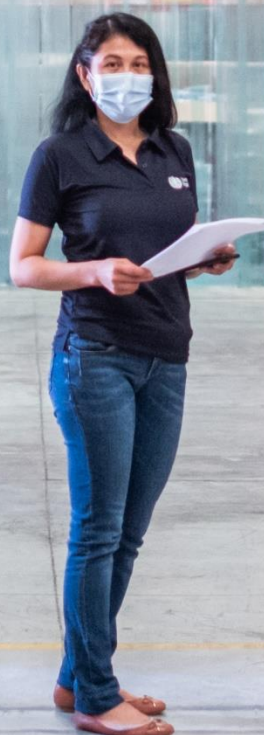


WHO Procurement Report 2021



World Health
Organization



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ISBN 978-92-4-004947-5 (electronic version)

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Introduction

Founded in 1948, WHO is the United Nations agency that connects nations, partners and people to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable – so everyone, everywhere can attain the highest level of health.

WHO leads global efforts to expand universal health coverage. It directs and coordinates the world's response to health emergencies. And it promotes healthier lives – from pregnancy care through old age. WHO's Triple Billion targets outline an ambitious plan for the world to achieve good health for all, using science-based policies and programmes.

WHO procures and supplies on a yearly basis a significant amount of goods and services to enable its important public health mandate, and is thus a critical function of the organization.

The WHO Procurement Report, which has been published since 2020, provides an overview of procurement at WHO, details essential procurement data for the year, and showcases key initiatives and highlights. This report is produced in line with WHO's commitment to transparency and for the benefit of WHO Member States, donors, partners, WHO staff, the supplier community and other stakeholders.

The WHO Procurement Report complements the Annual Statistical Report on United Nations Procurement (ASR) to which WHO contributes and that provides an overview of procurement data of approximately forty organizations within the United Nations (UN) system. The ASR is available on the United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM) and includes interactive data dashboards¹.

¹ <https://www.ungm.org/Shared/KnowledgeCenter/Pages/ASR>

PART 1

Procurement at WHO



In order to fulfil its mandate and achieve its vision, WHO procures a significant volume of goods and services. In the period 2013-2019 WHO purchased on average US\$ 770 million worth of goods and services per year. In 2020, the procurement volume was significantly higher at US\$ 1.718 billion due to the global pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the related emergency response provided by WHO. In 2021, while slightly decreasing, the procurement volume has remained, with US\$ 1.657 billion, at a high level in the wake of the continued global pandemic.

As a public organization entrusted with donor funds and committed to supporting developing economies, the objective of procurement and supply activities within WHO is the timely acquisition and delivery of goods and services, while respecting guiding principles for procurement.

The overall guiding principle for all WHO procurement is to obtain the best value for money for the Organization. “Best value for money” is defined as the most responsive offer that represents the best combination of technical specifications, quality and price. Best value for money is the result of several factors, including: quality; experience; vendor reputation; and life-cycle costs, benefits and parameters that measure how well the good or service allows the Organization to meet its social, environmental or other objectives and has the greatest possible impact on the outcomes from WHO programmes. Other guiding principles² that are the basis for WHO procurement are fairness, integrity, transparency and equal treatment; effective competition; the interest of WHO; and sustainable procurement, which entails social, environmental, and economic considerations. As a public organization, WHO must also strictly adhere to the Organization’s Financial Regulations and Rules and dedicated procurement policies and procedures, which mandate, among other requirements, that contracts be awarded through a competitive process, except when otherwise authorized by designated officials. Suppliers play an essential role in WHO’s supply chain and in 2021 alone, WHO contracted over 18 000 different suppliers from 186 countries (for guidance on how to become a supplier to WHO refer to Annex 4).

In WHO, responsibility for procurement is based on a tiered system, with procurement carried out at the global, regional and local/country levels. In addition, the WHO Health Emergencies Programme has delegated authority for procurement for emergencies in accordance with established policies and protocols. Contract Review Committees at the WHO headquarters or regional offices ensure that procurement undertaken by WHO complies with the procurement principles and relevant policies and procedures, procurement risks are properly assessed and mitigated, and the best value for money and the interest of the organization are fully achieved. Furthermore, WHO procurement activities are continuously subject to rigorous internal and external audits.

Procurement is one part of the supply chain and to deliver supplies to programmes, in 2021, WHO expedited over 6000 international commodity movements (surface, sea and air) through its network of freight forwarders and partners, consolidating orders and delivering to some of the most remote, hard-to-reach locations globally. This was complemented by over 70 warehouses and storage facilities managed by WHO, including the WHO Dubai Hub, which in 2021 supported the delivery of approximately US\$ 48 million in health supplies to 100 countries across all WHO regions, consolidating and fulfilling over 545 orders, a 20% increase over the previous year.

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