

**AIDSFree SUCCESS STORY**

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# eLMIS Cuts Expired Drug Inventory In Zambia Hospitals

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**S**ichili Mission Hospital in western Zambia has become a model for dealing with one of the country's most persistent health care system challenges—expired medications. The hospital attributes this accomplishment partly to its electronic Logistics Management Information System (eLMIS), implemented at Sichili in mid-2016.

"eLMIS has helped reduce expiries because we are able to redistribute drugs which are about to expire through viewing the status of other facilities on the system," says hospital pharmacy technologist Elizabeth Galufu.

eLMIS is a software application used to manage logistics data. It enables health facilities to automatically generate and transmit their monthly Report and Requisition, the principal vehicle Zambia uses to order medical drugs from the central warehouse. The eLMIS can be customized to each health facility's need.

Zambia first implemented eLMIS in 2014, replacing the country's paper-based system for managing health care commodities.

Previously, facility reports and requests for commodities were hand-written and submitted to the central warehouse, Medical Stores Limited (MSL), for processing and approval. Zambia later expanded technical support to eLMIS users as part of its efforts to build the capacity of health workers and stakeholders to use the technology.

## Serving a rural area

Sichili Mission Hospital was founded in 1944 and is run by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Livingstone. It serves 54,000 people in an area of about 17,000 square kilometers in southwest Zambia, some 150–200 kilometers from the nearest city or town.

The hospital is among the more than 2,600 health facilities in Zambia that use eLMIS Central Edition (CE) to make critical data-based decisions regarding the redistribution and ordering of medical commodity supplies. CE is a country-wide web-based application whose server is centrally located at MSL in the capital of Lusaka.



Elizabeth Galufu using the eLMIS.



Sichili Mission Hospital.

Source: Bridget Kakuwa/AIDSFree Zambia

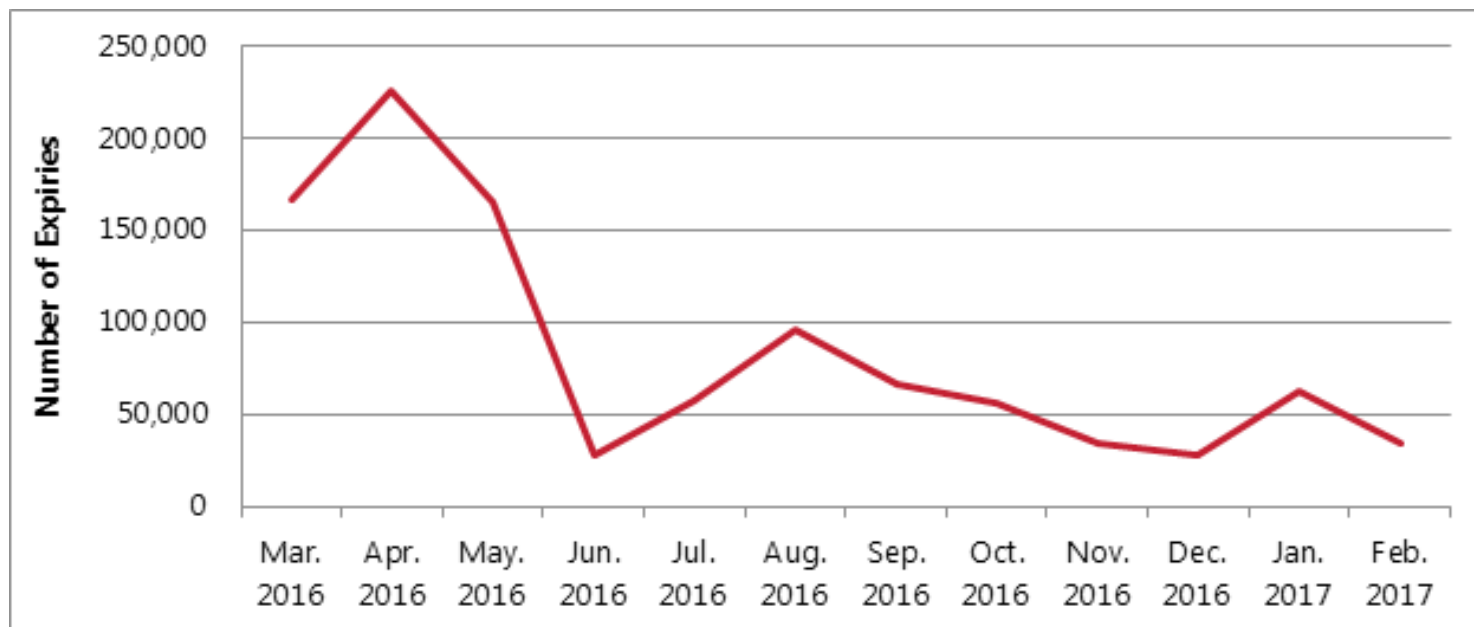
Source: Bridget Kakuwa/AIDSFree Zambia



More than 450 facilities use eLMIS Facility Edition, which can execute many functions offline. By 2019, the project will have expanded eLMIS Facility Edition to more than 700 facilities.

"Since starting to use eLMIS, I have seen a reduction in expiries. I am happy with the eLMIS. I wish all health facilities would use eLMIS for better health service delivery," says Mrs. Galufu.

### Trend of Expiries in the Post-eLMIS Period for All Facilities



Source: Electronic Logistics Management Information System Evaluation Report, 2018

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