

UNICEF Supply Division has been involved in the provision of antiretroviral therapy since 1997. UNICEF uses its global supply network to deliver ARVs and related commodities to Principal Recipients of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria grants, notably governments, UN agencies, NGO's and research institutions.

QUALITY AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE THROUGH LONG TERM ARRANGEMENTS

UNICEF enters into long-term arrangements for the bulk procurement of ARVs and other HIV/AIDS-related supplies to ensure predictability and reliability of demand. In addition to ordering large volumes of supplies, UNICEF uses its knowledge of international markets, patents and international agreements to access better prices on behalf of its partners. As a not-for-profit organisation, UNICEF provides supplies at cost price and charges a low handling fee to cover the cost of providing procurement services.

Quality standards

UNICEF's guiding principles for the procurement of pharmaceuticals are anchored on quality. Strict guidelines are followed for the sourcing of medicines, especially where there are limited or no publicly available quality assurance standards, such as for ARVs. UNICEF is both partner and secretariat of the UN pre-qualification project, managed by WHO. Where no WHO-pre-qualified ARV options exist, UNICEF has a policy of supplying ARVs certified by either the US Food and Drug Administration, or the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products, or by performing independent quality evaluations in addition to verifying national registration in the recipient country.

ORDERING PROCESS - 5 EASY STEPS

PLANNING

COST
ESTIMATE

COMMITMENT

PROCUREMENT
& DELIVERY

ACCOUNTS
SETTLED

Ordering through UNICEF Procurement Services is simple.

The dedicated group of staff working solely on access to ARVs is a key source of information and guidance throughout the process. Tailor-made procurement planning training sessions are periodically run at UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen or in the requesting country.

For more information on ARVs, test kits and diagnostic equipment procurement and other HIV/AIDS-related procurement, please contact us at:

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Pricing initiatives

The report "Sources and prices of selected medicines and diagnostics for people living with HIV/AIDS", a joint UNICEF, WHO, UNAIDS and MSF annual publication, provides market information on some 100 reviewed products for the treatment and management of HIV/AIDS. It is available online at www.unicef.org/supply, under Fighting HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS MEDICINES AND DIAGNOSTICS



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UNITE FOR CHILDREN
UNITE AGAINST AIDS



UNICEF procures a wide range of supplies and supply-related services necessary to fulfil its mandate. The following major components highlight the essential commodity requirements for a comprehensive HIV/AIDS programme:

- Antiretrovirals (ARVs) for adults and children
- Pharmaceuticals for opportunistic infections, tuberculosis control and malaria treatment
- Test kits and diagnostics
- Basic medical supplies and equipment
- Laboratory supplies
- Long lasting insecticidal nets
- Transportation – bicycles, motorbikes, vehicles
- Communication and office equipment

UNICEF offers its procurement services to governments, international agencies, NGOs and other development partners to assist them in the complex procurement of HIV/AIDS-related supplies. The purpose is to ensure that an increasing number of children and their parents infected with HIV/AIDS have continuous, reliable access to quality diagnostic and treatment supplies and related services at an affordable price.

UNICEF Procurement Services guarantees the reliable procurement of quality supplies and related supply management services to maximize the effective delivery of HIV/AIDS treatment and diagnosis.

UNICEF has set up a dedicated team of experts specialised in the procurement of HIV/AIDS-related products and services in its Supply Division.

