

STRATEGIC FUND

Access to quality medicines and health
supplies in the Americas



PAHO



A photograph of a young woman with dark hair, smiling broadly. She is wearing a bright pink t-shirt and is lying on her back on a green mesh net. The net is draped over her, and she is looking towards the camera. The background is dark, and the overall lighting is soft. The image is overlaid with several semi-transparent geometric shapes in shades of green and grey, which serve as a background for the text.

SOLIDARITY

TRANSPARENCY

QUALITY

EFFICIENCY

EQUITY

PAN-AMERICANISM

What is the Strategic Fund?

The Strategic Fund of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is a regional mechanism for pooled procurement of essential medicines and strategic public health supplies for the countries of the Americas.

The purpose of the Fund is to improve access to quality, safe and effective medicines and health supplies, while ensuring affordability, and promoting efficient and sustainable health systems. The Strategic Fund is a central component of the PAHO's strategy to move towards universal health.

The Strategic Fund also works with the countries of the Americas to strengthen demand planning and the organization of national supply management systems while facilitating timely access to health supplies and ensuring continued availability of these essential products.

Since its creation in 2000, the Strategic Fund has contributed to the strengthening and sustainability of health systems, positioning itself as the regional mechanism for procuring medicines and priority supplies for public health.

Vision

Improve the health and well-being of peoples and contribute to the advancement of universal health in the Americas, by strengthening health systems and improving equitable access to safe, effective and quality medicines and other priority public health supplies.

Mission

Increase access to quality health products that improve health outcomes in PAHO Member States.

Values

Solidarity, quality, transparency, equity, efficiency, and Pan-Americanism.

Objectives

1. Develop a regional platform for PAHO Member States to improve the affordability, availability, and quality of strategic health supplies in the Americas.
2. Improve the efficiency of expenditures and the availability of quality strategic supplies for national priority health programs.
3. Work jointly with participating countries to boost national capacities in demand planning and supply chain management, including the appropriate use of procured products.
4. Consolidate demand and apply innovative procurement and negotiation strategies that promote transparency and international competition to achieve significant price reductions for strategic public health supplies.



Who can use it?

All health ministries and government institutions providing public health services in Members States of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) can procure medicines and supplies through the Strategic Fund after signing an agreement with the Organization.

Products

More than 250 products can be procured through the Strategic Fund, including medicines for treating communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, Chagas, hepatitis, and various neglected diseases.

The Fund also offers medicines for the treatment of non-communicable diseases, such as cancer, diabetes, and chronic cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. Medical devices and equipment; health supplies, such as insecticides, and mosquito nets for vector control; and diagnostic kits are also available through the Fund.

All products are selected from the WHO List of Essential Medicines, the WHO Essential Diagnostics List, and other WHO guidance. In addition, the Strategic Fund offers supplies that are considered strategic for the Region based on scientific evidence, as they are either high-cost products, limited in availability, or difficult to procure in some national pharmaceutical markets.

MORE THAN
250
PRODUCTS
can be procured
through the
Strategic Fund

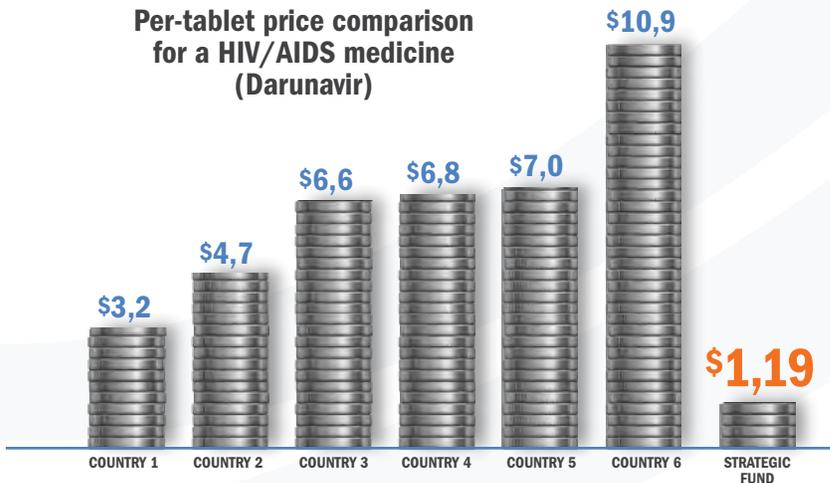
Procurement

The Strategic Fund uses a procurement process that takes advantage of economies of scale and the use of international competitive tenders, which includes individualized logistical support for each shipment. Competition among producers reduces the price of the medicines and supplies offered by the Strategic Fund compared with prices in domestic markets, representing significant savings for Member States.

