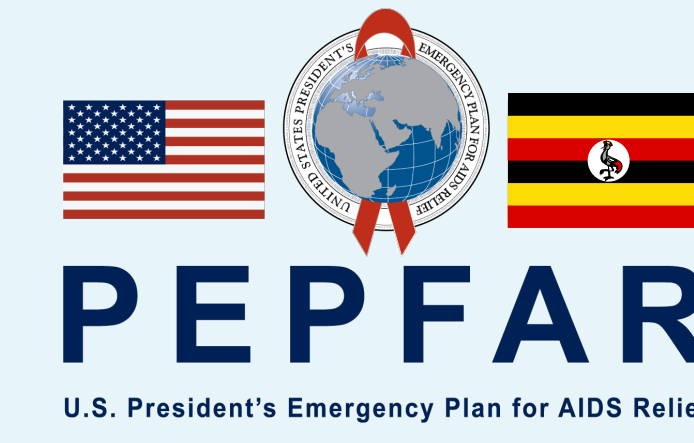


Innovative use of supply chain data to strengthen HIV commodities management in the Apac District of northern Uganda



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¹USAID Regional Health Integration to Enhance Services-North, Lango (RHITES-N, Lango) project implemented by John Snow, Inc. (JSI)

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Problem

Appropriate supply chain management of HIV commodities ensures optimal and uninterrupted supplies are available to provide high-quality HIV care and treatment. However, inadequate data use prevented realization of a resilient system in the Apac District of Northern Uganda. Other stock out-causing challenges related to infrastructure, human resources, policy, governance, and COVID-19 worsened the situation. However, innovative data was used to strengthen HIV commodity management and ultimately improved and sustained commodity availability.

Conclusion

Innovative data use to inform decisions aided the achievement of a resilient logistics management system for HIV commodities. Sustained availability of HIV commodities translated into HIV care and treatment with better outcomes.

Response

The USAID Regional Health Integration to Enhance Services-North, Lango (RHITES-N, Lango) project, implemented by John Snow, Inc. (JSI), supported the district to use data to inform logistic decisions and drive subsequent actions. Interventions included annual procurement planning, ordering and reporting, regular stock status monitoring, rational medicines use, and joint performance review. Notably, the district regularly reviewed vital commodity data from various primary sources to inform critical logistics decisions to ensure system resilience.

Next Steps:

- Disseminate data use innovation approach to other districts.
- Engage stakeholders to support the initiative.
- Encourage health facility-based data ownership and use to support sustainability.

Results

Innovative data use to guide actions helped increase and stabilize stock levels, which are vital to providing high-quality HIV services, especially multi-month dispensing of antiretrovirals (ARVs). For example, TLD 300mg/300mg/50mg 90-pack stock increased from 8 to 18 months of stock as ABC/3TC 120mg/60mg was maintained at 12 months of stock, which sustained the increase in demand due to multi month dispensing (Figure 1).

District data ownership improves use for decision-making and innovative interventions. Furthermore, the district health officers' commitment and stewardship were key to closing governance/leadership gaps, which optimized health worker response.

Stock trend of stock for two ARV commodities (April 2021–March 2022)

