

What is MeTA?

The Medicines Transparency Alliance (MeTA) is a DFID initiative that brings together public, private and civil society stakeholders with an interest in the outcomes of the medicines market to agree on through increased transparency in the supply chain. MeTA aims to increase transparency in the medicines market specifically in low- and middle-income countries, thereby strengthening healthcare governance and encouraging responsible business practice. MeTA is currently active in Ghana, Zambia, Uganda, Peru, Philippines, Jordan and Kyrgyzstan and is coordinated by a joint International MeTA Secretariat (IMS) based in the World Health Organization (WHO) and Health Action International (HAI).

Goal: To increase access to essential quality-assured medicines, especially for the poor and vulnerable through increased transparency in the pharmaceutical sector.

Mission: To contribute towards good governance, transparency and accountability, in procurement, management, supply, prescribing, dispensing and use of medicines in Ghana, through the engagement of all stakeholders with an interest in the outcome of the medicines market.

MeTA Ghana Pilot Phase

MeTA Ghana was launched as a pilot in 2009, and was the first multi-stakeholder initiative aiming to improve access to medicines in the country. The initiative was spearheaded by a multi-stakeholder alliance, led by academics, and for the first time brought together the government, the private sector, faith based institutions and civil society to discuss the need for more information and greater transparency in the Ghana medicines market. The pilot ended in 2010 and has been proven to work as both a catalyst and driver for change.

Key successes in the Pilot Phase:

- Quality testing of antibiotics in collaboration with the Food and Drugs Board
- Increased engagement of civil society organizations (CSOs) in advocacy for access to medicines
- Built an effective advocacy network and informed consumer base
- Increased media coverage of medicines issues
- Working with National Health Insurance Authority to use data inform evidence-based policies and improve enforcement

MeTA Ghana Phase 2

The activities of MeTA will support the government of Ghana to improve access to medicines in both the public as well as the private sector. The initiative is in line with the objectives and priorities of the ministry of health, who play a crucial role as stakeholder in the MeTA governing council. The work of MeTA Ghana will focus on:

- **Access** to and **Availability** of medicines; Adapt/develop tools for data collection on price, availability and quality
- **Cost of medicines** to consumers involving inter alia pricing policy options including the regulation of mark-ups and therapeutic value for money. Adaption and development of innovative tools for data collection on price, availability and quality
- **Strong evidence-based media campaign** on availability and affordability of medicines
- **Community-based civil society campaign** on access to medicines and patient rights