



Scaling the Sustainable Health in Procurement Project— **SHiPP**



The Problem

The COVID-19 pandemic has given us a clear example of what a multidimensional crisis on a planetary scale can look like. Among other aspects, it has brought to the fore the centrality of health and the health sector as a frontline responder, together with the profound inequalities in health and healthcare access within and between countries. It has also highlighted the critical need to strengthen and transform health systems globally to be prepared for future pandemics, as well as, other major health challenges of the 21st century including climate change.

As the impacts of the climate crisis combine with and compound the coronavirus pandemic (and vice versa), the interconnectedness of health and environment is clearer than ever before. The global pandemic has also underscored the urgency of climate action to protect the health of people and the planet alike from what the UN Secretary General calls an “existential threat” to humanity.

The health sector has taken an oath to first, do no harm and has a mandate to prevent and cure disease, and yet, it is responsible for 4.4% of net global greenhouse gas emissions. If the global health sector were a country, it would be the fifth largest greenhouse gas emitter on the planet.

Health systems around the world treat hundreds of millions of people every day. To do this they must purchase a broad diversity of products from a complex supply chain. ***More than 70% of health care’s greenhouse gas emissions come from the global health care supply chain.***

The production, packaging, transportation, use, and disposal of health products make major contributions not only to climate change, but also to chemical contamination, resource depletion, biodiversity loss, air and water pollution - which make major contributions to the global burden of disease.

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The Solution

Right now is a moment like no other. It's time for health care to lead the way in healing people and the planet. The health sector is a trusted voice, while wielding major political and economic influence.

Procurement decisions guided by a 'Health in All Policies' approach that integrates gender, human and labour rights, together with environmental health considerations into all purchasing and policy making can improve the health of people and the planet. Health care facilities can serve as anchors for community resilience and as instruments to ensure equitable access to sustainable products and supply chains.

6 Steps to sustainable procurement

1. Address root causes
2. Avoid unnecessary use of products
3. Drive full transparency and accountability
4. Support equity
5. Accelerate innovation
6. Help drive increasingly sustainable products, resilient supply chains and a circular economy.

With the health sector comprising **10% of the global economy**, its procurement policies can have an enormous impact on production and consumption worldwide.

Sustainable procurement is a growing global movement whose strategies provide opportunities for the simultaneous implementation of several Sustainable Development Goals. Including Goals 3 (health); 5 (gender); 6 (water and sanitation); 7 (energy); 8 (decent work); 12 (sustainable consumption and production); and 13 (climate).

Governments on every continent together with international institutions and private health systems have developed or are in the process of developing legislation, regulation, policies, strategies, and action plans to advance sustainable public procurement. Sweden has played a leadership role in demonstrating sustainable procurement in Swedish health systems and supporting this movement globally. Sustainable procurement has also helped health systems respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, in Colombia, healthcare systems that were already implementing sustainable procurement policies and as part of SHiPP, rapidly developed policies and actions to take on the pandemic, including prioritizing the procurement of reusable Personal Protective Equipment.. Tanzania used SHiPP supported pooled procurement for COVID19 supplies.



Photo: Solar panels on hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa.

A REAL-WORLD SOLUTION IN ACTION

The Sustainable Health in Procurement Project SHiPP

In 2018, UNDP and Health Care Without Harm designed a unique and innovative multi-sector program that brought together civil society, the United Nations, and governments to deploy sustainable procurement strategies that address the global climate crisis and environmental burden of disease.

With support from Swedish SIDA, in collaboration with the UN agencies responsible for buying health products and services, UNDP and Health Care Without Harm launched SHiPP in ten low- and middle-income countries.

The project's primary goals are to support countries and health systems to develop policies and actions to reduce greenhouse gases, address resource depletion and chemical pollution in order to improve the quality of life for individuals and communities.

In four short years SHiPP has generated a robust set of initial results at both the policy and practical implementation levels, including:

SHiPP has generated a robust set of initial results ranging from policy on mercury in South Africa and plastics in Vietnam, to procurement of renewable energy in Indonesia, and government standards in Colombia, India and China.



Photo: Energy audit at Beijing Ditan Hospital, China

- Developing national and sub-national sustainable procurement policies, programs, and standards, and building capacity for implementation in 10 project countries: Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Moldova, Ukraine, South Africa, Tanzania, Vietnam, and Zambia.
- Scaling, through Health Care Without Harm's Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network, sustainable procurement in four additional countries: Chile, Colombia, Indonesia and the Philippines.
- Deploying procurement strategies and tools to measure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, replace toxic chemicals such as mercury with safer alternatives, implement renewable energy, reduce plastic waste, and support sustainable health care waste management.

Supported by:  Sida

SHiPP

Policy Success to Date

Global: UNDP and Health Care Without Harm initiated and co-lead the health sector interest group for the UN One Planet Network Sustainable Public Procurement programme.

Argentina: Capacity building of the National Laboratory system to identify and eliminate the use of toxic laboratory chemicals.

