

DEALING WITH COUNTERFEITS –THE GHANA EXPERIENCE

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- ✦ **INTRODUCTION**
- ✦ **SOURCES OF COUNTERFEITS**
- ✦ **STRATEGIES ADOPTED**
- ✦ **CHALLENGES**
- ✦ **THE WAY FORWARD**
- ✦ **CONCLUSION**



INTRODUCTION

- ❖ **COUNTERFEITING - A GLOBAL PROBLEM.**
- ❖ Both developed and developing countries affected
- ❖ **COMBATING COUNTERFEITING - A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY.**
 - **PRIVATE SECTOR**
 - ❖ Industry
 - **GOVERNMENTS**
 - Medicines Regulatory Agencies
 - ❖ Law enforcement agencies
 - ❖ Other government agencies
 - **CONSUMERS**





INTRODUCTION

- ❖ **REGULATORY AND LEGISLATIVE FRAME WORK NECESSARY**

- ❖ Necessary at all levels of the drug supply chain
- ❖ Food and Drugs Law PNDC Law 305B 1992 – Presently under review
- ❖ Pharmacy Act of 1994

- ❖ **USE OF ANTICOUNTERFEITING TECHNOLOGY**

- ❖ Essential for industry
- ❖ Suggested to our local industry starting with the labeling of capsules

- ❖ **CONSUMERS**

- ❖ Empowerment



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SOURCES OF COUNTERFEITS

- ❖ Porous land borders
- ❖ Main source from the eastern boarder till recent NAFDAC attempts
- ❖ Small quantities expensive medicines in briefcases at arrival halls at airports
- ❖ Government procurement system – Donor funding for lowest bidder
- ❖ Accessibility and Affordability of Medicines
- ❖ Drug Donations



SOURCES OF COUNTERFEITS

- TYPES OF PRODUCTS
 - Anti-malarials
 - Anti-infectives
 - Lifestyle product
 - Slimming, male virility, cosmetics, etc
 - Herbal Medicines
 - Detergents



STRATEGIES ADOPTED

❖ **IMPROVED COLLABORATION**

➤ **Law enforcement agencies**

- ❖ The Customs, Police service, Judiciary
- ❖ WHO sponsored workshop recently held

➤ **Local authorities**

- ❖ District assemblies
- ❖ Municipal assemblies
- ❖ Metropolitan assemblies



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STRATEGIES ADOPTED

❖ PUBLIC EDUCATION

- ❖ Documentaries
- ❖ posters
- ❖ brochures etc

❖ GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT

- ❖ Providing extra budget allocation
- ❖ Legal framework review- including levels of punishment/deterrence to counterfeiting.



STRATEGIES ADOPTED

❖ QUALITY CONTROL LABORATORY

➤ Infrastructure capacity building

❖ Instrumentation

- ✓ -Condom testing machine
- ✓ -HPLCs
- ✓ - AAS, GC

❖ New Microbiology section

❖ Human Resource Capacity



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STRATEGIES ADOPTED

❖ **HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY BUILDING**

- ❖ Increased staff strength
- ❖ Long & short term training
- ❖ Long & short term attachments
- ❖ Seminars & conferences

❖ **IMPORT AND EXPORT CONTROL**

- ❖ A new permit system introduced with improved security features
- ❖ Improved monitoring of pharmaceutical products leaving and entering the country.
- ❖ Imports restricted to Tema and KIA





STRATEGIES ADOPTED

❖ INTENSIFICATION OF ROUTINE REGULATORY PRACTICES

➤ Inspection

- ❖ Manufacturing premises (both local and foreign)
- ❖ Warehouses of importers of pharmaceutical products
- ❖ Licensing of Importers
- ❖ Destination inspection



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STRATEGIES ADOPTED

- **Post marketing surveillance**
 - Anti malarial screening – with USPDQI & MSH
 - Antimicrobials project starting with ciprofloxacin
- **pharmacovigilance**
 - Intensification of activities
 - Zonal Desk Officers
 - Institutional Contact Persons
 - For manufactures and importers as well
 - Concept of “domestication”
 - Defective Medicines and Counterfeits



STRATEGIES ADOPTED

- ❖ **SCREENING OF MEDICINES PROCURED BY GOVERNMENT BEFORE DISTRIBUTION**
- ❖ **EXPANSION OF ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITIES**
 - ❖ Decentralization
 - ❖ Recruitment of more staff
 - ❖ Accreditation to ISO – roadmap developed
 - ❖ Website – Improved transparency



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CHALLENGES

- ❖ **ACCESS TO AND AFFORDABILITY OF MEDICINES**
- ❖ **LARGE NUMBER OF DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS**
- ❖ **TRADE LIBERALIZATION AND “ME TOO PRODUCTS”**
- ❖ **COST OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES**
- ❖ **POLITICAL AND CULTURAL ISSUES**



CHALLENGES

- ABSENCE OF PHARMACISTS AND OTHER LICENSED PERSONS FROM DISTRIBUTION OUTLETS
- OWNERSHIP OF PHARMACEUTICAL WHOLESALE AND RETAIL BUSINESSES BY NON PROFESSIONALS
- NON CONFORMANCE TO GOOD PRESCRIPTION AND DISPENSING PRACTICES



CHALLENGES

❖ **INADEQUACY OF EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION**

- ❖ Customs, Police, judiciary
- ❖ Other governmental agencies

❖ **FUNDING**

- ❖ Anti-Counterfeiting Initiatives
- ❖ Quality monitoring



CHALLENGES

- REACTION TIME IN DEALING WITH COUNTERFEIT ISSUES DUE TO LACK OF ADEQUATE LOGISTICS
- WEAK PENAL SANCTIONS



THE WAY FORWARD

- ❖ **Public Awareness/Education**
- ❖ **Effective Decentralization**
- ❖ **Intersectoral collaboration**
- ❖ **Strengthened PMS and Laboratory improvements**
- ❖ **Regional Co-operation**
- ❖ **Funding**
- ❖ **Local manufacture**
- ❖ **Stiffer punishments**



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CONCLUSION

Although significant achievements have been made, there is more room for improvement.

A nationwide counterfeit survey has been planned for this year to establish actual levels and to recommend further measures to deal with the situation