

REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES

Ministry of Health and Social Development



SEYCHELLES NATIONAL MEDICINE POLICY

Final Draft: 15 May 2009

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This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Community.
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Abbreviations

AFRO	WHO Regional Office for Africa
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
MRA	Medicine Regulatory Authority
EDL	Essential Medicine List
EDM	Department of Essential Drugs and Medicine Policy
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
cGMP	Current Good Manufacturing Practices
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HDI	Human Development Index
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
INN	International Non-Proprietary Name
MOH	Ministry of Health
NDF	National drug Formulary
NMP	National Medicine Policy
NMPIP	National Medicine Policy Implementation Plan
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PAP	Priority Action Plan
PHC	Primary Health Care
STG	Standard Treatment Guidelines
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TRIPS	Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
WHO	World Health Organization

Foreword

The Government of Seychelles considers health care a basic human right and that it should be available and accessible to the entire population. In order to ensure that this right is observed, Article 29 of the 1994 Constitution of the Republic of Seychelles allows for, among other things, that appropriate measures be taken to prevent, treat and control epidemic, endemic and other diseases¹.

Medicines in general and essential medicines in particular, are pivotal to the prevention, treatment and control of diseases. Since independence, Seychelles has made considerable progress in delivering quality pharmaceutical services to its population. However, new health care challenges and the ever increasing cost of health care have emphasized the need for the country to have a national medicine policy. Such a policy would provide essential orientations for the development of various aspects of the country's pharmaceutical sector.

The present Seychelles National Medicine Policy was developed through a consultative process with all national pharmaceutical sector stakeholders and under the guidance of the Ministry of Health and Social Development. It has been formulated and will be implemented in the context of the overall Seychelles National Health Policy. It gives policy orientations susceptible to provide solutions to the pressing problems of the Seychelles pharmaceutical sector. It charts the way forward to address problems in the provision of quality pharmaceutical services in Seychelles and ensuring access to good quality medicines to all people, and in particular to the most vulnerable : the poor, children and women.

The Ministry of Health and Social Development is very grateful for the support received from all those who have contributed to the development of the present policy and in particular the members of the Seychelles National Drug Policy Working Group as well as officials from the Ministry of Health and other Government ministries. The Ministry of Health and Social Development acknowledges the financial support provided by the European Community and the technical assistance of the World Health Organization in the development of the present Policy.

Mrs Marie-Pierre Lloyd
Minister of Health and Social Development

¹ <http://www.moh.gov.sc/fronpage.htm> accessed 01/08/2008

1. Introduction

1.1 History

Seychelles is a comparatively young archipelago nation of 155 granite and coralline islands in the Indian Ocean. Seychelles achieved independence from Britain on 29 June 1976 and became a Republic within the Commonwealth.

Mr. James Alix Michel succeeded Mr. France Albert as president in June 2004 and after winning the last presidential election in 2007.

1.2 Geography

Seychelles occupies a land area of 455 square kilometres, and a coastline of about 491 kilometres scattered over 1 million square kilometres of sea in the middle of western Indian Ocean, east of mainland Africa.

1.3 Climate

Seychelles has an enviable tropical climate with temperatures varying between 24°C and 32°C. The warmest and wettest months are from October to March when the Northwest trade winds blows. The Southeast trade winds bring the coolest and driest months from May to September.

1.4 Demography

Seychellois is a meltingpot of European, African, Indian and Chinese origins. Creole, the mother tongue, along with French and English are the official languages. The 2007 population was 85,032 inhabitants.

1.5 Administration

The Republic of Seychelles has a multi-party democracy system with an executive President as head of state and government. The President heads the Cabinet of ministers, which includes the Vice-President. The Seychelles has 25 administrative districts with the capital Victoria situated on the main island of Mahe.

Legislative power is vested in the National assembly of 34 members, 25 are elected directly to represent a district with the remaining balance filled on a proportional basis.

1.6 Economy

Seychelles GDP per capita has expanded seven fold since independence to US\$ 11,439, thanks to the tourism and tuna fishing industry.

