

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

MeTA Philippines Pilot Phase

MeTA Philippines 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 coalition, which for the first time brought together the government, the private sector, and civil society together to discuss the need for more information and greater transparency in the Philippines medicines market. The pilot ended in 2010 and has been proven to work as both a catalyst and driver of change.

Key successes in the Pilot Phase:

- The first forum in Philippines to bring all stakeholders in medicines together
- Invited to contribute to the Ratification of the 'Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act'
- Formation of a civil society 'Coalition on Health Advocacy and Transparency' (CHAT)
- Increased transparency leading to evidence-based policy debate
- Department of Health adopted multi-stakeholder model advisory process
- Some Multinational Pharmaceutical companies have reduced prices

MeTA Phase 2

The activities of MeTA will support the government of the Philippines to improve access to medicines in both the public as well as the private sector. The initiative is in line with the objectives of the Philippines Health Sector Strategic Investment Plan (HSSIP) and the National Pharmaceutical Sector Strategic Plan (NPSSP). MeTA Philippines will over the next three years focus on four critical elements of the pharmaceutical supply system namely:

1. **Universal health coverage by 2013:** is a government initiative that has been adopted by MeTA as a core area of work.
2. **Rational Use of Medicines:** Develop and pilot of indicators for assessing rational medicines use in the Philippines.
3. **Medicines Promotion:** Piloting of the HAI/MeTA tool to assess the current framework for medicines promotion
4. **Integrated community monitoring to improve accountability:** CHAT will develop a transparency tool to hold decision-makers to account