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A Smart Investment:

Mobile technology to conduct the first assessment of the national HIV/AIDS supply chain in Nigeria

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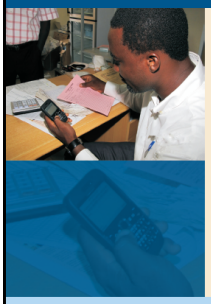
To keep pace with Nigeria's rapid scaleup of HIV treatment, the HIV/AIDS supply chain underwent changes to improve efficiency and sustainability. In 2011 the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) enlisted SCMS to conduct a baseline assessment to document the current status and identify gaps in the system.



Challenges:

Surveys of this kind are typically hindered by:

- Limited data management infrastructure
- Inefficient data management and quality assurance systems
- Data errors difficult to correct in a timely manner without technology

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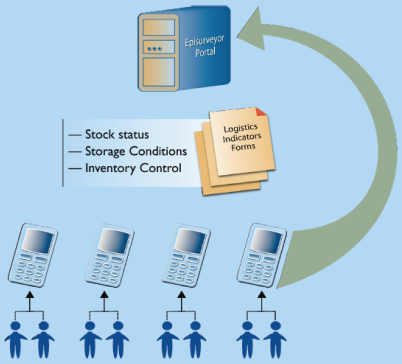
Taking a chance on a new tool:

To maximize limited budgets, generate efficiencies and ensure quality data capture, SCMS deployed the **Logistics Indicator Assessment Tool (LIAT)** using mobile technology.



Key Benefits/Results:

Data Quality

Required questions and "skip" logic reduced user error and improved data quality

Real time access to data uploaded from the field allowed for continuous data quality checks

Efficiency

Prevented errors in the field at the point of data entry, eliminated need for data re-entry

Ability to follow-up on errors/questions with the field within 24 hours of data receipt (this process used to take 3+ weeks)

Mobile technology significantly improved access to quality data in a setting with limited resources

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Title: A smart investment: the use of mobile technology to conduct the first assessment of the national HIV/AIDS supply chain system in Nigeria

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Background: Nigeria's HIV/AIDS program experienced rapid scale up between 2005 and 2009. The scale up has made necessary an efficient supply chain system. The FMOH conducted the first national survey to establish baseline data to monitor and evaluate the progress and performance of the supply chain in coming years and to identify problem areas for immediate intervention. Due to limited infrastructure and skilled staff, national surveys of this kind are typically challenged by inefficient data management and quality assurance systems.

Methods: With support from SCMS, the HIV/AIDS Division of the FMOH conducted an assessment of the HIV/AIDS supply chain using the Logistics Indicator Assessment Tool deployed on mobile phones. Forms were created on the Episurveyor portal to collect data on indicators such as; percentage of facilities regularly submitting LMIS reports; percentage of sites by managed products; percentage of facilities experience a stock-out of products on the day of visit; percentage of facilities maintaining acceptable storage conditions. The assessment tools incorporated features such as required questions and skip logic that reduced user error and improved data quality. Sixteen teams of two data collectors each were deployed for three weeks to collect data at 235 sites. As data was collected, teams uploaded it to the Episurveyor server via the internet.

Results: With immediate access to field data, the central team constantly monitored the data for quality and was able to send questions to the field teams and correct errors. The central team was therefore able to conduct preliminary analysis and present results to the survey planning team a week after data collection phase.

Conclusions: Use of the mobile technology allowed real-time access to data and on-going data quality assurance. The technology required basic phone skills but did not require internet access to collect data and therefore could be used in semi-urban areas with limited infrastructure.

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