2. Health Care Delivery System

2.1 Introduction

The Constitution of Seychelles ensures that health care is a basic human right and that it is available and accessible to the entire population.

With 11% of the Government's budget, the above objective has been achieved, as evidenced by the lengthening of life expectancy, low infant mortality rate (*10 per 1000 births*) and very low maternal deaths (*0 per 100,000 live births*)

2.2 The Ministry of Health and Social Development

The Ministry of Health and Social Development (MOHSD) aims at providing high standard affordable Health care services to the people of Seychelles at all times. The Minister and Principal Secretary of Health, both appointed by the Head of State, head the Ministry.

The ministry (MOHSD) is splitted into two departments: Department of Health and the Department for Social Development. A Health Service Agency headed by a Chief Executive officer reporting directly to the Minister was created to administer the health service delivery and facilities, including pharmaceutical services.

2.3 Organisation of health services

Seychelles has a tier system for its health care delivery built around the *primary*, *secondary* and *tertiary* levels of care.

The *primary* or *community level* (16 health centres) is the first level of contact and provides basic preventive, curative and rehabilitative care.

All referrals are made to the Victoria Hospitals. *Tertiary care* is provided either locally or overseas according to patient needs.

2.4 Public Health Facilities

Victoria Hospital, which provides specialised in- and outpatient care, together with four other hospitals and sixteen public health centres are the backbone of the country's healthcare delivery system. The 455 hospital beds available are satisfactory given the size of the population.

2.5 The Private Sector

The private sector is very small but increasing in importance. It includes eight private clinics / practitioners, five dental clinics and four pharmacies; and one health care shop.

2.6 Human Resources for Health

The human resources for health situation of the Seychelles compares very favourably with other countries of the African region. However, there is an important contribution of expatriate doctors and dentists. This leads to lack of continuity in health service delivery and disjointed health service planning.

Localisation of posts is therefore a major priority of the MOHSD. This will require training of sufficient local staff and creating the appropriate incentives for retaining them in the country in general, and in the public sector in particular. Measures for retaining staff in the public sector should include attractive remuneration packages and career development prospects particularly for young returning professionals. The development of a human resources development plan is therefore essential.

2.7 Challenges

Despite the gains over the past three decades, the country needs to do more in preventing and treating both acute and chronic diseases at primary and secondary levels. This could be done through the decentralisation of specialised certain services offered by Victoria Hospital.

Despite the ever-increasing cost of health care, the government should ensure that no one is denied access to it. There is some consensus that the country's population has to be called upon to participate more actively, financially and otherwise, in the restoration and maintenance of their own health.

3. The Pharmaceutical Sector

3.1 Introduction

The Pharmaceutical Services Department is part of the Health Services Authority. A Director, assisted by three pharmacists, a chemist and 48 pharmacy technicians, heads it. It is further divided into four units:

- 3.1.1 Victoria Hospital Pharmacy Services. Cater for ward pharmacies and specialized out patient clinical pharmacy services.
- 3.1.2 Primary health care pharmacy services.
- 3.1.3 Medicine Regulatory Unit comprised of medicine information unit, medicine notification and assessment,
- 3.1.4 National drug Quality control Laboratory
- 3.1.5 Pharmaceutical production
- 3.1.6 Medicines Procurement unit

The Pharmaceutical Services are responsible for the planning, regulating and managing the efficient and effective functioning of pharmaceutical services in the country. It is the responsibility of these services to ensure that only good quality, safe and effective medicines are available and accessible to the population.

4. Pharmaceutical Sector Situation Analysis

4.1 National Pharmaceutical Services Administration

The National Pharmaceutical Services Administration is headed a Director and is responsible for the efficient running of pharmaceutical services in the country and ensuring the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines in Seychelles. It is also responsible for:

- Enforcing existing pharmaceutical legislation and regulations.
- Formulating and implementing medicine policies in line with the national health policy.
- Providing quality pharmaceutical care
- Promoting rational prescribing, use and dispensing of medicines
- Procuring quality, safe and cost effective medicines, and ensuring that they are available and accessible at the point of use.

