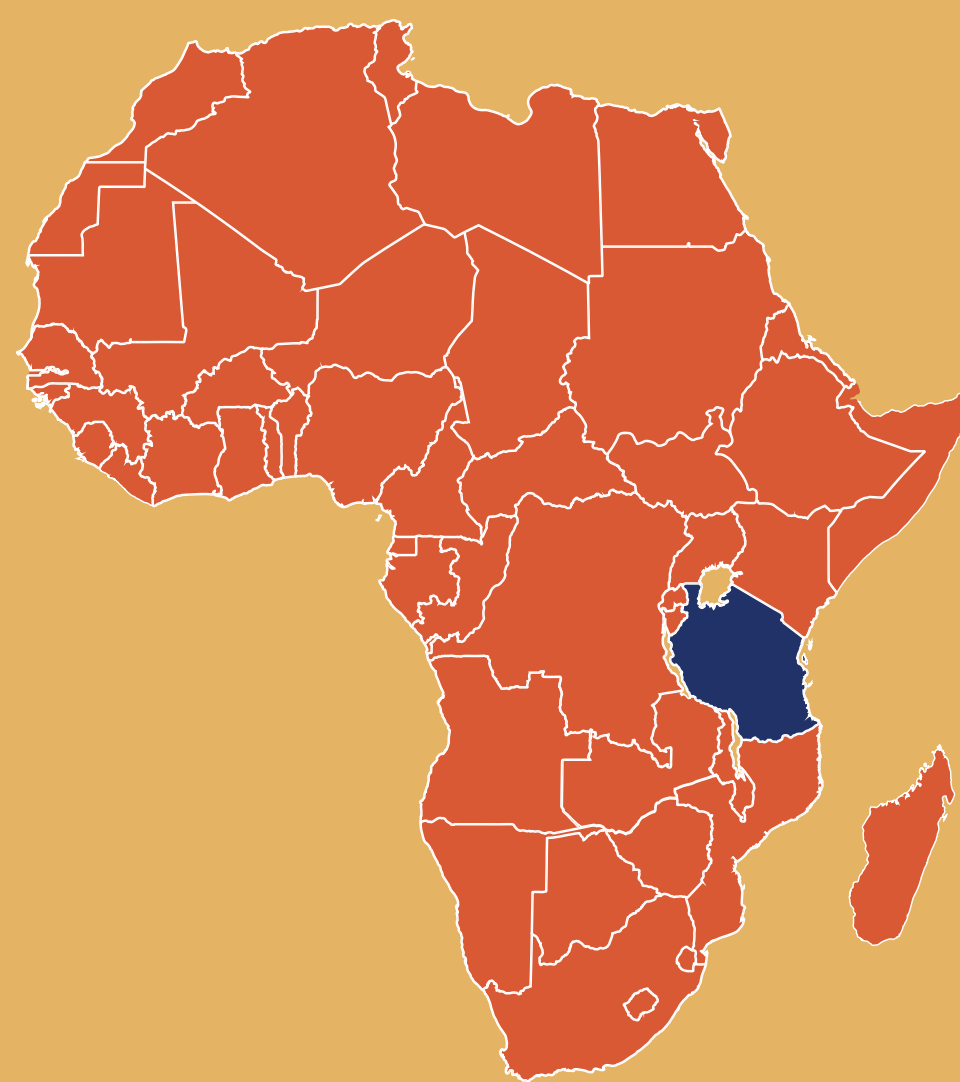


# Integrating Supply Chain Management Into Pre-Service Training in Tanzania

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## 1. BACKGROUND

In 2011, with the help of the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT and SCMS, the Tanzanian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare conducted an assessment that identified a need to incorporate supply chain management (SCM) into academic curricula for health care workers in Tanzania. The two projects then developed a competency-based curricula for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. In 2013, these SCM modules were integrated into the academic curriculum for pharmacy students as part of their professional training.



## 2. METHOD



Meetings with various government and health education related institutions built momentum for the creation of a pre-service training (PST) curriculum and introduced academic partners to the principles and practices of health commodity

SCM. An orientation to supply chain training and adult learning methods was provided to 19 lecturers to teach health institutions how and where SCM can be integrated into PST curricula.



