



HEALTH COMMODITIES AND HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (HCHTWG) UPDATE FEBRUARY 2019

The technical working group met on 7th February 2019 and the following are the main issues discussed:

MSD stock status and expiry status

Malaria medicine

1. As of 28/1/2019, most of antimalarial medicines and mRDTs stock were below 6 months except for Artesunate Injections and SP. New stock however is expected in March.
2. There is a high number of stock, which will expire in 6 months. Of particular concern is that of 1,721,815 vials which will expire in 6 months' time.
3. To address the challenges, the Ministry is working together with MSD and LMU to redistribute the short expiry commodities to facilities which will be able to consume them before expiry dates.
4. With regards to Artesunate injections, District TOT Teams are conducting on job-training to facilitate health workers to use the injections when appropriately needed.

Reproductive and Child Health

1. All Family planning medicines are in good stock except for Microgynon (1 month stock), Male Condoms (0 stock) and Depo Provera (4 months stock)
2. Maternal Health products eg oxytocin, Magnesium Sulphate inj are low in stock (average 4 months)
3. Child health medicines eg Amoxicillin DT and Zinc/ORS are out of stock
4. To address these shortages, the programme is expecting new stock between February and June 2019. Also continue to maintain enough stock of all RCHS Commodities at zonal MSD as well as monitor consumption trends

TB and Leprosy medicines

1. Most of the medicines are in good stock except for leprosy medicines
2. Incoming stock in January contains the leprosy medicines

HIV/AIDs Medicines



1. The programme is going to start the introduction of the new regimen of TLD from March 2019 starting with national, zonal, regional and specialized hospitals. The second phase for district hospital will start in May and the remaining facilities will start in September.
2. There is a challenge of UNOGOLD kits some of which have expired in January and a big stock is expected to expire in August. Currently, the ministry is discussing ways of saving this stock from expiry. At the same time, some Efavirenz Tabs are expected to expire in March. The LMU staff in regions in collaboration with MSD, NACP and PORALG have coordinated inter-zonal transfers and inter-facility redistributions for items with low shelf lives. As of end of Jan 2019, only 879 tins (0.1 Month of stock) of the tablets was at risk of expiring in March 2019. The remaining stock will be consumed as long as MSD practices First to Expire First Out .