In the absence of a proper medicines regulatory authority, the administration through its medicines regulatory unit plays the role of a regulatory body. It endorses medicine imports and licensing of pharmaceutical premises, even though the final approvals are granted by the Ministry of Finance and the Licensing authority respectively. There is no registration of medicines and inspection activities are limited.

The medicines regulatory unit is staffed by two pharmaceutical technicians with no designated pharmacist in charge, but the Director of Pharmaceutical services oversees its operations.

The regulatory unit also lacks important resources such as reference books and other documents, and it needs to subscribe to internet resources. The administration as a whole also needs strengthening with adequate human and other resources to enable it effectively fulfill its multiple functions.

4.2 Legislation and Regulations.

For a long period, Seychelles has been using a Pharmacy Act dating from 1899. This was revised in 1991. The 1991 Act is currently being revised in order to respond to current realities of the pharmaceutical sector in the country.

The purpose of the new Act will be to promote and preserve public health, safety and welfare through effective control and regulation of all pharmaceutical activities in the country. The revision process is ongoing and further consultations will be required to ensure that the new Act covers all the relevant areas of pharmaceuticals.

4.3 Medicine Supply

Procurement of medicines for the public sector is the responsibility of the medicines procurement unit of the National Pharmaceutical Services Administration and is in principle based on the Seychelles National Essential Medicines List 200ç. Additional specialized items (certain anti-retrovirals, cytotoxics) are ordered on a named patient basis. A separate unit procures medical supplies.

The central medical stores are responsible for the storage, safekeeping and distribution of all medicines and medical supplies to public health facilities. Storage space for medicines is adequate, whereas for medical supplies storage space is insufficient and is kept at various locations outside the stores. The medical stores are not involved in the procurement process, except for communicating stock levels and requirements to the procurement units.

Despite the country's small population, it is not possible for the medicines procurement unit to obtain yearly supply of all medicines due to limitations in foreign currency allocation which is done on a weekly basis (US\$ 100 000) by the Ministry of Finance. This requires more frequent procurement (2 to 3 times a year).

In addition, suppliers are often not interested in supplying the small quantities ordered. Over the years, the country has however established privileged links with some suppliers and procurement is done through direct negotiation with them. Delivery delays by air shipment poses further challenges to the medicine supply chain. The overall value of medicine imports for the public sector in 2007 was US\$ 2.7 Million.

The current medical store is under the responsibility of the Finance and Administration directorate and its current staff does not include any pharmacist or pharmacy technician. Record keeping and stock management both at medical stores and health facilities require improvement, permanent transport is required and a comprehensive review of the country's medicine procurement and supply and management system is necessary.

4.4 Local Production

There is no commercial production of medicines in the country. However, a production unit located within the Victoria Hospital produces dialysis and IV fluids, ear and eye drops, syrups, antacids, some ointments and creams as well as other external preparations such as antiseptics and disinfectants. All these are for use by the hospital and other public health facilities.

Production operations are under the responsibility of a Principal technician assisted by a senior technician and production assistants. The premises are in need of urgent refurbishment and replacement of obsolete and non-functional equipment dating back to 1983 so that production can be cost effective, efficient and consistent. A technical audit is necessary to ensure GMP compliance. More space is required for storage and quarantine purposes.

4.5 Medicine Donations

The contribution of donations to the country's medicine supply is negligible. However, from time to time, minor donations are proposed by individuals or organizations. Currently there are no guidelines and procedures for handling them and decisions are taken as situations arise. The country requires guidelines in this area. Alternatively existing international (WHO) guidelines can be adopted for use by the country.

4.6 Pharmaceutical Quality Assurance

There are no established quality assurance procedures for pharmaceuticals imported into or manufactured in the country. There is no medicine inspectorate, registration of medicines. A quality control laboratory was however established in 2001 and situated at English River Health Centre carries out complete chemical analysis on all medicines imported by the Ministry of Health and also on all medicines produced locally for the public sector health facilities.

