

MEETING REPORT IN RESPONSE TO DIFFICULTIES RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF DRUGS

Date and place :14/03/2023 in Yaoundé (ONUCHA)

Start time :10:00am

Closing time:12:30pm

Rationale for meeting: A number of partners and their respective donors have briefed and raised what appear to be significant import challenges regarding drug inputs.

- Opening remarks by Mr David CIBONGA, followed by the presentation of the various participants
- Beginning of the presentation by Dr Thomas LAPNET-MOUSTAPHA, who began with a definition of general terms and concepts such as that of "medicine" according to law 90/035 of 10/08/1990 Article 15 and 64 respectively, then of the transition from the term "drug" to "pharmaceutical product".
- It continued with the decree N°98-405/PM of 22/10/1998 which fixes the methods of approval and marketing of pharmaceutical products and also defining the terms: approval, marketing authorization, drug, medical consumables and more...
- Then he spoke to us about the National Medicines Commission, which is the body responsible for studying applications for the approval of pharmaceutical products, the marketing of pharmaceutical products according to Article 27 of Decree No. 98-405.
- And then he told us about the guidelines for the donation of drugs and other pharmaceutical products, emphasizing the obligations of each party.

Following the presentation, he offered us the following suggestions:

- Federate product and resource person needs:
- Get as close as possible to the LNME and the lists of programs regularly concluded with the MINSANTE:
- Express in a relevant way the difficulties encountered:
- Solicit/maintain communication with DPML/MINSANTE (information, awareness, control of provisions, support needs, etc.);
- Involve the DPML/MINSANTE from the initial phase of the establishment;

- Call on functional structures that may have a role in the procedures concerned;
- Formalize the partnership and review needs annually.

After the suggestions came the time for clarifications, questions, exchanges and any other comments. At this time, concerns such as

- The administrative slowness in the procedures raised by Mrs Adèle TABUE and Dr Dorothy DISSAKE (International Medical Corps)
- Excessive costs of drugs and customs clearance by the Representative of the French Red Cross
- Or the difficulty to do between the psychotropics raised

In conclusion to all these concerns, it was said that there should be a real partnership between the NGOs and the Ministry of Health or any organization involved in pharmaceutical product issues at the national level. It would also be necessary to set up a platform in which we can find all or almost all the stakeholders (NGOs, customs, CENAME, DPML, etc.) to facilitate operations concerning questions of medicines.

Closing remarks by Mr David CIBONGA and thanks to the various participants for their presence and contribution to the meeting.

Rapporteur: Synthia DJOMATCHOUA (Value Health Africa)

OCHA, Cameroon Yaoundé on 03/14/2023