The Fund signs long-term agreements (LTAs) with suppliers for many products of high interest to the countries, establishing prices for a specific period. LTAs improve the efficiency of purchases, set predictable prices, and help to ensure quick and timely delivery of quality-assured products.

Competitive Prices

Per-tablet price comparison
for a HIV/AIDS medicine
(Darunavir)



One country alone saved

US\$13 MILLION

in procurement for
medicines to treat

***HIV/AIDS and
tuberculosis***

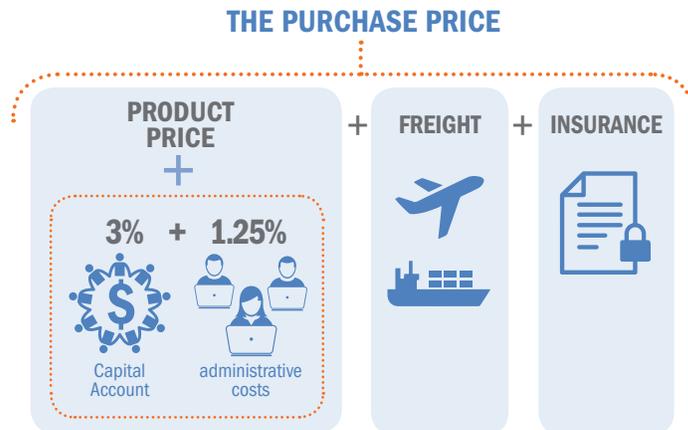
Financial resources

Countries that procure products through the Strategic Fund transfer the amount of the purchase to an account created by PAHO. The purchase price includes the cost of the product itself, freight, insurance to the port of delivery, and a 4.25% surcharge on the product price, 1.25% of which is allocated to administrative costs and 3% to the Capital Account.

This account is a pooled financing mechanism that provides lines of credit to countries when needed.

For a complete list of medicines and supplies and their reference prices, as well as the procedures for procuring them through the Strategic Fund, visit:

www.paho.org/strategicfund



Benefits of using the Strategic Fund

Economies of scale, competitive prices, and transparency: The Strategic Fund pools demand, insofar as possible, from multiple countries and calls for international competitive bidding to procure quality-assured medicines and supplies at lower prices.

Assured quality: The Strategic Fund is able to offer products that are prequalified by WHO, registered in National Regulatory Authorities of Regional Reference for Medicines, and evaluated through the PAHO quality assurance internal processes.

Financial support: The Strategic Fund's Capital Account provides lines of credits to countries that may require it. In such cases, funds are advanced from the Capital Account.

Access to limited-source products: Second-line treatments for tuberculosis, medicines for neglected pediatric diseases, pediatric antiretrovirals for HIV, and other supplies with limited availability can be procured through the Strategic Fund.



Quality, safety, and efficacy

Compliance with international standards on production and control.



Eligibility

WHO prequalification processes. Registration and commercialization in National Regulatory Authorities of Regional Reference.



Performance

Supplier performance evaluation.

Technical cooperation

The Strategic Fund supports the strengthening of national priority public health programs in communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, and vector control, in coordination with PAHO technical programs and country offices.

Technical cooperation is provided through the Strategic Fund to improve access to safe, efficient, and quality supplies; rational use; the application of clinical practice guidelines based on the best available evidence; resources utilization, and quality in services and treatment.

Collaborative efforts

The Fund works with agencies of the United Nations system and other partners, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM), to pool bids and more efficiently meet the needs of the countries. For example, the partnership between the Global Fund and the Strategic Fund to purchase antiretrovirals (ARV) has generated substantial savings for Member States, and led to more reliable deliveries, better supplier performance, and a more efficient supply system.



To find out more about the Strategic Fund, to place an order, or to get support planning demand for the products you need, please visit www.paho.org, or write to us at:

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www.paho.org



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