



# USAID | DELIVER PROJECT

## Logistics Brief

# Ethiopia: Shelving and Pharmacy Store Improvement—A Worthwhile Investment



Sisay Tebeje, store manager, updates bin cards in the upgraded Boru Meda Hospital store.

**Better storage conditions are helping facility stores to properly implement the Integrated Pharmaceutical Logistics System and improve product availability.**

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The Government of Ethiopia is rapidly expanding the delivery of health services. Not only has there been a major increase in the number of health facilities, but also in utilization of existing facilities and in the quantities of medicines and supplies being managed. This means that health facilities need more storage capacity—more space, proper shelving, and other warehouse equipment. However, new health facilities are not being equipped with sufficient shelving, and the facility management faces many competing priorities for their limited financial resources.

In facilities with inadequately shelved and organized pharmacy stores, it is impossible to effectively implement the Integrated Pharmaceutical Logistic System (IPLS), a national logistics management system that help reduce wastage and increase medicine availability. IPLS is currently being implemented in health facilities across the country.

To improve the pharmacy stores, the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT (the project) is working with the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), the Pharmaceuticals Fund and Supply Agency (PFSA), and the regional health bureaus (RHBs) to upgrade health facility stores with quality shelving and store equipment.

To implement stores upgrades, the project assesses facility stores selected in consultation with zonal and woreda health offices and develops upgrade plans that outline storage space, shelving, and store equipment requirements with estimated costs. Shelves are then installed, the store is reorganized, and expired and damaged medicines and supplies are disposed of, clearing space for usable products.

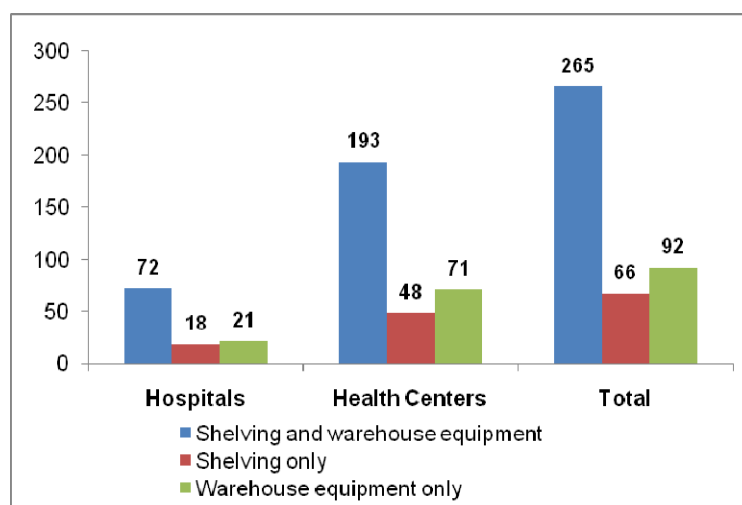
Two types of shelves (Industrial and Dixon) and different types of stores equipment (pallets, ladders, hand trucks, and fans) are provided to facilities. Industrial shelving, which can take heavier loads, is mostly installed in larger facilities like hospitals, while Dixon shelves are supplied to health centers.

Both types of shelving are locally manufactured to high quality specifications developed by the project, and installation is closely supervised.

Since 2009, the project has upgraded more than 420 health facility stores in all regions of Ethiopia—on average 100 stores every year (see figure 1). The average cost of shelving in a typical health facility store is approximately 125,000 ETB; shelving is usually the most important, and the most expensive, item provided.

This support enables facilities to properly organize their supplies, minimize damages, reduce expiries, and ensure proper stock rotation according to the “first to expire, first out” (FEFO) principle. Suitable storage conditions also help facility stores to properly implement IPLS and improve medicine availability.

**Figure 1. Number of Health Facilities Upgraded with Shelving and Warehouse Equipment**



**Before:** Drugs and medical supplies at Abomassa Hospital.



**After:** The same storeroom after new Dixon shelves were installed and the store reorganized.

Health facilities are pleased with the changes in their stores. Zewdie Assemo, pharmacy head of Axum St. Mary Hospital says, “The storage capacity of the facility dramatically increased after the project installed Industrial and Dixon shelves and supplied different warehouse equipment. This has helped the facility to increase and efficiently use the storage space and implement proper store management, including the FEFO approach. With the improved warehousing management practices, stockouts have decreased, and clients are more satisfied with the uninterrupted supply of medicines.” He is also impressed with the quality of the equipment.

Sisay Tebeje, store manager at Boru Meda Hospital, says, “In the past, more than 50 percent of the pharmaceuticals and medical supplies procured using the hospital’s limited budget were not properly stored, resulting in damage. But now the store is well organized and commodities are safely stored.”



The equipment supplied to facility stores includes hand trucks and ladders.

The project will continue to support health facilities with this very important activity, while PFSA, FMOH, and other stakeholders are increasing their support. However, given the large and growing number of facilities in the country, more support for this vital work is urgently needed.

For more information on stores improvement, including shelving and equipment specifications and where to obtain quality shelving, please contact the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT at the address below.



Better storage conditions are helping facility stores to properly implement the IPLS and improve product availability.



A satisfied store manager at Tulu Bolo Hospital after installation of Dixon shelves.

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