



Enhancing Medical Procurement in Africa

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Abstract

Background: Medical procurement plays a critical role in ensuring that essential medications and equipment are available to meet the healthcare needs of the population. In Sub-Saharan Africa, however, the medical procurement system is often associated with inefficiencies that result in frequent stock-outs of essential medication and equipment. These challenges pose a significant barrier to the provision of quality and timely healthcare, particularly in emergency situations. Challenges in Africa's Healthcare Procurement Systems Despite the opening of a new hospital wing in Africa, staffing levels, procurement systems, and hospital administration have remained unchanged. The medication procurement system, like many in Sub-Saharan Africa, is associated with inefficiencies and the hospital experiences frequent stock-outs of essential medication and equipment which pose a challenge in the provision of quality and timely healthcare. One of the primary challenges in Africa's healthcare procurement systems is the lack of effective coordination and management. This leads to fragmented procurement processes, where different departments and facilities procure medications and equipment independently, often resulting in duplication of efforts, inefficient allocation of resources.

The objective for this research is Policy Analysis for Medical procurement in Africa in order.

In Order to Enhance, Facilitate accessibility to medical services.

Methods: Integration was conducted between all data registered in National health accounts for the following countries as Representing samples for African countries (Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Nigeria, Kenya, Senegal, Mali, South Africa, Cameroon, Angola and Zambia) plus Tender analysis for previous countries.

Standardized Survives was conducted with different stake holders at Procurement systems at previous countries (170 Members was participated including payers, Supply chain managers, Physicians, Pharmacists, accountant and Payers Consultants).

One way sensitivity analysis was conducted in order to garniture data Accuracy.

Results: The following results were found.

Conclusion: In conclusion, enhancing medical procurement in Africa is crucial for improving healthcare systems and ensuring the availability of essential medications and equipment. Despite the opening of new hospital wings and the establishment of public procurement authorities, challenges in medical procurement persist in Africa. These challenges include inefficient procurement systems, frequent stock-outs of essential medicines and equipment, inadequate logistics infrastructure, coordination issues, and corruption.

Keywords: Abdalla Abotaleb; Africa Medical Procurement; Abdalla Abotaleb

Background

Addressing Inefficiencies and Improving Access to Essential Medications Understanding Medical Procurement in Africa.

Medical procurement plays a critical role in ensuring that essential medications and equipment are available to meet the healthcare needs of the population. In Sub-Saharan Africa, however, the medical procurement system is often associated with inefficiencies that result in frequent stock-outs of essential medication and equipment. These challenges pose a significant barrier to the provision of quality and timely healthcare, particularly in emergency situations. Challenges in Africa's Healthcare Procurement Systems Despite the opening of a new hospital wing in Africa, staffing levels, procurement systems, and hospital administration have remained unchanged. The medication procurement system, like many in Sub-Saharan Africa, is associated with inefficiencies and the hospital experiences frequent stock-outs of essential medication and equipment which pose a challenge in the provision of quality and timely healthcare. One of the primary challenges in Africa's healthcare procurement systems is the lack of effective coordination and management. This leads to fragmented procurement processes, where different departments and facilities procure medications and equipment independently, often resulting in duplication of efforts, inefficient allocation of resources, and a lack of standardized procurement practices. Emerging Trends in Medical Procurement in Africa Emerging trends in medical procurement in Africa aim to address the existing challenges and improve access to essential medications. One emerging trend is the adoption of electronic procurement (e-procurement) systems. Despite the potential benefits offered by e-procurement systems, studies have revealed common challenges and barriers to their adoption in most developing countries, particularly in Africa.

These challenges include the lack of perceived benefits of e-procurement systems among users and diverse attitudes towards their adoption. Moreover, the inadequate logistics infrastructure and inappropriate means of coordination and cooperation further exacerbate the difficulties in medical procurement in Africa. To enhance medical procurement in Africa, it is crucial to establish

proper mechanisms for sourcing, procurement, deliveries, storage, and physical distribution of medical products [1-15].

Importance of enhancing medical procurement

Enhancing medical procurement in Africa is crucial for ensuring the availability of essential medicines, equipment, and supplies in healthcare facilities. Currently, Africa faces numerous challenges in its medical procurement systems.

