



October 27, 2017

PRESS RELEASE

USAID Launches the First Pharmaceutical Counterfeits Waste Management Activity in the Country Supporting Beninese Government's Efforts to Improve Benin's Public Health Sector Governance

On October 27, USAID Benin Mission Director Mr. Jonathan Richter, USAID West Africa Regional Office Director Mr. Alex Deprez and representatives of the Beninese government inaugurated the first counterfeit pharmaceutical commodities destruction activity in the country. The Waste Management of Counterfeit Pharmaceuticals Activity is launched by request of the Government of Benin and implemented by USAID's Global Health Supply Chain Technical Assistance (GHSC-TA) Francophone Task Order. The activity will include destruction of 118 tons of counterfeit pharmaceuticals seized by the authorities of Benin and is expected to be completed by February 2018.

The Honorable Sacca Rafia, Minister of Interior and Public Security, Mr. Lucien Toko, Ministry of Health's Cabinet Director, and Professor Fernand Gbaguidi, Director of DPMED (*La Direction de la Pharmacie, du Médicament et des Explorations Diagnostiques*) represented the Government of Benin. The representatives of WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, European Union and the Embassy of France to Benin, and USAID Benin mission staff attended the launch.

The launch of the pharmaceutical waste management activity is a sign of the Beninese Government's strong commitment to improving governance in the public health sector and ensuring access to quality medicines for the population of Benin. USAID | Global Health Supply Chain Technical Assistance Francophone Task Order is pleased to support Benin's efforts to improve access to quality pharmaceuticals for the care and treatment needs of the people of Benin through establishing secure health supply chains.

GHSC-TA Francophone TO is a five-year project to strengthen supply chain systems in targeted West African countries and Haiti to ensure timely access to quality essential health products and services, improve in-country and regional collaboration and coordination, and support the global health security agenda. In Benin, in addition to pharmaceutical waste management, the project will focus on the improvement of the visibility and use of health supply chain data needed for informed decision making in the public health sector.

For additional information please contact:

Pierre-Corneille Namahoro,
GHSC-TA Francophone Task Order Benin Country Director
pnamahoro@ghscta.org