

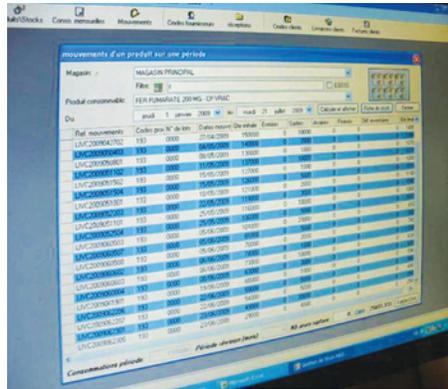


NEW SOFTWARE DELIVERS ESSENTIAL MEDICINES ON TIME

We often take for granted that when our doctor prescribes an essential medicine, we can begin taking it immediately to treat an illness. In Benin, West Africa, it is not uncommon to wait a week or more for medicine to become available at the pharmacy.

Drugs stock outs hamper health care delivery

Shortages and stock outs of essential drugs and health products in health facilities pose a major obstacle to providing quality health care in Benin. Health care facilities in many parts of the country face logistical challenges of forecasting pharmaceutical needs, ensuring timely use of drugs before they expire, and maintaining proper storage conditions and cold chain with the supply management system, which relies primarily on paper records. Guaranteeing an uninterrupted flow of drugs and health products for patients is paramount to meeting the many health challenges in Benin including malaria, maternal and child health, and family planning.



Medistock tracks drug forecasts and orders from all health facilities in each zone

URC and MOH launch Medistock drug supply management software

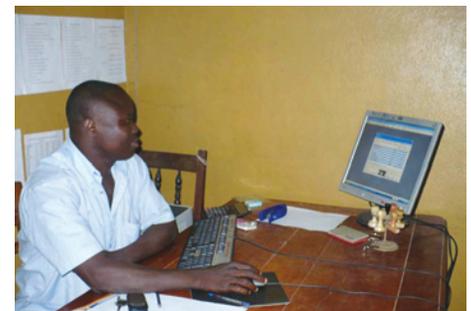
URC's USAID-funded Integrated Family Health Program (PISAF) is supporting the Ministry of Health's National Strategic Plan for Health Product Security. PISAF aims to improve stock management through a computerized system and training in product forecasting and drug management.

Together with local stakeholders, PISAF adapted national medical stores software to support the

needs of health zone warehouses. The new software, Medistock, tracks the forecasts and orders from all health facilities in each zone, and takes into account expiration dates and currently available stocks. Upon launching the software, PISAF provided extensive training to warehouse managers in how to use the software, as well as training in warehouse management including maintaining proper storage conditions.

Dramatic reduction in drug stock outs

The result has been a dramatic improvement in reducing stock outs of essential drugs.¹ In the second quarter

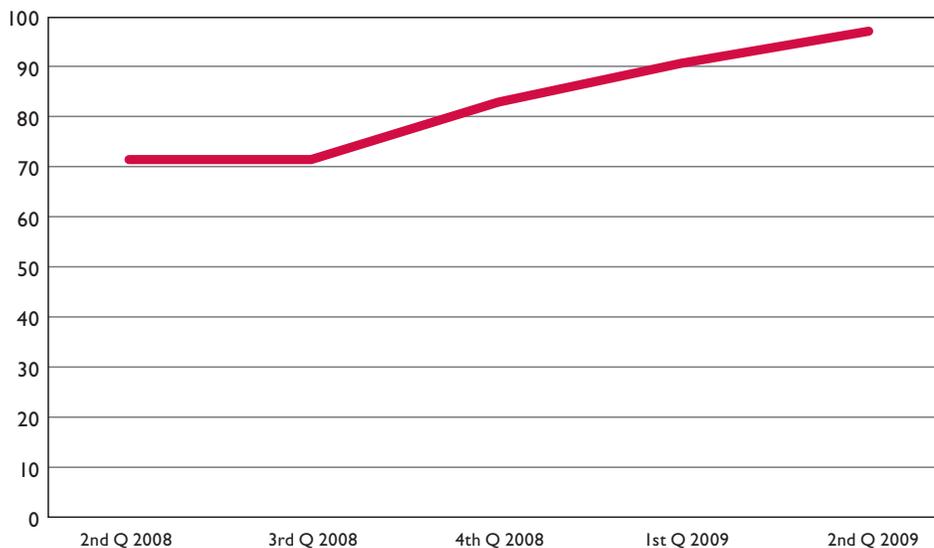


Warehouse manager in Savalou-Banté health zone using Medistock software

“We rarely have stock outs in the health centers now...Medistock helps us to better see the big picture” – Warehouse Manager

1. Performance criteria included: i) availability of baseline data, ii) availability of the Medistock software, iii) availability of computer equipment, iv) use of the Medistock software, and v) mastery of the Medistock software.

Performance of Zou/Collines in supplying essential drugs increases



of 2008, the level of performance in using Medistock in Zou/Collines, Benin was 71%. By the second quarter of 2009, performance improved to 100%. During the same period, average days of stock outs of essential drugs in health facilities fell from 11 days in the second quarter of 2008 to 4 days in the second quarter of 2009, a decrease of 64%.



Warehouse stock manager in Savalou-Bantè health zone, who received PISAF training in warehouse management

In addition to the benefits for patients, the benefits for the health zones have been numerous. The Administration and Resource Manager of the Savalou-Bantè health zone hospital expressed his appreciation for PISAF's support:

“Today the system is better organized. Moreover, there is a clearer audit trail for drug purchases, which has reduced the sale of medicines on the black market, where quality is questionable. If we ever experience problems with the medicines, we can now trace their origin.”

Stock managers also praised the new software. Previously, management was done manually or with limited assistance from an Excel-based system. One warehouse manager in Savalou reported:

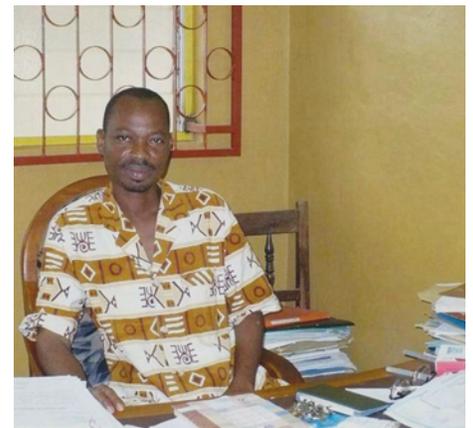
“We rarely have stock outs in the health centers now ... Medistock helps us to better see the big picture, predict stock needs further in advance, and prevent drug waste.”

Even new warehouse managers who did not receive training directly from PISAF are finding the software easy to use. The Ministry of Health, with PISAF support, has been conducting regular supervision visits and continues to provide technical support to the warehouses.

Expanding Medistock nationally

As a next step, PISAF hopes to connect all of the zones in Zou/Collines through a computer network that will further increase the efficiency of drug management through Medistock.

Based on the success of Medistock in Zou/Collines, the MOH requested that PISAF scale up Medistock throughout the country.



“With Medistock, we are better able to manage the budgets of health centers”
— **Administration and Resource Manager for Savalou-Bantè Health Zone**

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