The difficulties are more pronounced in the inadequacy of logistics infrastructure and inappropriate means towards coordination and cooperation.

These challenges hinder the efficient sourcing, procurement, delivery, storage, and physical distribution of medical products in emergency situations.

Potential strategies for improving medical procurement in Africa.

In order to enhance medical procurement in Africa, it is necessary to implement proper mechanisms and strategies. Firstly, there is a need for better coordination in the procurement of essential medical supplies. The recent launch of the Africa Medical Supplies Platform is a promising step towards achieving this goal.

Methods

Integration was conducted between all data registered in National health accounts for the following countries as Representing samples for African countries (Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Nigeria, Kenya, Senegal, Mali, South Africa, Cameroon, Angola and Zambia) plus Tender analysis for previous countries.

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Challenges facing access to medicines in Africa	Current efforts	Specific recommendations
High burden of infectious and non-infectious diseases	Agencies involved in strengthening healthcare system to effectively respond to diseases and public health emergencies.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve disease surveillance, health promotion and inter-sectoral collaboration 2. Poverty alleviation programmes
Limited pharmaceutical industries and high costs of raw materials	National Medicines Regulatory Medicines Authorities (NMRAs) focus on regulation of medical products, rather than expanding and strengthening pharmaceutical industries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. African Medicines Agency (AMA) to establish additional pharmaceutical companies 2. Government should subsidize raw materials including APIs. 3. Research on cost-effective and readily available raw materials 4. Government grants to local drug manufacturers.
Overdependence on countries abroad for medicines	Despite recommendations from researchers, and other stakeholders, government response and political will in this regard is still limited.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invest more in ensuring increase in the presence of more pharmaceutical companies. Private-public partnerships in this regards would be beneficial. 2. The presence of the proposed AMA should also be enhanced across the continent.

Figure a

Poor supply chains systems	Many African countries have its NMRAs with the role of ensuring effective and efficient drug supply chain systems. However, only 15% of the NMRAs have a legal mandate to perform all critical regulatory functions [80].	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revitalization of all the NMRAs. 2. Invest in capacity building of medicines regulatory officers. 3. Developing structural models to address any local barriers, for example, corrupt practices. 4. Strengthening digitalization of supply chain activities
Lack of government investment in pharmaceutical sector	Stakeholders continue to advocate for more investment from the government to revitalize the pharmaceutical sector on the continent	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recognition of the pharmaceutical sectors with direct investment by the government. 2. Increase in political will

Figure b

Unfavourable manufacturing conditions	High electricity costs, frequent power interruptions, and other infrastructural issues such as poor transportation continue to persist despite all the policy recommendations.	Invest in making the continent conducive for pharmaceutical manufacturing, towards attracting more international investors.
Limited health workforce	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community health workers (CHWs) and patent medicines vendors have played active role in improving access to medicines [81, 82]. 2. Some countries have also invested in improving access to medical, pharmacy and health education across tertiary institutions. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage CHWs and patent medicines vendor as well as upskilling them. 2. Specialized practical training in pharmaceutical manufacturing, quality assessment, process control, and the use of modern equipment should be incorporated into the core curriculum of pharmacy schools. 3. Improve access to education through educational grants
Lack of sustainable health financing mechanism	Effort is seen in advancing health insurance systems on the continent. However, there is still a huge concern regarding coverage. For example, the insurance coverage in Kenya is 19%, and Nigeria is 5%.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen health insurance systems. 2. Increase in budgetary allocation to health in African countries 3. Revitalization of primary health care systems remain pertinent.
Lack of infrastructure and technical know-how	Even though more still needs to be done,	Invest directly in supporting manufacturing

Figure c

Lack of infrastructure and technical know-how	Even though more still needs to be done, pharmaceutical companies, with limited support from governments, are involved in strengthening manufacturing capacity through training, and international collaborations.	Invest directly in supporting manufacturing industries through capacity building, improved access to infrastructure, and building local talents.
Lack of effective pricing and price regulations	Even though it is recommended that African countries should have agency aimed at regulating medicines prices, most do not perform the role.	Set up an initiative that is aimed at regulating drug prices with evidence-based pillars in making such decisions.

