

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 Kyrgyzstan, through the engagement of all stakeholders with an interest in the outcome of the medicines market.

MeTA Kyrgyzstan Pilot Phase

MeTA Kyrgyzstan 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 collaborative secretariat, with the full support of the Ministry of Health and for the first time brought together the government, the private sector and civil society to discuss the need for more information and greater transparency in the Kyrgyzstan 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:

- Counterfeit Medicines awareness campaign
- Drug Quality Assessment in collaboration with the Drug Regulatory Authority
- Establishment of MeTA Civil Society Coalition
- Engagement with private sector
- Multi-stakeholder National Drug Policy (NDP) engagement

MeTA Phase 2

The activities of MeTA will support the government of Kyrgyzstan to improve access to medicines in both the public as well as the private sector. In the preparation of the workplan, the following target work areas have been identified:

- **National Policies:** to engage with the government in the delivery of the NDP
- **Assessment of Drug Procurement:** forecasting and supply chain management
- **Containment of Antibiotic Resistance:** Rational Use of Medicines Education
- **Democracy in Medicines Policy:** promote multi-stakeholder principles
- **Education:** about the danger of under-the-counter prescription only medicines
- **NGO Capacity Building:** education on evidence-based advocacy strategy