



***** Course Announcement *****

'Hands on' Training on PSM Skills for Consultants and Programs Staff

*Location: Grand Cubana Hotels, Jabi
Abuja, Nigeria*

Date: October 31 to November 5, 2016

Overview

Pharmaceutical Systems Africa (PSA), working together with the Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN), will be offering a one-week course for consultants and Procurement and supply management (PSM) program staff on skills to manage in-country PSM systems. The course is designed to equip consultants and staff working on PSM activities on how to perform key PSM tasks, including managing the PSM.

Scope

Procurement and supply management (PSM) challenges present a key bottleneck to accessing effective treatments in developing countries. Key to strengthening PSM systems is the orientation and training of technical assistance providers and management staff on standardized approaches to identifying and addressing challenges. This should be based on global needs, priorities, and in-country PSM gaps. Currently, there are a number of agencies and individual consultants who provide capacity building support in the PSM area. However, most of these are not located in the immediate vicinity of the need and, constantly, demand outstrips supply. The small pool of experts and lack of capacity among staff managing PSM programs also hinders progress in the strengthening of PSM systems. In addition, PSM program personnel who rely on consultants' TA often have limited capacity to assess and evaluate the performance of the consultants. There is thus a need to develop more experts with appropriate skills to assist developing countries to address program, national, and regional challenges.

Previously, training programs to address PSM training gaps have been developed and offered, predominantly in the North. The PSA/EPN approach brings the training to the people and works with participants within their settings and contexts. To date, similar courses have been conducted in Nigeria, Uganda, and Zambia. The majority of our former participants have gone on to become consultants in their own right and a number holds senior positions in PSM programs. Following on from a successful training in Lusaka in July 2016, where we trained 26 PSM consultants and program staff, we are by request, going to conduct the second of this very popular course in Abuja, Nigeria. Nigeria has a complex supply chain system and training is needed to match the

skills set to manage such. Even though the course is not Nigeria specific, training materials will focus on complex African supply chain systems.

Target Audience

The intended beneficiaries of this program are new consultants and PSM staff in various programs. This course does not teach knowledge on PSM systems but provides the hands-on skills required to manage a PSM system/program.

For logistical purposes, the training will be restricted to a small number of participants. These will be selected based on stringent criteria. The fee for the course is US\$1,520.00. This will include visa fees, airport transfers (for international participants), full board, and course-related materials. For participants based in Abuja who would like to commute from home, a reduced rate of US\$950.00 will be offered. However, we highly recommend participants to stay on site, for ease of evening exercises and group work. Course fees do not include airfare costs. For Nigeria based participants, payment in Naira is acceptable. Full or partial scholarships are available to a limited number of participants based on demonstrated financial hardship. The language of instruction for the course will be English.

Course Content

The course content will focus on core PSM skills, including the following:

1. Developing, reading, and understanding a Scope of Work
2. Reading and understanding a technical document
3. Assessing a PSM system, including basic analytical skills
4. Coordinating technical meetings, including managing difficult participants
5. Writing a technical document
6. Developing and understanding concept notes
7. Developing and implementing strategic plans
8. Developing and implementing workplans

Course Faculty

The facilitators for this course will come from preeminent international organizations & renowned consultants. Profiles of faculty will be posted on the course brochures.

Application

Please apply online at www.pharmasystafrica.com or by e-mail to info@pharmasystafrica.com. The deadline for applications is September 29, 2016.



Requests for additional information and support for participation should be sent to info@pharmasystafrica.com or imatowe@pharmasystafrica.com : telephone numbers +1 502 298 6076 (USA) or +234-703-306-2289 or +234-803-315-3509 (Nigeria)