Figure d

	Total population (000s)	Population < 15 years	GDP USD billions, current exchange rates	GDP growth	GNI per capita, USD current exchange rates	Population living < PPP int. USD1 a day	Adult literacy rate, 15+ years	Maternal mortality ratio, per 100 000 live births	Infant mortality rate per 1,000
Angola	17,024	46%	61.4	6%	2,540	43%	67%	1,400	116
Botswana	1,882	35%	12.3	8%	6,120	23%	81%	193	33
DRC ⁴⁹	65,800	50%	9.0	6%	140	59%	72%	549	92
Lesotho	2,506	40%	1.6	3%	1,030	39%	82%	762	91
Malawi	13,925	47%	3.6	7%	250	40%	72%	807	71
Mauritius	1,262	24%	6.8	4%	5,580	Na	84%	15	15
Mozambique	20,531	44%	7.8	8%	330	68%	44%	520	108
Namibia	2,190	39%	6.3	5%	4,704	44%	80%	449	46
Seychelles	87	23%	0.7	6.3%*	8,960	Na	96%	1	13
South Africa	49,321	31%	362.8	3%	5,720	21%	98%	124	46
Swaziland	1,018	39%	2.89	2%	2,560	62%	80%	589	85
Tanzania	40,454	44%	16.2	7%	410	82%	72%	578	58
Zambia	11,992	46%	11.4	7%	770	64%	na	830	103
Zimbabwe	12,225	40%	12.0	8%	340	Na	90%	880	59

Figure e

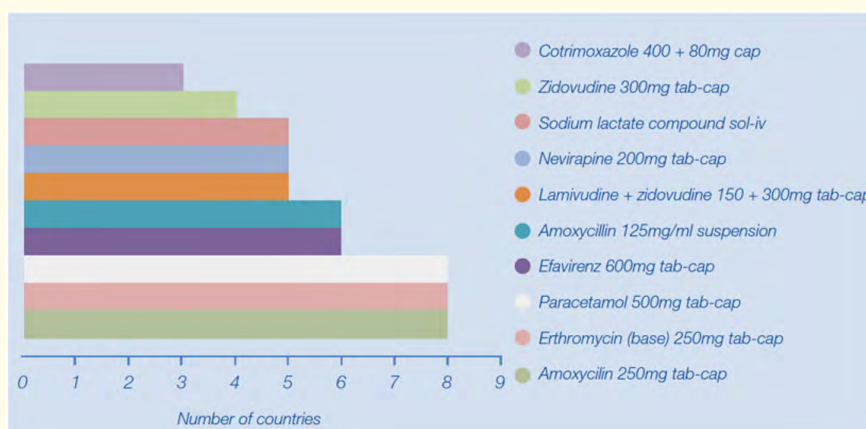


Figure f: Number of countries in which the specified medicine is included among the “Top 5 medicines procured”.

Results

The following results were found.

