

WHO Survey on Security of Insulin Supply

Summary for Regional Office Colleagues

Deadline: 30 August 2025

Departments: NMH & HPS, WHO Headquarters

Survey Format and Survey Type: Interactive online questionnaire (ArcGIS Survey123 platform)

Estimated Time: 45minutes with data collection requiring detailed procurement information for insulin

Key Requirement: Access to annual procurement volumes and shortage information for approximately May 2023-2025

Background Context

The number of people living with diabetes rose from 200 million in 1990 to **830 million in 2022**, with prevalence increasing more rapidly in LMICs. More than half of people with diabetes did not take medication for their condition.

WHO's report "Keeping the 100-year-old promise – making insulin access universal" identified key barriers to insulin availability:

- **Global market shift** from human insulin to higher-priced insulin analogues, disrupting overall supply
- Suboptimal regulation and pricing policies
- Weak procurement and supply chain management
- Insufficient financing, health system capacity, and infrastructure

Current challenges are intensifying due to recent discontinuation of certain insulin types and delivery methods, potentially limiting patient choice and deepening health inequities. The situation is complicated by growing demand for GLP-1RAs and increasing preference for pen devices.

Survey Background & Objectives

Insulin access and supply challenges persist in many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The recent discontinuation of human insulin formulations has exacerbated these challenges, potentially limiting patient choice and deepening health inequities. WHO is conducting this survey to assess the scale of global shortages and current supply needs. All information will be treated confidentially and used to:

1. **Map Shortage Patterns:** Analyze frequency, duration, and types of insulin shortages globally
2. **Identify Access Barriers:** Pinpoint key obstacles hindering stable supply

3. **Guide Policy and Action:** Develop evidence-based recommendations for national governments and global stakeholders
 4. **Assess the Supply Landscape:** Understand current procurement practices and manufacturer roles in meeting national needs
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Target Respondents

Ministry of Health Officials, National NCD Program Managers, Procurement Specialists, or Pharmacists with access to:

- Annual procurement volume data for insulin
 - Shortage mitigation strategies
 - Pharmaceutical procurement oversight and understanding of insulin requirements
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Survey Structure & Data Requirements

Section 1: Basic Information

- Country identification and respondent role

Section 2: Insulin Procurement Assessment

Data Required:

- **Annual procurement volumes (in International Units)** for all insulin types:
 - Human insulin (NPH, Regular, Premixed 30/70)
 - Analogue insulin (Basal: Glargine, Detemir, Degludec; Bolus: Aspart, Lispro, Glulisine)
 - Premixed analogues
- Procurement status for each formulation (10ml vials, 3ml cartridges, 3ml pens)
- Assessment of procurement adequacy vs. patient needs

Section 3: Shortages (May 2023-2025)

Data Required:

- Specific insulin types experiencing shortages
- Duration and mitigation measures
- Delivery mechanism shortages

Section 4: Access Barrier Analysis (Optional)

Rating of key factors affecting supply:

- Pricing barriers, supply chain weaknesses, financing limitations
- Infrastructure constraints, manufacturing discontinuations
- Market dynamics, procurement inefficiencies, manufacturer engagement

Section 5: Policy (Optional)**Data Required:**

- National diabetes guidelines/policies status
 - Insulin procurement guidance
 - Current supply stabilization measures
 - Recommendations for global supply improvement
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Recommended Focal Points

Primary: National NCD Program Manager or Senior Procurement Specialist with:

- Direct access to insulin procurement databases and volume records
- Knowledge of shortage events and responses (May 2023-2025)
- Strategic oversight of diabetes supply chains

Secondary: Ministry of Health Officials with diabetes program oversight

Essential: Must have access to annual procurement volume data and shortage documentation.

Regional Office Action Required

Identify national focal points with:

1. Access to insulin procurement data and volume records
 2. Knowledge of shortage events (May 2023-2025)
 3. Understanding of national diabetes policies
 4. Authority for official country responses
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Technical Support

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