



USAID | BANGLADESH

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Bangladesh Supply Chain Information Portal Receives Two Digital Innovation Awards

The Directorate General of Family Planning's (DGFP) new *Supply Chain Information Portal* (SCIP) received two prestigious awards at Bangladesh's Digital Innovation Fair in July 2011. The Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare accepted the SCIP's award for the **best e-governance initiative**; in addition, the portal won the runner-up award for **national digital innovation** in the **e-health category**, making it eligible for the World Summit Award—the global initiative to promote the world's most innovative information technology applications.

At the Digital Innovation Fair, 68 different ministries, government authorities, and private organizations took part with over 100 digitally enabled projects and initiatives. The fair's aim was to encourage government and private organizations to create innovative services and deliver them to peoples' doorsteps.

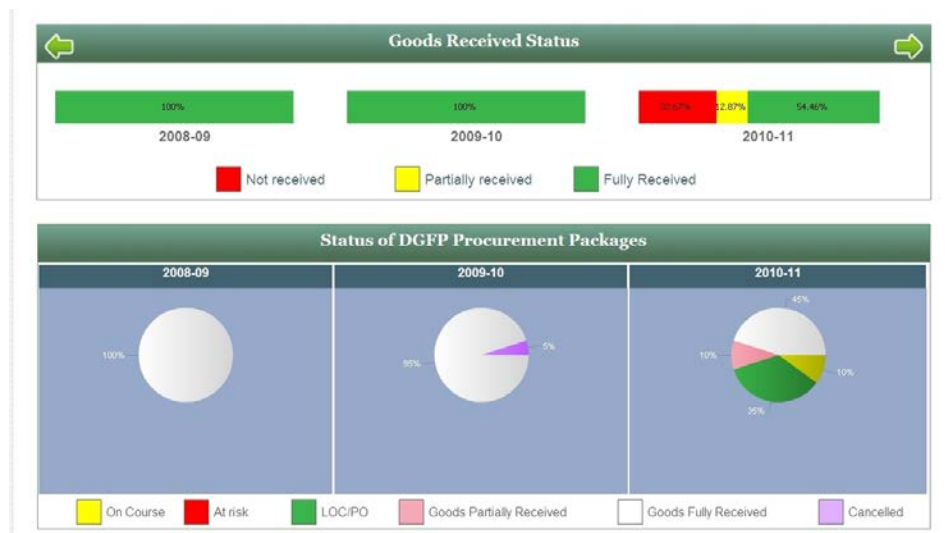
To ensure that patients receive the medicines and commodities they need, when they need them, the pharmaceutical supply chain needs to be both efficient and effective. The SCIP strengthens the supply chain by making web-based tools available to the Bangladesh DGFP and registered public users. For example, the Logistics Management Information System and Stock Status Report provide information on the availability of government-owned contraceptives and raises an alert regarding possible shortages or overages.



The DGFP team with their awards from the Digital Innovation Fair.
(Photo: Strengthening Pharmaceutical Systems Program)



As the screen shot below shows, the Procurement Tracker allows government officials to track the status of the procurement process every step of the way, which helps prevent delays while also promoting transparency. The SCIP also provides information on current DGFP tenders and procurement opportunities, tender documentation, results of past tenders, a news page, and a photo gallery (<http://www.dgfplmis.org/>). The portal is unique in the government sector for its ability to allow users to manage data and create presentations using web-based dashboards.



The DGFP Supply Chain Information Portal helps to ensure contraceptives availability in upazila and field level, which eventually will help reduce unwanted pregnancies and population growth—steps toward reaching the relevant Millennium Development Goals.

Over the past few decades, USAID has supported strengthening the supply chain management system in Bangladesh to ensure reproductive health commodity security. While advances have been made, problems still hinder the continuous availability of reproductive health commodities. Since the fall of 2009, the USAID-funded Strengthening Pharmaceutical Systems Program has provided technical assistance to the DGFP and other national stakeholders to improve procurement management for reproductive health commodities, build up the existing distribution and management information systems, and increase local capacity to strengthen health systems overall. This support has resulted in Government of Bangladesh streamlining their procurement, which led to the World Bank's approval of commodities amounting to 63 million US dollars.