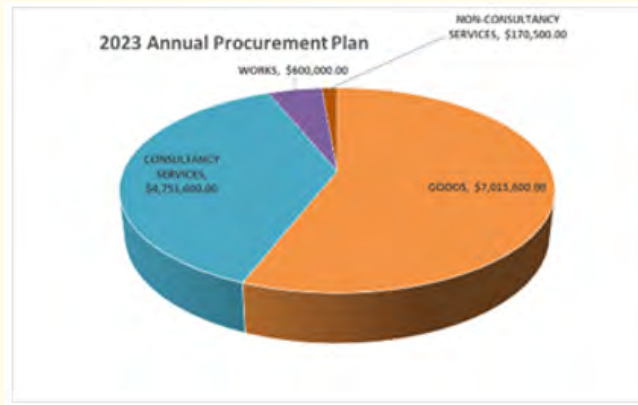


Figure g



Figure h

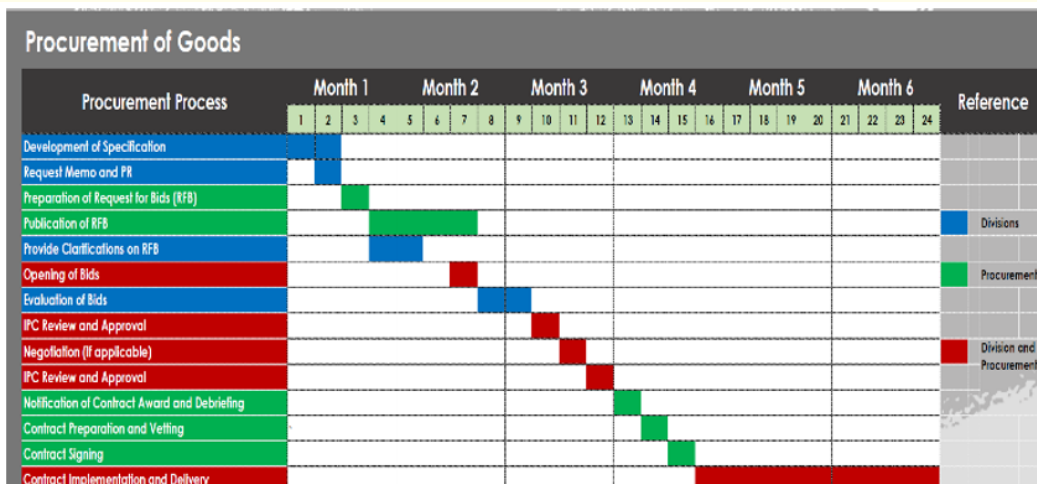


Figure i

Category of Procurement	What to Procure	Documents Required from the Divisions	Selection Method	Timeline
Consultancy Services	Firm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request Memo Purchase Requisition in SAP 	Quality Cost Based Selection (QCBS) - Firm Selection	6 months
	Individual Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear Terms of Reference (ToR) 	IC - Individual Consultant	3 months
Goods	Different equipment, supplies, accessories, etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request Memo Purchase Requisition in SAP Clear Specification 	Request for Bids Request for Quotation	5 months + 30 to 60 days for delivery 3 weeks + 30 days for delivery
Workshops	Ticket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval Request Memo Purchase Requisition in SAP Booking and Registration form Passport copy 	Quotation from the Airlines	30 days before departure
	Honorarium Accommodation Promotional items Stationeries Ground transportation Interpretation services Other items need Honorarium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval Request Memo Purchase Requisition in SAP 	Request for Quotation	2 weeks before the event
Technical Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum Vitae Request memo that include name of experts Passport copy 			
Training	Training Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval Request Memo 	Request for Quotation	3-4 weeks
	Ticket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as above for ticket 	Quotation from the Airlines	30 days before departure

