



# ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS

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## Task

Ensure stakeholders' commitment by involving public health authorities, bringing together partners and establishing coordination roles and mechanisms.

## Overview

Rolling out of a new product such as LPV/r pellets into the national health care system requires commitment from policymakers and coordination among stakeholders. This will ensure that the new product can be introduced in a timely manner, and that stakeholders can direct their capacities to best contribute to HIV programmatic goals. At this stage of the rollout process, Ministry of Health (MOH) program staff should orient themselves and MOH stakeholders to the details on LPV/r pellets before leading a broader set of stakeholders towards development of a rollout strategy and plan. MOH program staff should familiarize themselves with the specifications of new formulations, and the purpose of introducing LPV/r pellets ([WHO guidance](#)) [PDF, 713KB]).

## Recommended Actions

- **Educate relevant MOH decision-makers and key opinion leaders** (e.g. clinicians, implementing partners, patient advocacy groups, and relevant funding partners) about the [background and evidence for adoption of LPV/r pellets](#). The full body of relevant stakeholders may also include sub-national MOH representatives, drug regulatory bodies, warehousing and distribution staff, private-sector organizations, and national technical working groups. These individuals can initiate the rollout process and serve as advocates and champions for pellet rollout.
- **Consider country-to-country phone/email exchanges or study tours** (in which partners travel to a country that has completed the rollout process) as an option for building confidence among MOH decision makers. These interactions provide an opportunity to ask detailed questions of staff who have completed the pellet rollout process.
- **Consider establishing a dedicated steering committee for product rollout**, including relevant stakeholders. MOH policy makers, clinicians, project and commodity funders, implementing partners, civil society organizations and nongovernmental organizations should all have representation within the steering committee in order to facilitate communication during the rollout process. Also consider including representatives of the relevant drug regulatory authority to help facilitate the regulatory approval process. The

steering committee can be a new body or can be a part of an existing formal body such as a technical working group related to HIV control.

- **Ensure routine, consistent communication.** The steering committee or technical working group should communicate goals, policy decisions, and timings to all partners. Part of the purpose of this steering committee will be to make sure that the full network of partners is operating in a coordinated fashion.
- **Assign formal roles for individuals and groups within the steering committee.** A full-time coordinator should be assigned by the MOH to manage the rollout process among partners and ensure that consistent communication is taking place. In addition, specific groups should have responsibility for required tasks during rollout, such as [procurement](#), [training](#), [distribution](#), and [monitoring](#).

## Additional Resources

- [Supply Planning for New Dosage Form of Lopinavir and Ritonavir Oral Pellets Policy Brief](#) [PDF, 852KB]: WHO, IATT, and UNICEF document listing important program design considerations and assumptions for the development for LPV/r pellet rollout related to forecasting and supply planning.