



Common statement about WHO Good Governance for Medicines programme and DFID Medicines Transparency Alliance

The WHO Good Governance for Medicines (GGM) programme and the DFID initiated Medicines Transparency Alliance (MeTA) are complementary initiatives, each seeking to improve access to quality essential medicines by increasing transparency and accountability in the pharmaceutical sector. MeTA's primary emphasis is on disclosure of information and multi-stakeholder collaboration. The GGM emphasizes on strengthened government and regulation procedures and on promoting a culture of ethical practice..

While the focus of each – and the approaches they take – differs, they are pursuing the same goal and are intended work very well together:

WHO Good Governance for Medicines (GGM) programme

- The GGM programme was launched and developed by WHO in 2004.
- Aims at curbing corruption by promoting good governance practices such as transparency and accountability in pharmaceutical systems management.
- The focus is on working with countries to increase transparency in administrative structures and processes of pharmaceutical systems (regulatory authorities and supply management), thus reducing their vulnerability to corruption.
- The GGM programme advocates equally the need to build institutional integrity through the promotion of ethical practices as an essential component of its strategy.
- It has a clearly defined model process and methodology and is implemented in three steps:
 - o Phase I: national transparency assessment
 - o Phase II: consultation phase to develop a national GGM framework
 - o Phase III: implementation and promotion of the national GGM programme
- A technical package is available for countries to guide them in the implementation of each phase
 - o Phase I: *Transparency assessment instrument*, measuring the vulnerability to corruption of key functions of pharmaceutical systems
 - o Phase II: WHO model *Framework for promoting good governance in the public pharmaceutical sector*, describing the essential components that need to be in place to increase transparency and promote ethical practices.

- Phase III: draft WHO *Guide for promoting good governance in the public pharmaceutical sector*, proposing a set of strategic activities to be implemented by Ministries of Health.
- GGM is currently implemented in 25 countries across the six regions of WHO.
- It is guided at the global level by the GGM Global Advisory Group on key strategic directions. It is composed of MoH officials implementing the GGM programme, the World Bank, NGOs, national anti-corruption agency, the academia, donors and the private sector.
- At the country level, GGM activities are guided by a national GGM Steering Committee (similar multi-expert group to the Global Advisory Group) and implemented by the national GGM task force. Both GGM groups interact closely with the MeTA Council when both initiatives are implemented in one same country.
- GGM was 1st pilot tested with funding from AusAID (mainly in Asia). It is now funded by several donors, including BMZ (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the government of Germany), DFID and the European Commission.

Medicines Transparency Alliance (MeTA)

- MeTA is an alliance of partners including national governments, pharmaceutical and other business, civil society organizations, academics and others interested in working to improve access to medicines.
- It is a multi-stakeholder initiative aiming to find ways to improve information flows and increase transparency about the selection, regulation, procurement, sale, distribution and use of medicines in developing countries.
- The multi-stakeholder element of MeTA expands this beyond government and opens up a space for accountability
- MeTA is being piloted in up to seven countries over the next two years.
- MeTA works through activities at country level and cross country comparisons to strengthen the capacity of different stakeholders to collect, analyse, disseminate and use data. There is a strong research component.
- The two main elements of MeTA are common data disclosure and transparency of data collection and dissemination.
- MeTA uses various assessment tools already available (e.g. WHO/HAI pricing manual; Health and Pharmaceuticals Household Surveys; Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS); Supply chain assessment; GGM transparency assessment instrument, etc.).
- MeTA includes an International Secretariat to coordinate, promote and support implementation of MeTA at global and national levels.
- MeTA has its own funding and administrative arrangements initially with DFID funding. After the two year pilot phase (2008-2009) other funders will be encouraged to support the initiative as the project expands to other interested countries.

Implications and interaction at the country level

- MeTA and GGM are complementary. When both activities are initiated in a given country, they can run in parallel, have possibly some overlap and be mutually supportive of each other (e.g. sharing instruments, reports, data, people involved).
- Interactions between the two programmes during the MeTA pilot will evolve according to MeTA's experience in countries and countries' expressed needs.