The laboratory is currently run by a Chemist assisted by three technicians. There is a need for more quality control staff in order to cater for the country's future quality control requirements. A technical audit is required in order to prepare the laboratory to its future as an instrument for the future regulatory authority. This audit needs to look at issues such as staffing levels, training needs, space, equipment, etc.

4.7 Financing and pricing

The current public expenditure for medicine, which is USD 2.7 Million (2007), translates to about USD 30 per person. Prescribed medicines are provided free of charge in public health facilities. Over the past three decades, this has ensured unlimited access to medicines and care to the entire Seychelles population.

However, increasing medicine and health care costs require that new ways of financing be explored if current gains in access to medicines are to be sustained. Any future solutions to this situation should however not deny access to health care and to medicines to those who can not afford to pay.

Due to economic liberalization, there are no price controls, medicines included. It is however important that prices for essential medicines are kept within certain limits, so that access to them is not denied to some sections of the population. Elimination or reduction of sales tax on medicines and the containment of profit margins are some ways of achieving this.

4.8 Human Resources

There is a shortage of qualified staff in various units of the National Pharmaceutical Services Administration. There are currently 3 pharmacists including the Director, a chemist and 45 pharmacy technicians in the public sector. There is need for at least 6 more pharmacists and 10 technicians.

These needs will be higher with the creation of the regulatory body. There is need for training of more pharmaceutical personnel (pharmacists, pharmacy technicians) and putting in place incentives to attract and retain them in the country in general and the public sector in particular.

The National Institute for Health, which is part of the Ministry of Education, offers courses in health related areas including pharmacy technician training. There is a need for closer collaboration with the MOHSD for the training of sufficient numbers of pharmaceutical personnel.

4.9 Rational Use of Medicine

Currently there are no mechanisms for monitoring medicine use by health workers and the general public. This is mainly due to the lack of the necessary tools, staff and resources. In the context of free medicines provided in health facilities, there is always an element of wastage which has to be reduced to a minimum.

Training of staff in rational prescribing and dispensing is necessary, and the current rational medicine use aids such as the National Essential Medicine List 2009, the Standard Treatment Guidelines 2004 and the National Formulary 2000 need to be updated. Appropriate medicine information should also be compiled and disseminated to health workers and the public. The current Medicines and Therapeutics Committee needs to play a

much more active role in promoting rational use of medicines and the induction of expatriate health workers.

4.10 Traditional and Complementary Medicine

There is no policy on traditional medicine(s). Even though its use is currently not wide spread, the absence of collaboration between traditional and conventional health practitioners makes it imperative to take measures to protect the public from unscrupulous sellers of traditional preparations whose quality, safety, efficacy has not been demonstrated.

4.11 Research and Development

There is limited research in the area of pharmaceuticals. However, it is essential that students at the National Institute for Health be introduced to operational research and contribute to resolving some of the country's pressing pharmaceutical sector problems particularly in areas such as rational use.

4.12. Technical and Inter-Sectoral Cooperation

Given the numerous challenges within the pharmaceutical sector, there is a need for closer technical and inter-sectoral cooperation between the MOHSD on one hand, and other government ministries and bi-lateral and multi-lateral partners on the other, in order to establish partnerships, mobilize resources and technical assistance.

Appropriate **Monitoring and Evaluation** mechanisms will also be necessary to ensure that set objectives within the current policy are being achieved and the necessary adjustments made in case of deviation.

