



Commonwealth Health Professions  
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ASSOCIATION



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Equitable and appropriate access to quality medicines and vaccines in the Commonwealth  
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# POOLED PROCUREMENT NETWORKS - East Africa Case Study

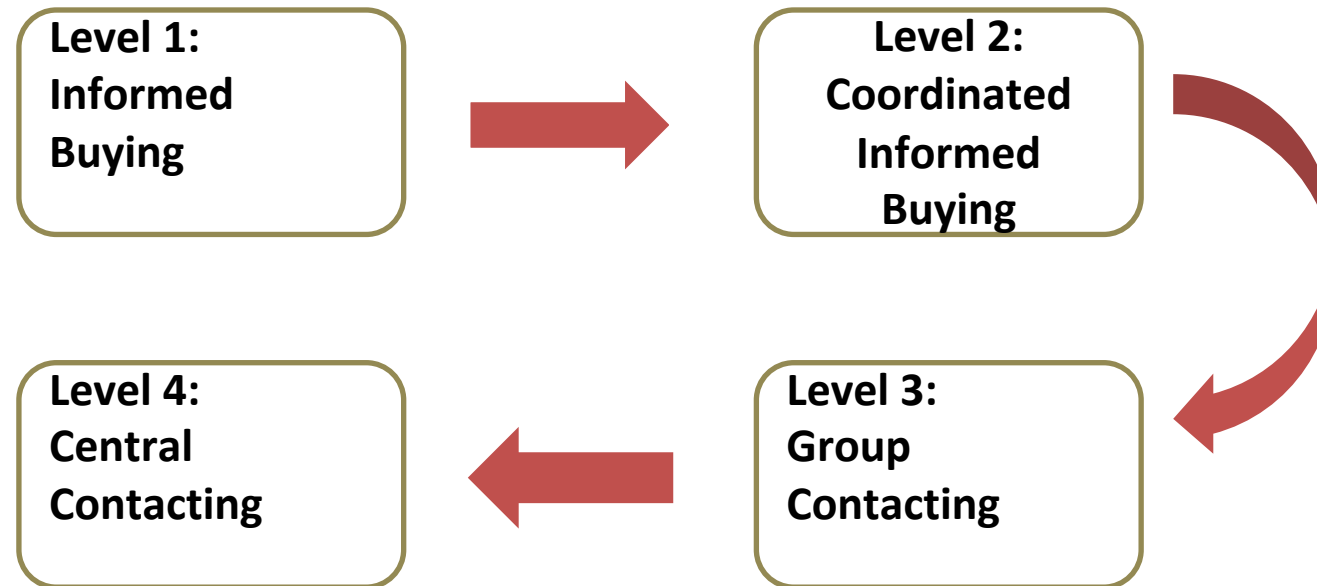
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# Pooled Procurement

- Pooled procurement is purchasing done by one procurement office on behalf of a group of organizations, facilities, health systems or countries (Ghoneim, Mpundu & Mabirizi, 2016)
- The levels of pooled procurement are : (WHO 2017)



# East Africa Community Pooled Procurement (EACPP)

- The EACPP Initiative is a collaborative initiative within these EAC countries : Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.
- The main objective is to increase access to quality essential medicines and medical supplies within the EAC region.
- The EACPP Initiative provides the following attractions :
  - ◆ Product Growth
  - ◆ Savings Growth
  - ◆ Procurement Value Growth
- The EACPP Initiative undertakes supply chain management of quality essential pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical products from local and international manufacturers/distributors.
- The pooled procurement initiative facilitates audit and prequalification of suppliers, procurement, distribution and transportation of the products.



# Challenges and barriers during Covid-19

- Sourcing of pre-qualified suppliers both locally and internationally for Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs).
- Price fluctuations of the PPEs and medical products due to high demand leading to unaffordable products.
- Lack of information sharing or database on prices and suppliers among the various stakeholders.
- Lengthy delivery times from the international suppliers leading to staggered lead times.
- Unsustainability in PPE supply due to staggered lead times.
- Harmonization of specifications of the PPEs due to different regulatory and registration requirements from the different countries.
- Delays in importation due to country lockdown restrictions.



# Quality and Safety of Essential Medicines

- The EAC pooled procurement has a mandate to source quality essential medicine and medical supplies at lower prices.
- Quality and safety is ensured through:
  - Joint supplier Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) audits and inspections.
  - Harmonization of the pharmaceutical specifications based on the ISO standards.
  - Product quality testing ,analysis and reporting.
  - Supplier and manufacturer pre-qualification policies and procedures.
  - Supplier performance reviews.



# Enablers of Pooled Procurement

- **Stakeholders** : Through the different Drug Supply Organisations participating in the pooled procurement activities such as Joint GMP audits.
- **Technology** : Supports communication of the essential medicine stock needs from the stakeholders to the suppliers.
- **Central Contacting** : Facilitating and coordination done centrally promotes efficiency and effectiveness of the pooled procurement process.



# Recommendations

The Commonwealth Health Ministers can aid in:

- Creating a platform to enhance information sharing within the different commonwealth countries.
- Data sharing can be done on :
  - a) prices on quality medical products
  - b) pre-qualified suppliers
  - c) supplier performance reviews
- This can create an equitable and sustainable access to quality and affordable medicines and vaccines in East Africa.
- This will ultimately increase Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in East Africa and Africa at large.





THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION