

SUCCESS STORY

SEPTEMBER 2019

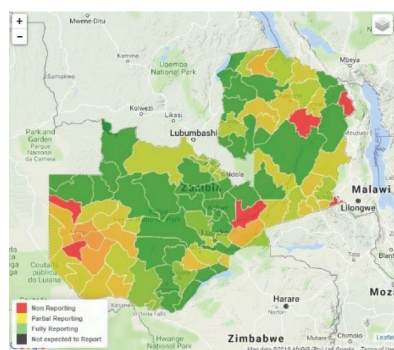
Collaborative Partnerships in Zambia A Win-Win Approach for Supply Chain Improvement

In Zambia, a three-partner collaboration has led to rapid improvements in supply chain reporting—while enabling each partner to meet its major objectives.

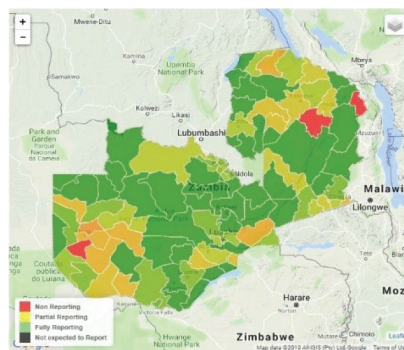
The 2017 activity trained 125 Ministry of Health (MOH) provincial- and district-level trainers to train lower-level staff on using the electronic logistics management system (eLMIS) to report on health commodity supplies. The MOH turned to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for training support and the USAID-funded Strengthening High Impact Interventions for an AIDS-free Generation (AIDSFree) project for technical assistance.

Within just four months, reporting in the participating districts improved, as shown by the map of Western Province below.

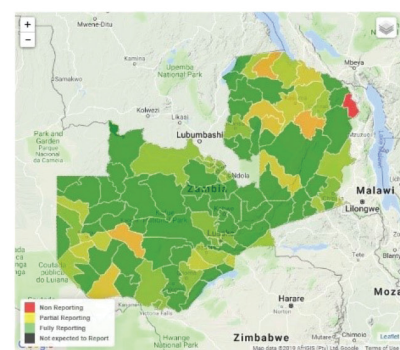
Changes in Supply Chain Reporting, Western Province



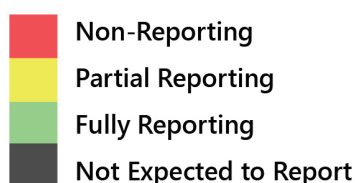
October 2017



December 2017



February 2018



Maps courtesy of eLMIS Central Edition



Elizabeth Jere of Silicha Mission Hospital uses the eLMIS.

AIDSFree Zambia



Kazungo Akekelwa, laboratory technologist from Chilenje Level 1 Hospital, helping fellow eLMIS users.

“...after the training, I am now on top of things. I have become more comfortable to offer support to district staff. I help them to change products, manage administration roles, as well as add users in eLMIS Facility Edition.”

—Martina Ngoma-Musonda, principal provincial pharmacist, Luapula Province

Nevertheless, a number of facilities still needed help with the transition to the eLMIS. Also, knowledge about key elements of the eLMIS system needed to be established throughout the MOH. Besides training the trainers, AIDSFree identified eLMIS “champions.” Thus, the training served to institutionalize electronic reporting systemwide, while broadening the skills of higher-level managers who were already using the system, according to one trainee, Martina Ngoma-Musonda, principal provincial pharmacist in Luapula Province.

“Before undergoing the training, I could not provide sound technical support to the district staff about the eLMIS FE, as I was only conversant with the eLMIS CE,” she said. “But after the training I am now on top of things. I have become more comfortable to offer the support to district staff. I help them to change products, manage administration roles, as well as add users in eLMIS Facility Edition.”

Once the trainees began following up in their home areas—starting with nonreporting facilities to explain the importance of reporting and help them to learn the FE system—reporting rates rose to nearly 100 percent.

Zambia’s success with the eLMIS system illustrates the efficiency of collaborative initiatives: every partner contributes strengths and every partner advances toward their respective objectives. Thus, the MOH moved to a more efficient, timely reporting system to improve supply chain management—which in turn supported national goals to improve public health. UNFPA advanced its focus area of narrowing the gap in unmet family planning needs, and AIDSFree helped ensure the transfer of knowledge. AIDSFree’s technical support helped solidify local knowledge about the eLMIS while also meeting the project and USAID’s objective of moving toward control of Zambia’s HIV epidemic.

Finally, the combination benefited the trainees themselves. “Knowledge from the training,” Mrs. Ngoma-Musonda said, will go a long way in supporting MOH health facility staff and ultimately trickling down to the end-user.”

In 2019, AIDSFree remains committed to providing the technical assistance to this partnership, while UNFPA committed an additional \$65,000 to support the joint trainings and technical supportive supervision.

AIDSFree

JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.
2733 Crystal Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, VA 22202
Tel.: +1 703-528-7474
Email: info@aids-free.org
Web: aidsfree.usaid.gov

