

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

MeTA Peru Pilot Phase

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

Key success in the Pilot Phase:

Data Disclosure: in the pilot MeTA Peru focussed its efforts on developing a price observatory to give the public access to accurate information about medicine prices. Its specific contribution was in writing the draft legislation that would both acknowledge the Price Observatory nationally and require all medicines producers and sellers – both in the private and public sectors – to publish their prices.

The Minister of Health signed the legislation for the price observatory in January 2010.

MeTA Phase 2

The activities of MeTA will support the government of Peru to improve access to medicines in both the public and private sectors. Specifically, MeTA Peru will focus on:

- Implementation of methodology to monitor medicines availability and affordability
- Assessment of the level of access to medicines covered by health insurance
- Developing an action plan for intervention in policies and regulations
- Identify bottlenecks in supply chain and suggest Supply Chain Management strategies
- Strengthen the Medicine Price Observatory
- Monitoring drug prices protected by patents and data exclusivity
- Disclose data on quality assurance in medicine supply chain
- Strengthening MeTA Peru (creating democratic mechanisms of participation, multi-stakeholder engagement and routine disclosure of information)