

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ESTABLISHING A STRATEGIC RESERVE CENTER INTER-AMERICAN HEALTH HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE NETWORK (IHHAN / RIAHS)

CONCEPTUALIZATION

OBJECTIVE

Establish a Strategic Reserve Center with pre-established procedures for quick access and agile mobilization of medicines, medical supplies, and equipment in order to facilitate the response to health emergencies of any kind and to support the health network. Moreover, it seeks to cover possible gaps in health care and access to supplies, strengthen the capacities installed in the health sector, and support impacted entities and those that present sudden increases in demands for services and resources.

PRINCIPLES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NETWORK

- The country commits to: *
 - Store kits and other agreed medical supplies, complying with quality standards and predefined storage and safety conditions, guaranteeing their future safe use.
 - Have a 24/7 focal point with the Network (IHHAN / RIAHS) and in coordination with PAHO.
 - Diligently maintain the inventories and logistics system of the Center (ex: SISTOCK), following up on expiration dates and redistributing unused stocks in the health system before the expiration date.
 - Loan supplies to PAHO for mobilization to other countries in case of emergency, if needed, at discretion of the Organization.

- The Pan American Health Organization commits to: *
 - Provide technical advice in emergency response and support in the acquisition of kits and medical supplies.
 - Mobilize medical supply kits to other countries in emergency when necessary and replenish them when so established.

- The country's requests for supplies will be based on objective and technical elements, and in accordance with humanitarian principles.
- The decisions of the members of the Network are protected by the principles of non-regret and the protection of human life.
- All processes for the acquisition and mobilization of medical resources and supplies must be expedited and based on the context of emergencies.
- Streamlined emergency procedures for the nationalization and subsequent shipment of goods to the affected country.

* For more details on the commitments of both parties, refer to the attached Technical Cooperation Agreement

IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS:

- Identify a leading entity in the health sector and/or Risk Management System/Civil Protection that can house and manage the Strategic Reserve Center.
- Verify the implementation plan: make sure that it contains the logistical and coordination aspects mentioned below and identify the procedures or bottlenecks according to previous emergency management experiences.
- Identify a responsible person in charge of the implementation process and an intersectoral technical team to manage the strategy.
- Identify partners for warehouse management, staffing and development of inter-agency processes.
- Ensure the reinforcement and improvement of existing capabilities. If useful, pattern best practices from entities that have installed capabilities and are motivated to improve and carry out the operation and maintenance of this initiative.

LOGISTICS	CUSTOMS, CHANCELLERY AND MEDICINES REGULATORY ENTITY
<p>A. <u>Warehouse features</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Located in safe area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduce the risk of the impact of extreme events due to natural hazards (floods, storms, etc.) 2. Adequate lighting 3. Structural integrity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adequate and functional, structural, and non-structural conditions (ceilings, walls, bathrooms, locker rooms, lifelines, fire alarm systems). 4. Ventilation, proper temperature, and humidity control. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintain a controlled room temperature between 20-25 C° throughout the warehouse 5. Security against vandalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Security and perimeter lighting 6. Occupational Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OSHA 7. Firefighting network 8. Regular disinfection and fumigation 9. Generator support / backup 10. Product safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quarantine of damaged, expired, or suspicious products 11. Inventory control system 12. Adequate protective equipment. 	<p>A. <u>Establishment of processes - CUSTOMS</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expedited processes to facilitate the entry of medical supply imports during emergencies and shipments tagged as humanitarian aid. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Check if there are any current regulations that allow the approval and expedited entry of medicines and supplies in the country. b) If none exist, establish a point of contact with the customs authorities, propose a process that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Can be expeditious, but keep the minimum requirements for supporting documentation of the products (depending on the type of product in question) as required by current regulations, ❖ Can also be processed on a preferential / urgent / humanitarian basis, and ❖ Allow greater flexibility on what documentation is acceptable to accredit quality in contexts of need and urgency motivated by public health emergencies and / or disasters. 2. During non-emergency periods, ensure that there is an efficient process for the entry of medicines and supplies. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Establish approval and delay times, costs, identify and keep updated focal points of each entity in accordance with the country's regulations.

B. Logistics during emergencies

1. Personnel trained in purchasing processes for medicines and medical supplies during emergencies (local purchases or imports).
 - Processes established for the request and quotation of medicines and supplies
 - List of authorized providers
 - Technical specifications for medicines and medical supplies
 - Cost of freight and insurance
2. Develop and maintain local procurement capacity for drugs and medical supplies during emergencies (if there is a drug regulatory entity).
 - Updated list of authorized local providers
 - Price agreements / objective criteria to appraise goods in an emergency context (ex. Price lists 30-60 days before the emergency).
3. Inventory control systems (SISTOCK or alternate) and personnel trained in its use.
4. Distribution channels for medicines and medical supplies during emergencies.
 - Managed by the Ministry or outsourced to some other public or private institution at national level
 - Contact information, networks of logistics personnel and procurement from entities in the health sector (Ministry of Health), national and international NGOs, Civil Protection Systems, Armed forces, private sector.
5. Continuous monitoring of the inventory system and redistribution of unused supplies in the health system when they are 6 months close to the expiration date (an alert will be sent 2 months prior to that date to ensure appropriate timing for redistribution).

B. Establishment of processes – CHANCELLERY

1. Coordinate with the Ministry of Foreign Relations to establish the process to request health humanitarian aid during emergencies.
 - Review that requests for humanitarian assistance are in accordance with the criteria of the Ministry of Health and the Risk Management System and based on the needs identified due to the emergency.
2. Establish processes for the entry and mobilization of donations of medicines and medical supplies.
3. Review if there are pre-existing agreements with other countries for the loan / donation of medicines and medical supplies.

C. Establishment of processes – Drugs and medical supplies regulatory entity

1. Identify whether there are pre-existing processes for the entry and mobilization of donations of medicines and medical supplies in cases of humanitarian assistance.
2. Expedited procedures for documentation and quality verification.
3. Express certifications.
4. Identify a focal point.

D. Strategic partners

1. Agreements for access to medicines or medical supplies (may be a donation, purchase, or replenishment)
2. Technical advice to establish the warehouse (technical requirements)
3. Technical advice to strengthen existing logistics capabilities in emergencies.