Figure j

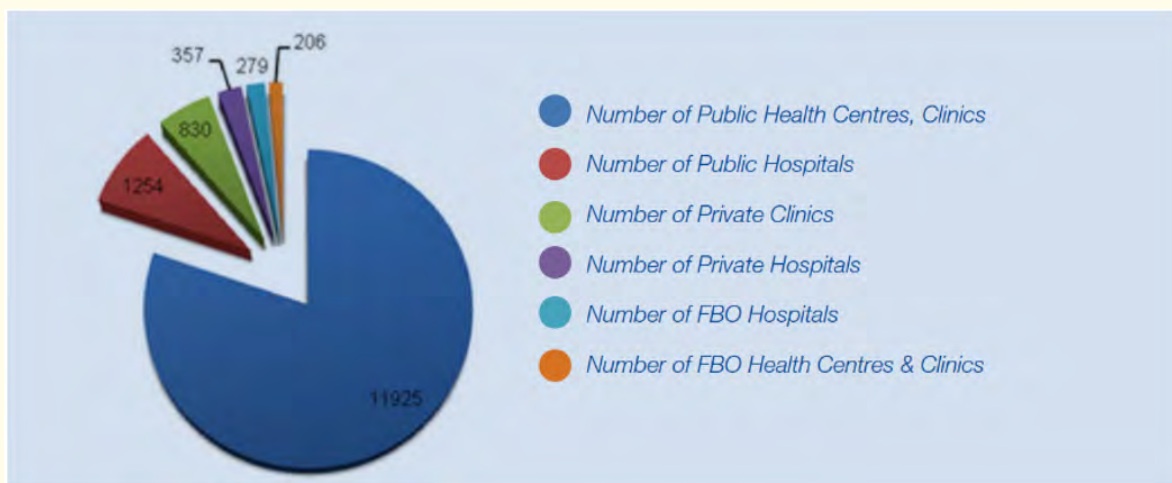


Figure k

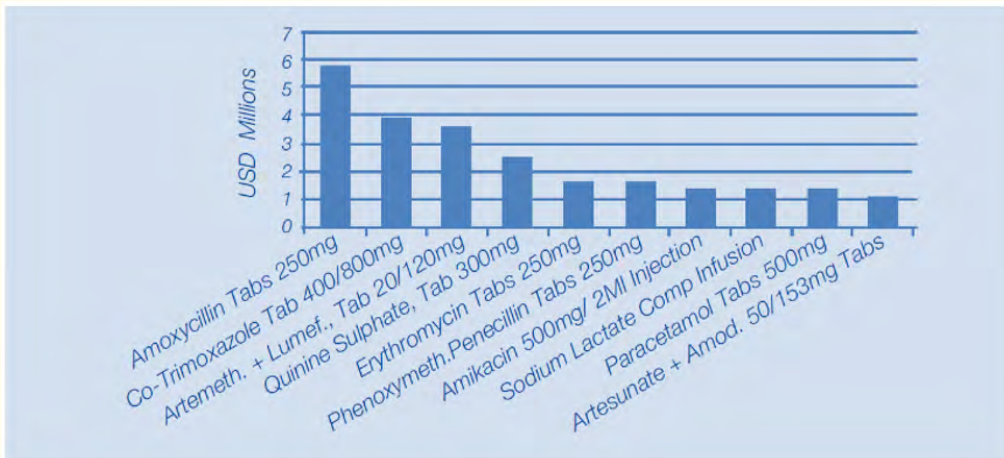


Figure l

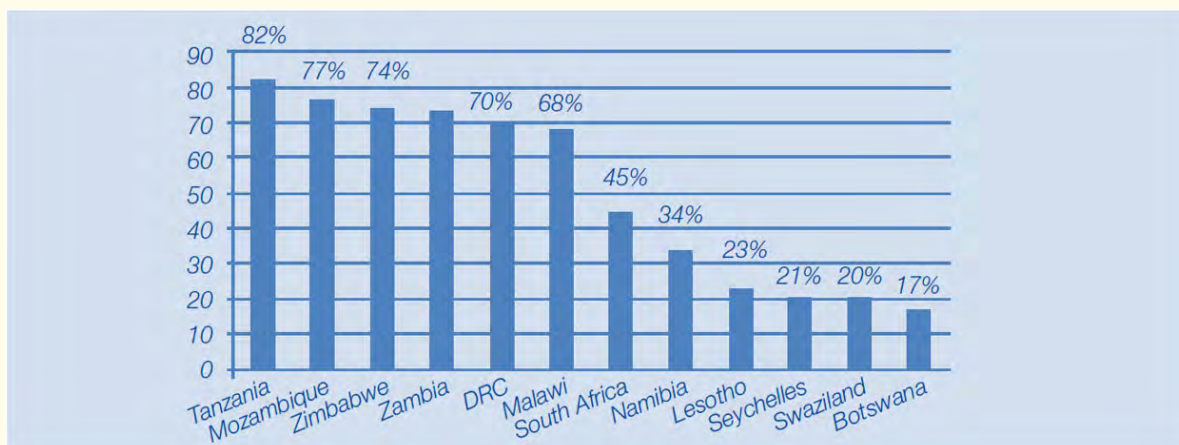


Figure m

Conclusion

In conclusion, enhancing medical procurement in Africa is crucial for improving healthcare systems and ensuring the availability of essential medications and equipment. Despite the opening of new hospital wings and the establishment of public procurement authorities, challenges in medical procurement persist in Africa. These challenges include inefficient procurement systems, frequent stock-outs of essential medicines and equipment, inadequate logistics infrastructure, coordination issues, and corruption.

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