



How can we leverage partnerships to advocate for access to life-saving commodities?

Challenge: Vital Maternal Health Commodities Remain Inaccessible

Millions of women and children die every year from preventable causes because they lack access to life-saving commodities. The two leading causes of maternal mortality in low- and middle-income countries are postpartum hemorrhage (PPH), which is excessive bleeding after childbirth and pre-eclampsia/eclampsia (PE/E), which is pregnancy-related hypertension. Each year, PPH and PE/E claim the lives of over 200,000 women worldwide.

Magnesium sulfate is recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the safest and most effective medication for preventing and treating severe PE/E. Similarly, WHO has identified oxytocin as the first-line medication (followed by misoprostol) for treating PPH. Despite strong evidence that these are the most effective drugs available to treat severe PE/E and PPH, they are underused in many low- and middle-income countries.

Accelovate is a five-year program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to accelerate the availability and use of proven technologies and commodities to address global health challenges (Figure 1). In keeping with its mission, Accelovate aims to combat low utilization of quality maternal health drugs worldwide through contributions to the work of UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities (UNCoLSC) and its two working groups: Availability of Quality Maternal Health Products (AQMHP) and Global Regulatory Availability for Manufacturing Products (GRAMP).

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Challenge Background: Working Groups

The AQMHP working group, convened by UNCoLSC's Maternal Health Technical Reference Team (MH TRT), advocates for improved global access to quality magnesium sulfate, misoprostol, and oxytocin. The AQMHP's approach includes developing the business case or market justification for investing in the production of high-quality maternal health drugs and collaborating with institutions to streamline pre-market regulatory and manufacturing processes for products deemed prequalified by WHO or approved by stringent regulatory authorities.

The GRAMP working group is also within the MH TRT and advocates for policies that increase access to high-quality medications.

Accelovate's Solution Business Modeling for Commodities

Accelovate and other Jhpiego programs have contributed to UNCoLSC's working groups—AQMHP, GRAMP, Oxytocin in the Cold Chain, Innovations, and Market Shaping—by offering expertise in overcoming barriers to bringing commodity-utilization to scale.

Results Achieved

Business cases, developed by Accelovate in partnership with Concept Foundation and with support from the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition, argue that there is a viable commercial opportunity for high-quality commodities in low-resource settings. The cases are posted to this website: <http://www.jhpiego.org/content/accelovate-program>.

- Accelovate and Concept Foundation completed market research to identify manufacturers of high-quality oxytocin. Concept Foundation will continue to identify manufacturers and help them prepare for WHO's pre-qualification process.
- Accelovate and other Jhpiego programs aim to increase access to high-quality misoprostol by supporting countries in adding misoprostol to their Essential Medicines Lists; leading focused advocacy strategies; and providing technical assistance to ministries of health, obstetric and gynecological associations, task forces, and other key stakeholders.
- In 2015, Concept Foundation and the GRAMP working group will organize workshops in low- and middle-income countries to help implementers, donors, and other stakeholders determine how to procure quality maternal health products. Because of Jhpiego's strong network of country-level programs, Jhpiego/Accelovate will help organize one workshop in East Africa and one workshop in Southern Africa.

Accelovate aims to combat low utilization of quality, maternal health commodities worldwide.

Figure 1. Accelovate's Path



Next Steps: Building on Accelovate's Achievements

Accelovate continues to work with strategic partners to promote the global availability of and access to high-quality maternal health commodities. The partners include, but are not limited to, UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children, Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition, WHO, Ministries of Health, procurement agencies, commodity manufacturers, product developers, researchers, and implementing partners.

Accelovate's work builds on excellent tools produced by partners and advocates in the field. Family Care International, with funding from Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition, has produced briefs on Essential Medicines for Maternal Health, which are posted to this website: <http://www.familycareintl.org/en/resources/publications/118>.

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Accelovate—a Partnership in Accelerated Global Health Innovation

Accelovate is a global program dedicated to increasing the availability and use of lifesaving innovations for low-resource settings. Led by Jhpiego, the Accelovate program began in 2011 as a five-year, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded program under the Technologies for Health (T4H) grant.

Also Available from Accelovate:



Postpartum
Hemorrhage



Rehabilitative
Medicine



Pre-eclampsia
& Eclampsia



Male
Circumcision

Design Challenges promote the development of innovative solutions where appropriate technology is lacking

Solution Landscapes assess what solutions exist

Value Propositions assess the benefits and drawbacks of an array of solutions for our context

Business Cases assess manufacturability and commercial potential

Market Readiness Assessments evaluate a selected technology/solution for market-level readiness factors

Briefs describe technology access and utilization challenges in a topical area and outline Accelovate's approach

Excel Tools present raw data that implementers may develop for programming and advocacy purposes

Literature Reviews review secondary data, usually to understand a bottleneck

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Accelovate invites innovators, advocates, funders, and programmers addressing the procurement and use of maternal health drugs and technologies in low-resource settings to share our tools and join our efforts to ensure a market of standardized, high-quality oxytocin. To discuss **partnership opportunities around new solutions**, contact us at accelovate@jhpiego.org