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## **HEALTH COMMODITIES AND HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (HCHTWG) UPDATE JULY 2019**

The technical working group met on the 8th July 2019 and issues discussed include the following:

1. The Ministry has noted the repetition of having many expiries of medicines and other health products whenever treatment regimens are changed in the country. The coordination mechanism present are not working and hence it has been decided to develop a guide on management of regime transitions to prevent expires and other issues. A task team has been nominated to come up with a roadmap by 15th July 2019.
2. MSD was tasked to provide status on redistribution for products with low shelf life including practice of First-Expire-First-Out and provide report every month. In addition, MSD has now been tasked to frequently alert Vertical Programs (VP) on stocks status. The aim is for MSD and Vertical Programs to share stock redistribution status to prevent expiries.
3. There is a shortage of condoms particularly in the private sector. This is due to delays in getting a Government Notice Number as per the new government procedures. PSU to hold a meeting with Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Treasury, Director Prevention Services, MSD and Director of Procurement Management (DPM) to discuss exemption issues which have been a challenge for the clearance of medicines.
4. The National AIDS Control Programme has developed a Condom distribution guideline which is ready for sharing.
5. It was reported that there was a shortage of Isoniazid in Lake and Iringa Zones. The National TB and Leprosy Programme was tasked to follow up of the matter and start re-distribution from regions with high supplies while waiting for the new consignment