

LOCAL MEDICAL SUPPLIER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



Quality of Medicines Symposium, ITM, October 2026



Relief International (RI) designed this project and is leading its execution in the 4 countries, providing global and in-country support

Quamed are providing international technical expertise to execute the project with RI

The project is funded by Takeda



Project objective

To substantially increase local procurement of medical products by humanitarian and development agencies from local suppliers in conflict-affected countries

Complementary approaches

1

- **Local technical support to suppliers**
 - ✓ Quality capacity building (GSDP, MQAS, GMP)
 - ✓ Quality assessments/audits

2

- **Global & local stakeholder engagement & market shaping**
 - ✓ Business coaching to suppliers
 - ✓ Stakeholder meetings and workshops
 - ✓ Support dialogue and collaboration between humanitarian partners
 - ✓ Foster ongoing collaboration between NGO's and suppliers, including visibility of needs

Country Status: Oct 2026

- **Afghanistan & Yemen:** Final stage
- **Chad:** Inception stage
- **Syria:** Pending MoU with MoH



Project Journey (Yemen)

Market Analysis

Sep 2024 to Apr 2025

Supplier Selection

Mar to May 2025

NGO/UN Market Shaping

Jul 2025 – Dec 2026



Inception Workshop

Oct 2024

Supplier Baseline & Technical Assistance

Jun 2025 – Sep 2026

Final Supplier Audits

Oct 2026

15-month technical assistance program to achieve GSDP



Project Research: 2026





Observations from supplier technical support: **GSDP**

Baseline **WHO GSDP** compliance is low

- ❖ Inadequate/no QMS
- ❖ Lack of trained and competent personnel given QA authority
- ❖ Warehouses sometimes unsuitable or too small
- ❖ Inadequate temperature control during transportation and storage

Following tailored **GSDP** technical assistance

- Supplier results very dependent on management commitment, resourcing QA team adequately
- QMS work challenging and time-consuming, requires big shift in quality culture
- Progress always behind schedule
- ✓ **Half may gradually achieve GSDP compliance, others unlikely**



Observations from supplier technical support: MQAS

WHO MQAS compliance is very low at baseline

- No formal prequalification of their suppliers or products
- Quality of sources (GMP) are mixed, mostly non-WLA/SRA sites, many from PIC/S countries

Not feasible/worthwhile/suitable(?) for local suppliers to achieve WHO MQAS compliance

Target has been:

- 1. Focus TA on GSDP compliance firstly*
- 2. Implement basic supplier and source qualification processes (MQAS-light)*
- 3. Support to identify and qualify better quality principal manufacturers*



Local Market Shaping

for NGO/UN
medical product
local supply

How can we source locally:

...the specific products that are needed

...of assured quality

...with short lead times

...in the requested quantities

...at a reasonable price

What can we do collectively to make this happen?

Barriers & Solutions: Solutions

Working group of stakeholders

Priority products with standard specs

Sharing consolidated consumption data

Strengthen supplier compliance

Harmonize QA standards

Increase regulatory capacity

Import obstacles & pricing fairness

Improve trust and communication

Local and global cooperation

Building capacity to ensure sustainability



NRA technical assistance to
strengthen GSDP regulatory
framework



NRA practical GSDP
inspection training



Quality-assured sourcing
training for suppliers, NGOs,
NRA

Assuring the Quality of Sources

Understanding/mapping
QA standards of NGOs +
donors

Product source quality
mapping of existing
suppliers

Development of product
source quality database

Defining Needs of NGOs

Analysis of product lists for health services and NGOs

Defining top 100 target products for local procurement for NGOs

Development of product catalogue with recommended standard product names

Periodic communication by NGOs of product consumption

Establish communication channels between NGOs and suppliers of forecasted needs

Pharmaceutical Joint Procurement Initiative

Can INGOs align to make this work?

- *Procurement requirements*
- *Supplier qualification*
- *Product quality requirements*

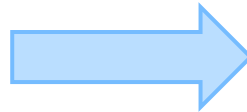


Syria: adapted approach



Context

- Large manufacturing sector
- Import restrictions favouring local production
- Smaller role of local wholesalers
- MoH/donor focus on pharmaceutical sector recovery



Project Adjustment: Manufacturers

- ✓ GMP audit manufacturers to select strongest candidates who align with EML needs
- ✓ TA and final audit program for manufacturers
- ✓ Regulatory system strengthening trainings for NRA in GSDP and GMP inspection



Thankyou

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