

Health Systems Strengthening

Promoting the Quality of Medicines (PQM), U. S. Pharmacopeial Convention (USP)

GOAL

PQM serves as a primary mechanism to help USAID-supported countries strengthen their quality assurance and quality control systems to safeguard the quality of medicines.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

1. Strengthen quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) systems
2. Increase the supply of quality assured medicines
3. Combat the availability of substandard and counterfeit medicines
4. Provide technical leadership and global advocacy

PROJECT COMPONENTS

1. Bolstering regulatory functions by training its inspectorate and providing technical support in medicines registration and dossier evaluation
2. Establishing a strong medicines quality monitoring program to test the quality and authenticity of medicines in the market
3. Building up the Central Drug Quality Control Laboratory to attain ISO 17025 accreditation to ensure reliable results
4. Strengthening capacity of manufacturers to meet international standards
5. Helping develop a national quality assurance policy for all medicines and medical devices

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Promoting the Quality of Medicines program is a 10-year (2009-2019) USAID-funded global project focused on building the capacity of medicine regulatory authorities to ensure the quality of medicines relevant to national health programs. In 2012 PQM partnered with Nigeria's National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) and National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) to strengthen the country's quality control of antimalarial medicines. USAID's Office of Maternal and Child Health then requested PQM work with local manufacturers to produce quality maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) priority commodities of the Commission on Saving Commodities for Women and Children. Collaborating with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders, PQM develops human resources capacity and sustainable systems for the quality control of essential medicines responding to the priorities of the Government of Nigeria and in line with the Global Health Initiative principles.

Collaboration with other Partners

PQM collaborates with the Ministry of Health, specifically, with NAFDAC and NMCP. PQM also partners with the World Health Organization, Clinton Health Access Initiative, Malaria No More, TSHIP, PATH, and others.



NAFDAC staff scientists learn analytical methods to test the quality of medicines in the field and in the Drug Central Quality Control Laboratory. Credit: S. Bradby

Contact information:

Timothy Nwogu, Manager–Africa Programs
 Promoting the Quality of Medicines
 U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention
 12601 Twinbrook Parkway
 Rockville, MD 20852 USA
 Tel: 1+ 301-998-6827; Email: TYN@usp.org