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PHARMACEUTICALS & PUBLIC HEALTH

SSDS has a comprehensive policy and systems approach to the issues around pharmaceuticals and public health. We have been active in the hands-on implementation and reform of public sector programs, and in assessments and evaluations of various pharmaceutical sector issues, including: policy and regulatory frameworks, overall and specific financing, cost effective choices, procurement methods and strategies, logistics management, prescribing and patient compliance, and social marketing directed at behavior change for both prescribers and patients.

SSDS ACTIVITIES

Rational Selection: SSDS provides advice on the policies and processes used to develop essential drug lists and national formularies, and has analyzed choices related to specific therapeutic targets (e.g. economic implications of resistance to anti-malaria drugs).

Production and Marketing Choices: Within the private sector, we assess social marketing programs that promote and sell commodities. SSDS has also assessed production costs for products with simple formulations, and advised on ways to reduce these costs. In other cases we have advised against local production because of the limited scale of production, lack of quality assurance, or both.

Regulation and National Monitoring: SSDS has been involved in projects ranging from specific mechanisms for regulation (e.g. pharmacovigilance) to the general enforcement of a variety of regulations at the national- and global-level (e.g. regulation of Internet pharmacies globally, evaluation of the practicality of national policies and regulations in developing countries, given local implementation capacity).

Country- and Multi-National (Pooled) Procurement Systems: We have conducted analytical case studies and feasibility studies for vaccines in former soviet states and for Africa as a whole; for pharmaceuticals in the South Pacific Islands; and for contraceptives in Latin America. Our experts have provided assistance in establishing pharmaceutical procurement systems that are transparent, competitive and assure product quality, and analyzed weaknesses in existing systems.

Revolving Drug Funds (RDF) and User Fees: SSDS has assessed user-fee schemes in countries in Africa and Asia. We have developed a conceptual framework to plan RDFs that are national in scope, and advised against them in environments where they are inappropriately sophisticated. This work has included assessments of financial viability, or break-even analysis, and advice on appropriate pricing at the wholesale and retail levels of the system, as well analysis of subsidies and surcharges across products or segments of the population.

Pharmaceutical Sector Assessments: Using an analytical case study approach, SSDS has conducted broad pharmaceutical sector assessments in East Timor, Ghana, Jamaica, Haiti, Sri Lanka and Zambia, as well as narrower assessments in other countries, focused on a therapeutic category or product.



Case study prepared
by SSDS
under a World Bank contract

Advocacy, Communications, and Training: We have designed advocacy, communications, and training materials targeting the topics described above. In West Africa, SSDS worked with Centre Africain d'Etudes Supérieures en Gestion (CESAG) to design the pharmaceutical modules for a Masters in Health Economics program. SSDS staff teach pharmaceutical modules in the World Bank's Flagship Course on Health Sector Reform and Sustainable Financing and a regular graduate course at the Tulane School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine, *The Other Drug War: Financing and Managing Pharmaceutical Supply*. SSDS coordinates a Pharmaceutical Interest/Working Group for the American Public Health Association and organizes panels and presentations for APHA and other forums.

For more information, please contact: headquarters@ssds.net

Selected Publications

Fiedler, John L. and Jonathan B. Wight. "Financing health care at the local level: the community drug funds of Honduras." *International Journal of Health Planning and Management*. 15, no. 4 (2000): 319-340.

Hollander, Ilyssa. "Viagra's rise above women's health issues: *An analysis of the social and political influences on drug approvals in the United States and Japan.*" *Social Science and Medicine*. 62, no. 3 (2006): 683-93.

Huff-Rousselle, Maggie. "After the Election: A Fresh Look at Pharmaceutical Supply in Jamaica." In *Policy Choices and Practical Problems in Health Economics: Cases from Latin America and the Caribbean*, edited by Catherine A. Overholt and Margaret K. Saunders, 172-189. Washington: The World Bank, 1996.

Huff-Rousselle, Maggie. "Starting from Scratch in Timor-Leste: Establishing a Pharmaceutical and Medical Supplies System in a Post-Conflict Context." *HNP Discussion Paper*. Washington: The World Bank, 2009.

Huff-Rousselle, Maggie and Francis Burnett. "Cost Containment through Pharmaceutical Procurement: A Caribbean Case Study." *The International Journal of Health Planning and Management*. 11, no. 2 (1996): 135-157.

Huff-Rousselle, Maggie, Oscar Simooya, Violet Kabwe, Ilyssa Hollander, Ray Handema, Albert Mwangi and Esnat Mwape. "Pharmacovigilance and New Essential Drugs in Africa: Zambia Draws Lessons from its Own Backyard and Beyond." *Global Public Health*. 2, no. 2 (2007): 184-203.

Phillips, Margaret and Penelope A. Phillips-Howard. "Economic implications of resistance to antimalarial drugs." *Pharmacoeconomics*. 10, no. 3 (1996): 225-238.

