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IAPHL's Contribution to Strengthening Supply Chains for Family Planning Products

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Background

Until recently, in developing countries, supply chain management (SCM) was not recognized as a unique profession. There were no professional associations for supply chain professionals, as there are for pharmacists, nurses, and other health professions.

In 2007, the increasing need for global dialogue for health supply chain experiences, skills, and best practices led the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT to create the International Association of Public Health Logisticians (IAPHL)—the first community of practice for public health supply chain managers.

From April 2014–April 2015 the IAPHL website received—

over 28,000 pageviews

More than 8,000 visitors

from 133 countries



700
Facebook likes



600
Twitter followers

What is IAPHL?

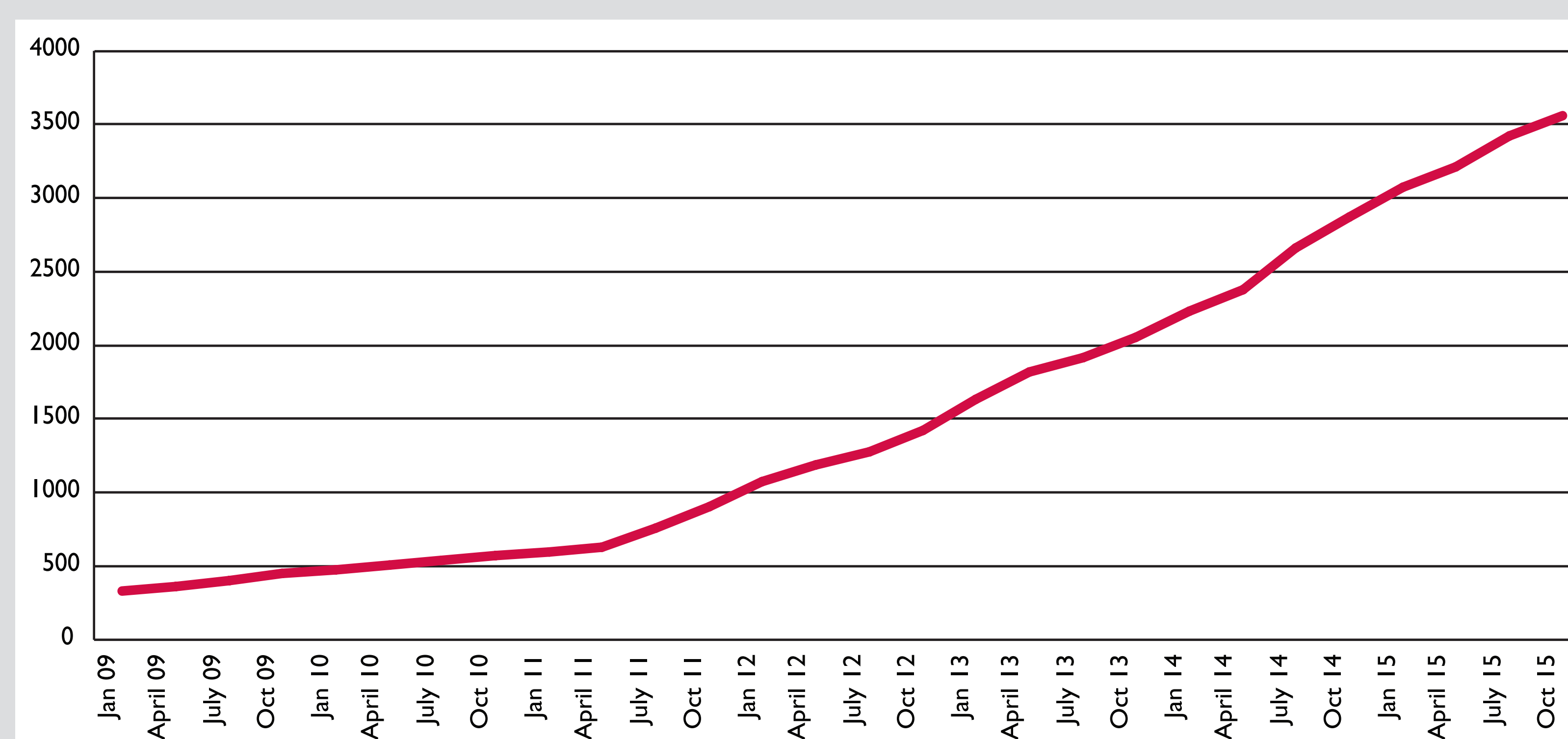
IAPHL, a membership association, provides virtual space where logisticians from around the world can support each other by sharing information, experiences, and resources. Membership is free of charge.