China: Sustainable procurement evaluation guidance designed for nationwide use as a voluntary standard for Chinese healthcare institutions.

Chile: Sustainable procurement policy for a municipal health department.

Colombia: Sub-national provincial ordinance establishes a cross-sectoral strategy for sustainable procurement including health.

India: Sustainable Procurement embedded in a national hospital accreditation standard. Sustainable Procurement strategy developed for the National Center for Disease Control.

Moldova: National health facility solar pilot catalyzed broader installation of sustainable energy for the health sector.

Southern African Development Community: Established sustainable procurement guidelines for pooled procurement services for SADC's 16 countries.

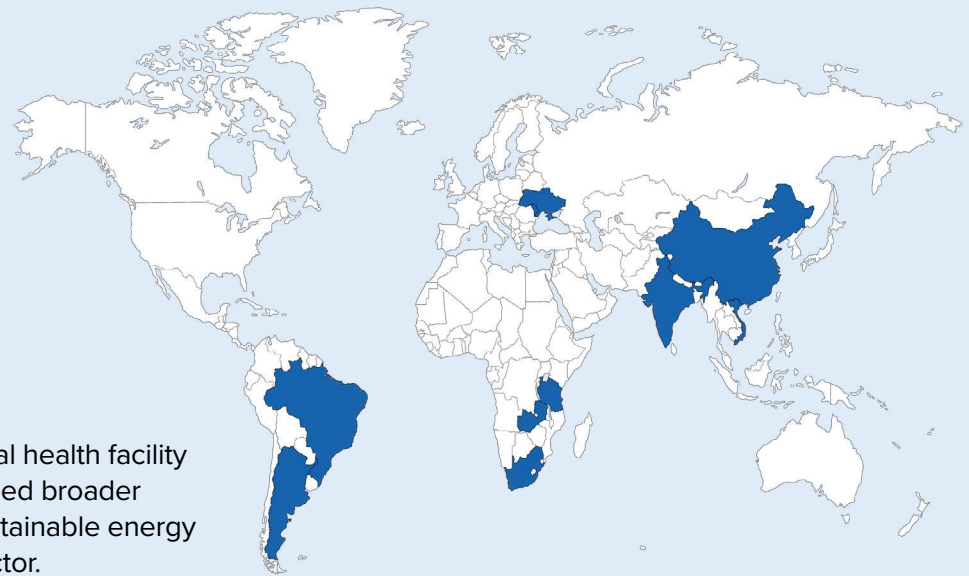
South Africa: Implemented an integrated pest management strategy to eliminate the procurement of highly hazardous pesticides in hospitals.

Tanzania: National policies on energy, waste and equipment use in health facilities incorporate life-cycle and total cost of ownership into planning.

Ukraine: Adoption and application of international procurement practices in national processes.

Vietnam: Ministry of Health Directive on reducing plastic waste in the health sector.

Zambia: Ministry of Health procurement working group converted into the Sustainable Health in Procurement Strategic National Advisory Platform, prioritizing sustainability in the procurement process of the entire Ministry.



Scaling Up SHiPP 2.0



Photo: Construction of biodigestion facility for health care waste, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

SHiPP 2.0 and the COVID-19 Moment

In response to COVID-19, the health care sector is re-examining its supply chains. There is a need for health care to take more ownership and control of purchasing in order to understand and track finished products, as well as raw materials.

As health systems rethink their supply chains, the opportunity to integrate future pandemic preparedness with principles of climate resilience, adaptation, mitigation and sustainability arises.

Building on the first four years of SHiPP's journey, UNDP and Health Care Without Harm are prepared to scale the work and implement a series of strategies that will support health, human and labour rights, and gender equity together with environmental sustainability.

Healthcare systems have tremendous influence, both locally and globally, and are rethinking their purchases and supply chains, in particular due to COVID-19.

SHiPP Strategies for Scaling Sustainable Procurement in Health

1 Build global consensus across the health sector on the need to transform the supply chain so that it is decarbonized, detoxified, climate resilient, pandemic prepared, inclusive, equitable and aligned with the SDGs.

2 Mobilize national and sub-national ministries of health, international organizations, and local health care systems on every continent to transform health sector production and consumption by collaboratively targeting harmful products and building collective demand for more sustainable alternatives.

3 Broaden and deepen health care engagement in sustainable procurement and waste management by strengthening capacity for implementation in existing program countries and regions, while scaling to at least ten additional countries.



Photo: Hand hygiene demonstration, Sukabumi, West Java, Indonesia

SHiPP 2.0 is an opportunity to build on the foundation that UNDP and Health Care Without Harm have developed. The moment is ripe to scale impact by deepening the work in the initial ten countries, expanding to ten new countries, and embedding sustainable procurement in global health policy.

Cover photo: Sorting sterilized plastic waste for recycling, Lucknow, India

Photo credits: Health Care Without Harm

For more information:

www.noharm.org and www.savinglivessustainably.org

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