5. Priority Issues to be addressed

The above overview of the Seychelles pharmaceutical sector highlights some priority problems for which policy orientations are required so that appropriate interventions can be undertaken to resolve them:

- 5.1** Inadequate capacity and resources for the coordination of all activities of the Seychelles pharmaceutical sector.
- 5.2** The existing legislation and regulations are inadequate for the effective regulation and control of the national pharmaceutical sector.
- 5.3** Limited Limited capacity and resources for the procurement, storage and distribution of medicines and medical supplies.
- 5.4** Inadequacy of quality assurance procedures to ensure the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines entering the Seychelles market.
- 5.5** Inadequate public financing for medicines and medical supplies in the wake of increasing prices.
- 5.6** Critical shortage of qualified pharmaceutical human resources.
- 5.7** Absence of a framework and appropriate tools for the promotion of rational use of medicines, including traditional medicines, by the public and health workers.
- 5.8** Need to create local production conditions in line with current good manufacturing practise
- 5.9** Limited research into priority problems affecting the Seychelles pharmaceutical sector.

6. Goal of the Seychelles National Medicine Policy.

The overall goal of the Seychelles National Medicine Policy is to contribute to improving the health of the Seychelles population by ensuring equitable access to good quality, safe and efficacious medicines at affordable cost, and that these medicines are used rationally.

7. General Objectives of the Seychelles National Medicine Policy

The attainment of the general objectives the Seychelles National Medicine Policy will contribute to achieving the goal the Seychelles National Health Policy, leading to a healthy nation capable of participating fully in its own socio-economic development efforts.

7.1 Organisation

Ensure that the country has the appropriate administrative, policy and legal framework for the effective control and coordination of all activities in the country's pharmaceutical sector.

7.2 Access to medicines

Ensure continuous availability and access to essential medicines and other medical supplies to the population and at affordable cost to the individual and the society

7.3 Quality assurance

Ensure the quality, safety and efficacy of all medicines and medical supplies being provided to the population.

7.4 Rational use of medicines

Ensure the rational prescribing, dispensing and use of all medicines by patients and health workers.

8. Policy Orientations

8.1 National Pharmaceutical Services Administration

The objective of the Seychelles National Medicine Policy is to strengthen the national pharmaceutical services administration so as to enable it to fulfill its present and future responsibilities.

In order to achieve this objective the Government is committed to:

- 8.1.1 Raise pharmaceutical services to the level of a Division instead of a Section with direct reporting lines to the Health Services Authority Chief Executive Officer.
- 8.1.2 Provide pharmaceutical services with the necessary resources to carry out its multiple functions.
- 8.1.3 Join ongoing efforts within the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) aimed at harmonizing regulatory requirements in the pharmaceutical sector.
- 8.1.4 Provide evidence-based medicine information to health workers and the public.
- 8.1.5 Establish procedures for the disposal of expired, unwanted and undesirable medicines, medical supplies and devices.
- 8.1.6 Establish and ensure effective application of criteria for the inclusion of pharmaceutical products into the National Essential Medicine list.
- 8.1.7 Establish medicine and medical supply requirements through periodic national and facility level quantification exercises using appropriate methodologies.
- 8.1.8 Regularly update the information on pharmaceutical services on the official MOHSD website.

8.2 Legislation and Regulations

In relation to legislation and regulations, the objective of the Seychelles National Medicine Policy is to put in place the appropriate legislative and regulatory frameworks for the implementation of the present policy and enable effective control of the national pharmaceutical sector.

In order to achieve this objective the Government will:

- 8.2.1 Enact comprehensive legislation and regulations with provision for, among other things, establishment of a medicine regulatory authority, registration of medicines and

health professionals, licensing of premises, drug inspectorate, control of medicine importations, generic substitution, quality assurance of medicines, control of veterinary medicines, parallel importation and compulsory licensing in accordance with Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), as well as conditions for dispensing doctors and various levels prescribers.

- 8.2.2 Put sufficient resources at the disposal of the medicine regulatory authority to enable it carry out its multiple functions.

8.3 Medicine Supply

The objective of the Seychelles National Medicine Policy in medicine supply is to ensure efficient procurement, storage and distribution of sufficient quantities of essential medicines and other medical supplies.

