

Yale Global Health Leadership Institute

Project Last Mile

The Yale Global Health Leadership Institute (GHLI), in collaboration with *The Coca-Cola Company* and other founding partners of [Project Last Mile \(PLM\)](#), conducts research to address the question: ***Given its exceptional reach, how can Coca-Cola's supply chain and marketing expertise be used to improve the availability of essential medicines?***

PLM brings together the Coca-Cola system (including the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation), USAID, The Global Fund, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to help improve health systems across Africa in a sustainable way. The project was launched in Tanzania in 2010 through work with the Medical Stores Department (MSD) and has since expanded to reach public sector stakeholders in Ghana, South Africa, Mozambique, and Nigeria. The partnership is committed to leveraging Coca-Cola's core business expertise to increase access to and demand for essential medicines and health services in up to 10 African countries by 2020.

GHLI serves as the academic partner for PLM, leading project monitoring and evaluation, and has created a global monitoring and evaluation framework to track PLM progress and impact. Because PLM is tailored to each country's needs and priorities, GHLI works closely with partners in each country setting to adapt the research design to the local context.

GHLI's scientific expertise allows the PLM team to share results with confidence, understand implementation successes and failures, and describe the opportunities and challenges associated with nontraditional public-private partnerships. To paint a complete picture of PLM's impact, we study the supply chain in each country setting, conduct and analyze stakeholder interviews, conduct numerous field observations, and track changes in key performance metrics.

GHLI's research findings are captured in several ways, including:

1. an online teaching [case study](#) designed for students interested in business and global health, to help them gain an in-depth understanding of medical supply chain challenges in developing countries;
2. scientific [abstracts](#) and manuscripts designed to share results to date and lessons learned with the broader public health and development community; and,
3. project [reports](#) designed to inform improvements in the approach and promote engagement of key stakeholders in the business and development communities.