IAPHL offers—

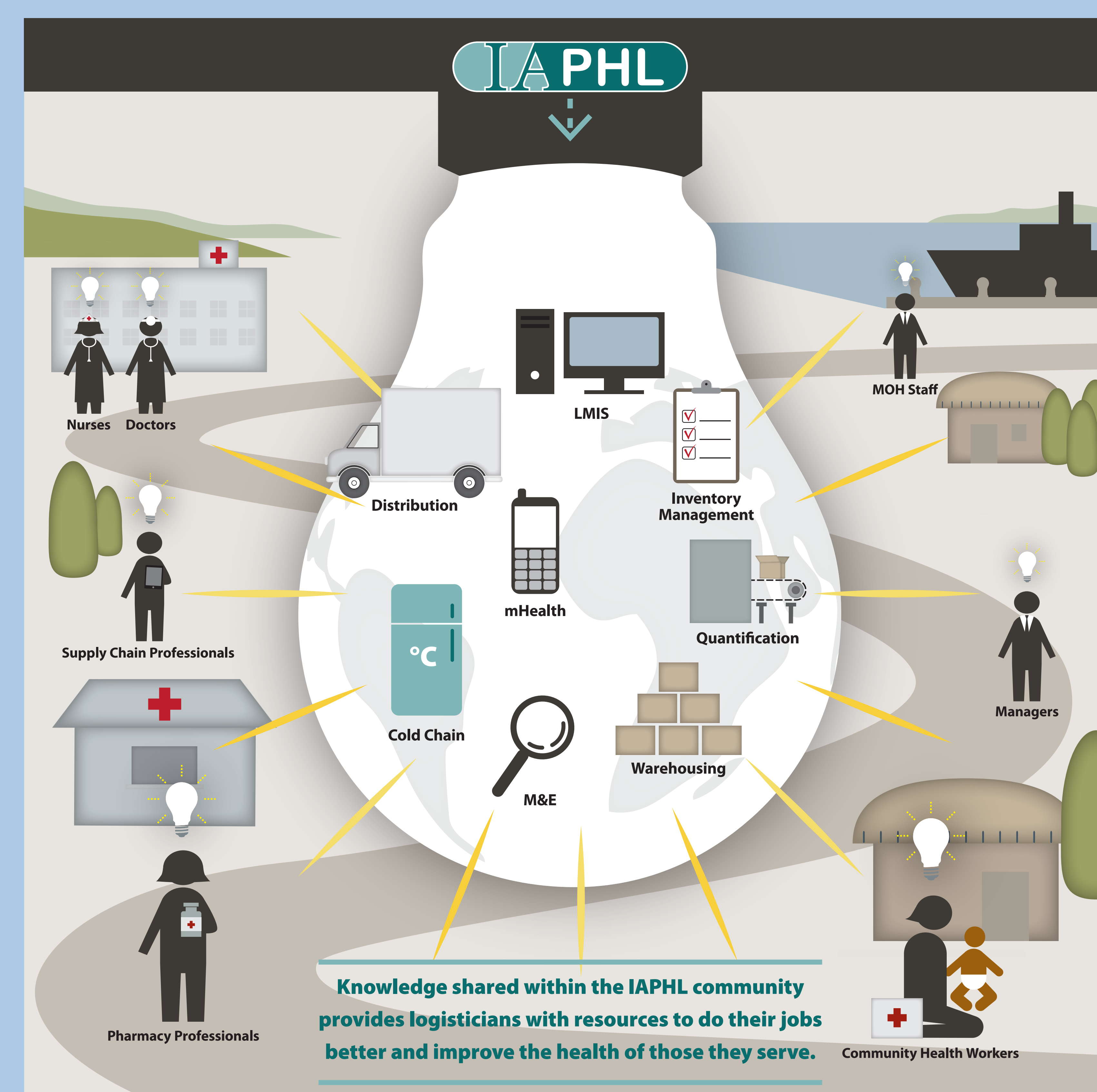
- online structured discussions on specific supply chain topics, moderated by subject matter experts
- access to information about upcoming conferences, trainings, webinars, and other events of interest to the SCM community, as well as job postings
- sponsorships for members to attend SCM conferences
- access to an online resource library.

The association has grown from 120 members in 2007 to more than 3,500 members in October 2015, with steadily increasing member engagement. Members hail from 155 different countries, primarily developing countries in Africa and Asia.

IAPHL Membership Growth from January 2009–October 2015



IAPHL is Engaged with members from 155 countries around the world



How does IAPHL help strengthen supply chain management?

IAPHL promotes south-to-south learning and creates a unique platform that enables supply chain professionals from all levels—from national levels to service delivery points—to interact and solve critical problems that countries face in ensuring family planning product availability.

Members actively participate in the online discussions; in just the past year, the association received 50 or more contributions per month, for 10 of the 12 months. Out of the 160 respondents to the 2014 annual survey, 73 percent reported that the association has increased their knowledge of SCM.

IAPHL leverages the range of experience of its membership—those more senior and with more experience share their knowledge—the younger professionals learn from their experiences and avoid the same mistakes in their own countries.

The supply chain community values the organization's services, shown by the increasing demand. IAPHL has brought international recognition to public health supply chain management as a discipline and is making important contributions toward professionalization of health SCM in the public sector.

For more information, visit www.iaphl.org