



SPARC

STRATEGIC PURCHASING AFRICA RESOURCE CENTER

Results for Development (R4D) has launched the **Strategic Purchasing Africa Resource Center (SPARC)**, a new initiative to strengthen strategic purchasing expertise in sub-Saharan Africa and move countries closer to universal health coverage. **SPARC** will be housed within a yet-to-be-named Africa-based institution, matching expertise to country demand by brokering tailored packages of strategic purchasing support.

INITIATIVE SUMMARY

SPARC will enable interested African countries to tap into a network of African experts, trained in the technical areas of strategic purchasing, facilitation and advocacy, as an alternative to traditional international technical support. **SPARC** will provide countries with home-grown options in the form of “packaged support” uniquely tailored to country demand, and focused on improving strategic purchasing systems that maximize the value and reach of government funding for health.

“Strategic purchasing” means that those buying health services and medicines on the part of the public (purchasers) do more than simply allocate budgets or pay the bills. It means they actively consider and make transparent decisions about what health services and medicines to buy; who will provide these services and medicines; and how, or through what mechanisms they will be paid for.

“Ensuring equitable access to high-quality services...requires knowledge of how to maximize the value of investments.”



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Since governments are often the largest single purchasers of health services and medicines in a country, they have the power to shape the health care market and health service delivery to ensure equitable access to high-quality services. But to do so requires knowledge of how to maximize the value of investments — and the ability to navigate through a complex array of stakeholders with varying interests and motivations. A significant proportion of strategic purchasing capacity-building in Africa, has been provided through “fly-in/fly-out” technical assistance. But these efforts typically fail to adequately address local underlying issues. They also tend to overlook existing local expertise.

To address the long-term technical need and leverage existing African expertise, **SPARC** will:

CONNECT

Connect key players and stakeholders within government agencies, academic institutions and NGOs — thus building and supporting a cadre of regional experts. SPARC will connect these experts to one another to share real-time implementation experience and for peer support and learning, while also offering coaching, mentoring and access to global resources to broaden and strengthen expertise.

MATCH

Match country demand for strategic purchasing expertise with regional experts, complemented by global expertise and experience, who understand the local context and stakeholders and can work effectively in challenging environments through packages of support tailored to country need.

SHARE

Share practical lessons learned about what works in which contexts related to strategic purchasing to promote continual improvement and new knowledge among experts and purchasers in the network through peer-to-peer learning.

SPARC is currently seeking potential partners — experts and institutions — to begin building this vibrant network.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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