

QUAMED

Quality Medicines for all

Humanitarian
Alliance

Technical
Support

www.quamed.org



Quality medicines for all must be a global and a collaborative work

The global pharmaceutical market is characterized by the coexistence of multiple quality standards: patients in rich and strictly regulated countries can generally rely on the effectiveness, harmlessness and quality of the medicines on offer whereas a large majority of the people in countries with limited resources are exposed to substandard pharmaceutical products. There are many reasons for this difference and they include the following: the regulatory authorities' lack of resources in developing countries; the increasing complexity of the global pharmaceutical market; the growing pressure on prices at the expense of quality; a limited awareness of the problem among key players; the lack of public and transparent information concerning the quality of pharmaceutical drugs; the lack of political will at national and international levels and finally the lack of an international regulatory authority.

Indeed, except the well-known examples of medicines for the treatment of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, reproductive health and avian in-fluenza, all are covered by the WHO prequalification programme, there is no international mechanism to guarantee the quality of numerous medicines figuring on the WHO list of essential medicines. In consequence, stakeholders involved in the

supply chain of these often vital medicines are confronted with a market implying important risks (reduced or no effectiveness, toxicity) for the patients.

Whereas the counterfeit medicines issue is at the core of a growing number of initiatives, the problem of substandard medicines is not sufficiently taken into account. Indeed, many key actors working in limited resources countries think that substandard medicines represent a bigger threat for these populations than counterfeit medicines.

Majority of the people living in low and middle income countries is exposed to sub-standards healthcare products



Implementing strategic and suitable actions

QUAMED's overarching objective is to make a significant contribution to improving access to quality medicines by supporting its partner organizations in the process of strengthening their quality assurance system.



QUAMED's experts in quality assurance provide adapted services to its partners

AUDITING INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL SUPPLIERS

Audit of pharmaceutical distributors with reference to the WHO standards (Good Distribution Practices and Model Quality Assurance System).

Audit of manufacturers of finished products with reference to the WHO standards (Good Manufacturing Practices).

DEVELOPING TECHNICAL SKILLS OF PARTNER NGOS

Organisation of training sessions for the partners on good practices for medicine management: evaluation of sources (manufacturer, distributor, product), good practices for medicine storage and distribution.

ADVOCACY

Mobilizing donors, regulators, central medical stores, NGOs as well as academic and international organisations, with the aim of speaking out with one voice in favor of universal access to quality medicines.

EVALUATING PHARMACEUTICAL MARKETS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Evaluation and advisory services on medicine supply channels in countries where partners are operating.

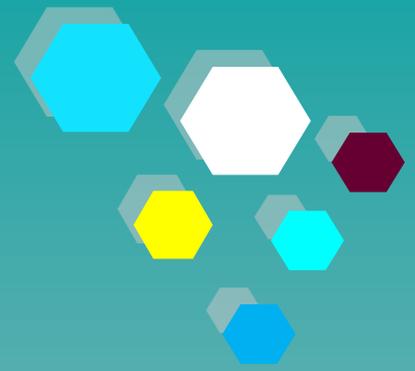
CREATING TOOLS SPECIFICALLY DEDICATED TO THE NEEDS OF PARTNER NGOS

Development of standardized tools and procedures to evaluate pharmaceutical sources and suppliers.

A database accessible to QUAMED partners with all the information collected and analyzed by the quality assurance expert pharmacists on manufacturers, distributors, products and local markets, as well as information validated by strict, independent and recognized sources, such as the WHO prequalification programme.

RESEARCHING

QUAMED produces data and generates evidence on the pharmaceutical sector supplying to developing countries. This data support our partners decision-making and feeds QUAMED's advocacy strategy.



How to join the QUAMED Alliance?

Here at QUAMED, we talk a lot about the value of “together” when it comes to what we do and why we do it. We know that a creative alliance is the best way to tackle the issue of sub-standards healthcare products.

There are numerous benefits to becoming a member of the QUAMED Alliance. Joining a community of humanitarian organizations means that you will be part of a global movement calling for improvements in quality and accountability in the pharmaceutical supply chains in developing countries.

Together, we will ensure that quality is at the heart of the global health agenda.

The partners of QUAMED are active. Through meetings, trainings and data-sharing, QUAMED’s partners work actively to contribute towards the Alliance’s common objective.

To be eligible as a QUAMED partner, the applicant must be a non-profit organization, involved in the procurement of medicines in or for low- and middle-income countries.

These eligibility criteria are the general prerequisites, but each application will be assessed individually. For more information, please contact us.

QUAMED EXPERTS

QUAMED is made up of a coordination team and a pool of pharmacists experts in quality assurance and are highly experienced in the pharmaceutical industry, pharmaceutical regulation and the supply of medicines within NGOs or international organisations/ institutions.

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