

# University of Health Sciences Lahore

## University of Health Sciences (UHS) Lahore Launches Supply Chain Course



*"I would like to give full credit to the Vice Chancellor, UHS and his dedicated team as well as our partners USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program to start supply chain management course which has been the missing link towards assuring access to good quality health commodities not only in Punjab rather in the entire country."*

Mr. Khawaja Salman Rafique  
Honorable Health Minister for Specialized  
Healthcare & Medical Education, Government



of Punjab

*"I acknowledge and appreciate all those staff at the UHS and USAID's Global Health Supply Chain Program who have worked hard to start this course"*

Mr. Muhammad Ayub Sheikh,  
Honorable Secretary, Ministry of National Health  
Services, Regulations and Coordination, Islamabad

Workforce strengthening is crucial to the development of sustainable public health supply chains. To that end, the USAID Global Health Supply Chain Program-Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) project recently supported the development of a three-credit supply chain management course in collaboration with the University of Health Sciences (UHS) in Lahore, Pakistan.

### THE PROCESS

In May 2017, the project held a series of consultative and advocacy meetings with the provincial minister for special education and tertiary healthcare, the secretaries of the Health and Population Welfare Department, the government of Punjab, the vice chancellor, and the faculty of UHS Lahore. The meetings culminated in an agreement to launch an elective, three-credit-hour course as part of university's masters programs in an effort to build capacity for public health supply chain management.

In July, GHSC-PSM's Pakistan country director and the vice chancellor of UHS signed a formal letter of understanding at a ceremony in Lahore. The country director also handed over the curriculum to UHS's Department of Public Health.

The ceremony, under the chairmanship of the Punjab health minister for specialized healthcare and medical education, was attended by the federal secretary of the ministry of health services, regulations and coordination, the provincial secretary of the Punjab Population Welfare Department, the vice chancellor of UHS, UHS faculty members and course participants, representatives from affiliated medical colleges, vice



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chancellors of other universities, and officials from the Punjab government's Departments of Health and Population Welfare.

## **OUTCOME**

The University of Health Sciences' Advanced Studies and Research Board has approved the integration of the course in the Masters of Health Management and Finance and Masters of Public Health curriculum. GHSC-PSM also provided orientation and training to UHS faculty, enabling them to independently implement the three credit course as well as short courses beginning in fall 2017.

GHSC-PSM achieved a significant milestone with the launch of this three-credit public health supply chain course. The initiative will go a long way towards expanding the supply chain management capacity within Punjab's public-sector.

## **WAY FORWARD**

UHS and GHSC-PSM have agreed to continue collaborating to develop supply chain diploma and degree courses (Masters and PhD) over two to three years. GHSC-PSM plans to replicate similar initiatives in other provinces as well.



*Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Junaid Sarfraz Khan and Country Director Muhammad Tariq signing a letter of understanding between the University of Health Sciences and GHSC-PSM.*