEARNED

From 2022 to date -July 2024-, this dashboard and the meetings organized for its analysis and decision-making have made it possible to prevent stockouts at the central warehouse, nine regional warehouses, and 101 HIV specialized facilities.

This analysis routine has also served to provide positive feedback to all SUGEMI operators to improve the timeliness and quality of primary data, its entry into databases, and the processing and presentation of supply indicators.

The dashboard has allowed the government to make decisions based on evidence and redistribute 18 thousands ART units and supplies among regional warehouses and facilities, advance purchase orders, and request emergency deliveries.

Conclusion

The periodic analysis of the information provided by the interactive supply management dashboard was included as a permanent routine in the health institutions responsible for managing HIV supplies in the Dominican Republic and has contributed to prevent stockouts.









