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Young Logisticians Program in Benin: Centering Human Resources for Improved Pharmaceutical Management

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BACKGROUND

Since 2018, the USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program-Technical Assistance (GHSC-TA) Francophone Task Order (TO)'s Young Logisticians Professionals Program in Benin has created a health supply chain support system and career opportunities for a new generation of supply chain professionals. The program was created after an assessment of the Beninese supply chain in 2015, which showed a lack of skilled human resources and poor reporting practices, making it difficult for health commodities to be continuously available at pharmacies and hospitals, particularly in remote areas.

METHODS

To address these challenges, Benin's Platform of the Private Health Sector (PSSP) and the GHSC-TA Francophone TO created the Young Logisticians Professionals Program (YLPP) in 2018. Recruits follow an intense two-week training, which focuses on both supply chain management and the intricacies of the Beninese health care system. The training also includes logistics and data reporting, quantification and supply planning, logistics management information system (LMIS) use, and coordination of supply and distribution. YLPs are trained in monitoring health products

for family planning and maternal and child health, malaria, tuberculosis, HIV, and more. They are also instructed on a variety of topics, including cold chain management, product storage conditions, challenges of the supply chain, and gender and inclusion.

RESULTS AND EVALUATION

Working closely with the Ministry of Health, the project implemented an evaluation to investigate the impact on the stock status of 75 key tracer health commodities in targeted areas. The data was from the past six months and compared data collected from a sample of YLP-supported sites against a sample of non-YLP-supported sites. In total, 104 health centers from 26 health zones were included in the survey. Results of this survey highlighted that the YLP approach demonstrated fewer stockouts.

CONCLUSIONS

Thanks to the program's success, the World Bank-funded Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographics Project (SWEDD) agreed to expand the YLP approach to additional 48 communes with 77 YLPs. Additionally, the government expanded the program to include 34 additional YLPs in the 34 health zone warehouses.

FIGURE 1 Rate of complete reports submitted on time in Comè/Bopa/Grand-popo/Houéyogbé Health Zone (YLPP Zone)

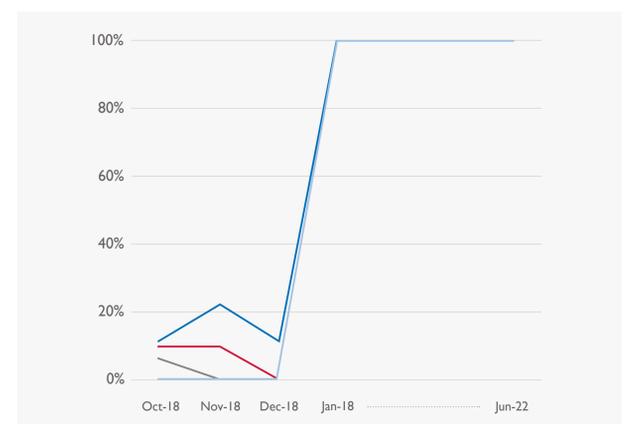
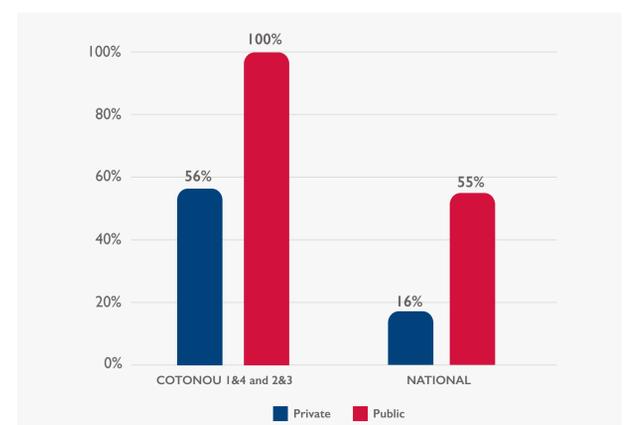


FIGURE 2 Percentage of health facilities that submitted their reports for ACTs (end 2019)



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