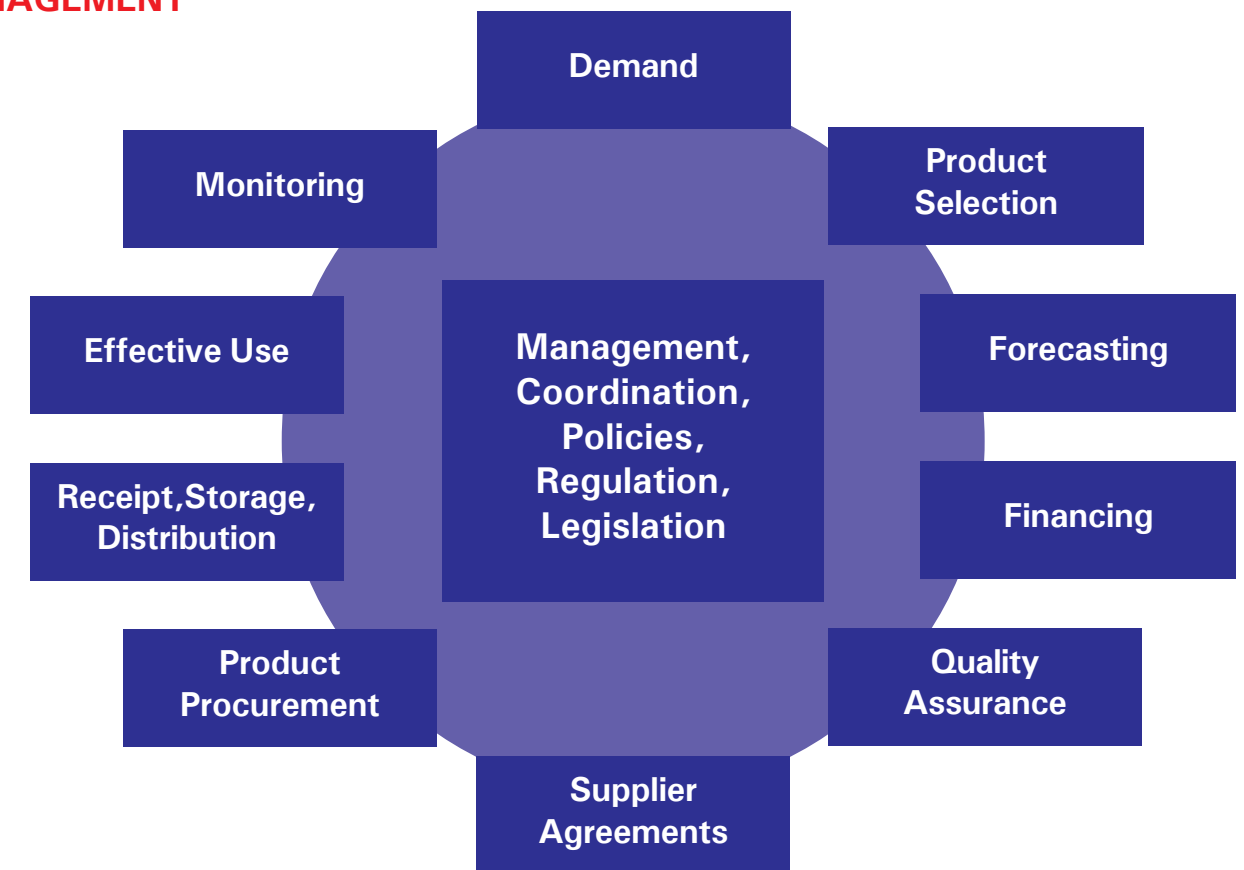
Examples of HIV/AIDS-related supplies and services:

A wide range of products: WHO pre-qualified antiretroviral medicines, diagnostic equipment, test kits for HIV/AIDS, and essential medicines for opportunistic infections.

Services: integrated planning and forecasting; purchase and shipment of quality products; development of reliable delivery systems within the country; and regular reports adapted to specific partner needs.

Reliability and quality: UNICEF has extensive long-term procurement arrangements for WHO pre-qualified products already in place to facilitate the supply of key commodities in an uninterrupted manner. An emergency stock of ARVs is located in Copenhagen and can be used if a country faces the threat of a medicine shortage.

ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES DEPENDS ON EFFECTIVE SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT



SUPPLY MANAGEMENT AND LOGISTICS SERVICES

Growing and rapidly changing markets, high prices, quality concerns, intricate patents and international agreements, in-country logistics and the need to ensure the uninterrupted provision of medicines to people living with HIV/AIDS are some of the difficulties faced today by governments and their partners.

The supply chain of HIV/AIDS-related supplies is complex. UNICEF can support the various aspects of supply chain management, together with partners. The aim is to help build the capacity of involved partners to ensure their abilities in the procurement and distribution of concerned supplies.

In this context, UNICEF also partners with international development agencies. Examples of successful collaboration include joint training meetings between the World Bank, WHO, UNICEF, UNAIDS and the GFATM on a series of workshops on HIV/AIDS commodity supply planning and management. During these workshops, participants have the opportunity to complete their Procurement and Supplies Management (PSM) plans, with assistance from technical partners present at the meeting. Supply Division also organises Procurement Orientation workshops in Copenhagen to meet specific needs of partners.

Zero tolerance on stock-outs is required to avoid any interruption in treatment. UNICEF maintains an emergency stock of ARVs that can be used if a country faces the threat of a medicine shortage. It can also be utilised to provide small volumes of ARVs to local non-governmental organisations.

Fighting HIV/AIDS is a priority for the international community. As part of the United Nations, UNICEF supports the Millennium Development Goal of combating HIV/AIDS. The Global Campaign on Children and AIDS, launched in October 2005 highlights the need for quality, affordable medicines for children and their parents.

UNICEF works with the pharmaceutical industry to promote the development and availability at an affordable price of more appropriate paediatric formulations.

A commitment to ensuring universal access to HIV/AIDS treatment and care by 2010 is a goal supported by UNICEF, including access to care for paediatric patients.



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