## 3. RESULTS



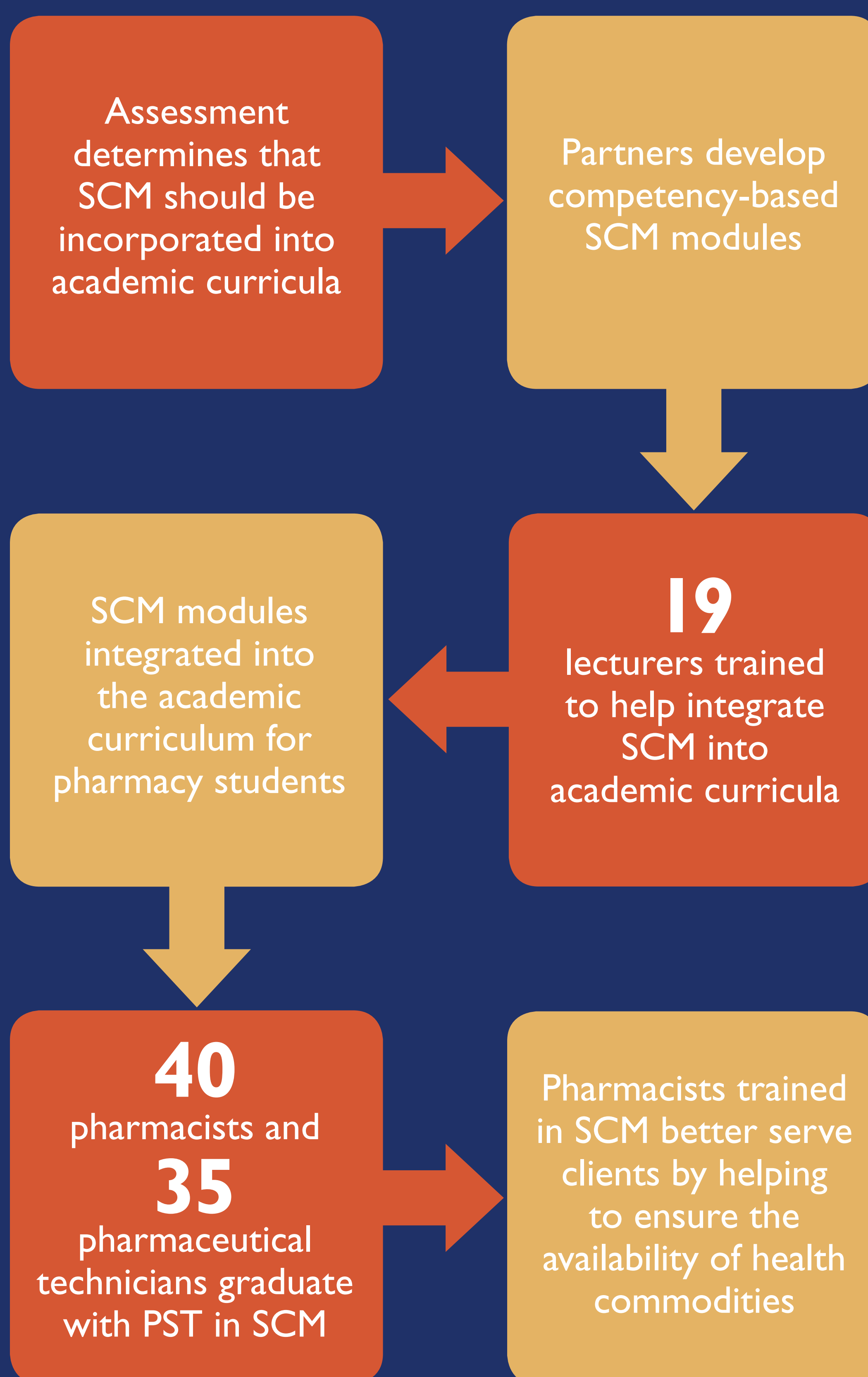
SCM was successfully integrated into the bachelor of pharmacy curriculum at the Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences (MUHAS) and the Institute of Allied Health Sciences (IAHS).

By 2013, 40 pharmacists and 35 pharmaceutical technicians had been trained and graduated in SCM. Other public and private training institutions have expressed interest. SCMS



and the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT are now collaborating with the St. Luke Foundation at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centres School of Pharmacy and St. John University in Dodoma to integrate SCM into their diplomas for the pharmaceutical technician course and the bachelor of pharmacy course, respectively.

## THE TANZANIA PST INTEGRATION PROCESS



## 4. LESSONS LEARNED

- Involvement of government institutions is critical to ensure all stakeholders—
  - accept changes in curricula
  - follow government policies and procedures.
- To achieve the greatest impact, the right strategies, policies, and plans must be in place for supply chain worker—
  - recruitment
  - retention
  - professionalization.



## 5. DISCUSSION/ CONCLUSION

Education is often referred to as an effective social vaccine to curb the spread of HIV and AIDS and other major diseases, and to ensure their effective management. Having a human resource pool knowledgeable in SCM is paramount to—

- obtaining accurate and timely logistics data
- using that data to strengthen health commodity supply chains.

The successful integration of PST in higher learning institutions is just one step toward ensuring future commodity security in Tanzania. A monitoring framework focusing on direct performance of pre-service versus in-service training will be needed to fully understand and document the impact of the intervention.