To achieve this objective the Government is committed to:

- 8.3.1 Ensure that procurement of medicines for the public and private sector is restricted to products registered for use in the country and subject to an import license granted by the medicine regulatory authority.
- 8.3.2 Ensure sufficient and well equipped storage facilities and that all reception, storage and distribution activities for medicines and medical supplies are under the responsibility of pharmaceutical personnel.
- 8.3.4 Intensify efforts to procure medicines at the most favorable prices on the world market and ensure their timely shipping under the best possible conditions using International Non-Proprietary Names (INN).
- 8.3.5 Pending the development of national guidelines on donations, adopt and use Inter-agency (WHO) donation guidelines for the management of medicines and medical supply donations.
- 8.3.6 Establish a monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure adherence to existing procurement, storage and distribution guidelines and procedures.
- 8.3.7 Ensure the safe disposal or destruction of expired or otherwise unwanted medicines and medical supplies based on national guidelines and procedures or other existing international guidelines and procedures.

8.4 Quality Assurance

The objective of the Seychelles National Medicine Policy with regard to quality assurance is to ensure that only those medicines that are safe, effective and of assured quality are used in Seychelles.

In order to achieve this objective the Government is committed to:

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- 8.4.1 Promote understanding of the need for effective quality assurance of medicines and medical supplies by health workers and the general public.
 - 8.4.2 Establish procedures for the registration of medicines, inspection of pharmaceutical premises, licensing and quality control.
 - 8.4.3 Provide a legal status and resources to the current Quality Control Laboratory to enable it fully play its role as a tool for the medicine regulatory authority.
 - 8.4.4 Develop mechanisms for controlling and combating substandard and counterfeit medicines including the use of the WHO Certification scheme.
 - 8.4.5 Establish a national pharmacovigilance program to monitor and report adverse medicine reactions.
 - 8.4.6 Develop and implement effective recall procedures and promptly address quality concerns reported by health workers and the public.

8.5 Medicine Financing and Pricing

The objective of the Seychelles National Medicine Policy in medicine financing and pricing is to ensure sustainable financing and to maintain cost effective prices for medicines and medical supplies.

In order to achieve this objective the Government is committed to:

- 8.5.1 Ensure adequate public financing for medicines and medical supplies.
- 8.5.2 Establish and enforce the necessary control and monitoring mechanism for accountability in the use of funds for medicines.
- 8.5.3 To advocate for more foreign exchange allocation.
- 8.5.4 Establish a pricing policy for medicines and medical supplies.
- 8.5.5 Carry out a medicine financing study to examine various options for sustainable financing for medicines in Seychelles.
- 8.5.6 Consider the exemption or reduction of duties and taxes on essential medicines on the Seychelles National Essential Medicine List and ensure that the price reduction benefits the patients.
- 8.5.7 Promote the concept and practice of generic prescribing and substitution as a means of minimizing medicine costs.

8.6 Human Resources

The objective of the Seychelles National Medicine Policy in relation to human resources is to provide sufficient qualified pharmaceutical personnel for the efficient running of pharmaceutical services in Seychelles.

In order to achieve this objective the Government is committed to:

- 8.6.1 Develop and implement a national pharmaceutical human resources development plan as an integral part of the overall national human resources for health development plan, with clear career structures and retention incentives in the country in general and the public sector in particular.
- 8.6.2 Forge closer working relationships with the National Institute for Health in the training of sufficient numbers of pharmacy technicians who should also be competent in areas such as stores management, quality control, rational use and stores / medicine management.
- 8.6.3 Mobilize resources from various partners for the training of pharmacists and other specialized pharmaceutical cadres.
- 8.6.4 In collaboration with the National Institute for Health, develop and implement in-service training programs to address on the job requirements in the implementation of the policy.
- 8.6.5 Ensure adequate supervision and support for pharmaceutical staff at all health facilities.

8.7 Rational Medicine Use

In relation to rational use of medicines, the objective of the Seychelles National Medicine Policy is to ensure the rational use of medicine by both health workers, patients and the general public in order to maximize their therapeutic benefit.

