

# Promoting the Quality of Medicines Plus (PQM+)



## Welcome

Welcome to the first Promoting the Quality of Medicines Plus (PQM+) program newsletter! The PQM+ program helps to build resilient and sustainable local health systems in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to expand access to quality-assured essential medical products for tuberculosis, malaria, neglected tropical diseases, other infectious diseases, and reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health. This global health program is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention (USP) and its consortium of partners.

PQM+ collaborates with national and regional organizations to sustainably strengthen governance and regulatory structures, optimize the allocation and use of resources, improve the supply of quality-assured medical products, and advance global learning, policies, and operational agendas for stronger medical product quality assurance systems. PQM+ builds on the predecessor PQM program (2009-2020), which strengthened more than 90 quality control laboratories in 33 countries and built the capacity of 45 manufacturers in 12 countries to produce quality essential medicines.

If you would like more information about the program, please reach out to either Alison Collins, Agreement Officer's Representative, Office of Health Systems, USAID, [alcollins@usaid.gov](mailto:alcollins@usaid.gov) or [me](mailto:me). We would be happy to answer your questions.

With my best wishes,  
Jude I. Nwokike  
PQM+ Program Director  
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Supporting Pakistan and Indonesia in their response



## to COVID-19

Building on the legacy of USAID's Promoting the Quality of Medicines program, PQM+ continues to position countries like Pakistan and Indonesia to meet their populations' needs for quality-assured medical products during the pandemic.

[Learn more](#)



## Sustainably Strengthening Quality Assurance Systems

Nearly 70 percent of national regulatory authorities, many in LMICs, lack the capacity to ensure the quality of medical products. PQM+ is working closely with countries to change that.

[Learn more](#)



## WHO Prequalifies Central Asia's First Medicines Quality Control Laboratory

Prequalification enables Kazakhstan to better assure the quality of tuberculosis and other priority medical products in not only the country, but also the Central Asia region.

[Learn more](#)



## Global Highlights



- National quality control laboratories (NQCLs) in **Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, and Pakistan** recently achieved prequalification (PQ) from the World Health Organization with support from USAID's Promoting the Quality of Medicines and PQM+ programs. This is Pakistan's third NQCL to achieve PQ.
- In **Burma**, PQM+ and the Department of Food and Drug Administration are preparing for the relocation of the Nay Pyi Taw Pharmaceutical Chemistry Laboratory. PQM+ is also supporting the lab's ISO 17025:2017 reaccreditation to ensure the accuracy and reliability of its quality testing results, which will support post-marketing surveillance activities.

- **Bangladesh's** Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) now has standards for Quality Control testing of personal protective equipment (PPE) to help ensure the quality of PPE, including PPE produced by the country's robust manufacturing sector.
- PQM+ shared draft guidelines on emergency use authorization (EUA) of pharmaceuticals and medical devices with the **Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP)**. DRAP has already granted temporary EUA of two pharmaceuticals, including Remdesivir, supporting early access to COVID-19 medical products.
- Jude Nwokike, PQM+ Director, participated in the "Building National Regulatory Capacities: Bridging Gaps with the **WHO Global Benchmarking Tool**" webinar, which was hosted at USAID by the Medicines, Technologies and Pharmaceutical Services program and PQM+.
- The PQM+ Director also joined the World Health Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for their webinar on "The role of **investment in quality local production** in developing countries to address supply bottlenecks during the pandemic crisis."



## Learning

### Foundations of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)

This online course provides an overview of essential GMP principles, including those specified by the World Health Organization and the Pharmaceutical Inspection Cooperation Scheme (PIC/S).

[Register](#)



## Essential Aspects of Medical Product Quality Assurance

Learn the fundamentals of quality assurance systems from this Global Health Learning Center course. It highlights key elements and functions, common challenges, and effective interventions and approaches to strengthening medical product quality assurance systems.

Register



## News

### PQM+ Launch

More than 70 global health experts, including Kelly Saldaña, the Director of USAID's Office of Health Systems, joined USP and PQM+'s full consortium of program partners to discuss approaches for responding to the evolving medical product quality landscape.



Learn more about PQM+

[www.usp.org/global-public-health](http://www.usp.org/global-public-health)