In order to achieve this objective the Government is committed to:

- 8.7.1 Include rational use of medicines as a component of existing and future training curricula of all health workers to ensure sufficient exposure to the essential medicines concept.
- 8.7.2 Provide continuing education on relevant aspects of medicine use to all health workers: prescribing, dispensing, advice to patients, medicine management.
- 8.7.3 Develop and implement information, education and communication campaigns on rational medicine use for the public.
- 8.7.4 Establish medicines information services to generate and disseminate evidence based information for the promotion of rational medicine use.

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- 8.7.5 Enforce generic prescribing and dispensing in the public sector, and encourage it in the private sector, and establish regulatory measures to allow generic substitution.
 - 8.7.6 Put in place measures to monitor and control medicine advertising and promotion.
 - 8.7.7 Update existing rational medicine tools: essential medicine list, standard treatment guidelines and national formulary.
 - 8.7.8 Enforce use of Essential Medicine List, Standard Treatment Guidelines and National Formulary in the public sector, and encourage the same in the private sector.
 - 8.7.9 Provide guidelines and legal provisions for the issuing of licenses to dispensing health professionals.

8.8 Complimentary and Traditional Medicine

The objective of the Seychelles National Medicine Policy in this area is to promote the safe use of traditional and complementary medicine.

In order to achieve this objective the Government is committed to:

- 8.8.1 Initiate consultations with traditional health practitioners and other interested parties for the development of a traditional medicine policy as well as a legal framework for the practice of traditional medicine in Seychelles.
- 8.8.2 Put in place mechanisms to ensure that traditional medicines proposed to the public are safe and that therapeutic claims made by traditional health practitioners are founded.

8.9 Local Production

The objective of the Seychelles National Medicine Policy is to encourage small scale local production of simple preparations to supplement the supply to the country's health facilities.

In order to achieve this objective the Government is committed to:

- 8.9.1 Ensure cost-effectiveness of local production by providing incentives such as the removal or reduction of taxes and duties on raw and packaging materials.
- 8.9.2 Carry out a technical audit of the existing Ministry of Health production unit production unit.

8.10 Research

The objective of the Seychelles National Medicine Policy is to encourage operational research aimed at solving pressing problems of the Seychelles Pharmaceutical Sector.

In order to achieve this objective the Government is committed to:

- 8.10.1 Promote collaboration with the research unit of the MOHSD, the National Institute for Health and the National Ethics Committee in establishing a national framework for operational research.
- 8.10.2 Identify priority areas for research and encourage students at the National institute for health to carry out projects in such areas.
- 8.10.3 Ensure that all clinical trials are duly authorized by the Ethics Committee and that all medicines, medical supplies and devices used in such trials have been duly authorized for that purpose by the Medicines Regulatory Authority.

8.11 Technical and Inter-sectoral Cooperation

The objective of the Seychelles National Medicine Policy is to strengthen technical and inter-sectoral cooperation between the MOHSD and other government ministries as well as bi-lateral and multilateral partners, on matters concerning the national pharmaceutical sector.

In order to achieve this objective the Government is committed to:

- 8.11.1 Ensuring inter-ministerial consultation and collaboration on national pharmaceutical matters (Finance and Trade on taxes and duties, Agriculture on veterinary medicines).
- 8.11.2 Involvement of civil society, private sector, professional associations, non-governmental organizations on national pharmaceutical matters as and when the need arises.
- 8.11.3 Strengthen collaboration with bi- and multi-lateral partners, sub-regional and regional organization particularly in relation to technology transfer, harmonization, and the mobilization of financial and technical resources for policy implementation, monitoring and implementation.

9. Implementation of the Seychelles National Medicine Policy

- 9.1 A National Medicine Implementation Plan will be developed for the implementation of the present policy.
- 9.2 The MOHSD will be responsible for the effective implementation of the present policy in collaboration with other government ministries and partners.
- 9.3 A fund raising strategy will be established to source funding for those elements of the policy that can not be funded from public funds.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation

A multi-disciplinary monitoring and evaluation committee should be established to follow up progress in policy implementation and to carry out final evaluation of policy implementation.
