

Interagency Supply Chain Group

A Value Proposition for a Visibility and Analytics Network

The broad purpose of the Interagency Supply Chain Group (ISG) is to share information and seek greater alignment across supply-chain investments to bring more impact to individual agency supply chain strategies. The group promotes coordination both globally across programs, and locally through national leadership with the overall aim of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of in- country supply chains. The ISG is an informal partnership of 16 major actors involved in providing supply chain support to countries: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, DFID, Global Affairs Canada, Global Drug Facility, Global Financing Facility, Global Fund, Gavi, KFW, NORAD, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, USAID, World Bank, WFP and WHO.



Background

A “visibility and analytics network” (VAN) is a virtual platform of people, processes, and technology to capture and use supply chain data to provide enhanced visibility for short and long-term coordinated decision making, and foster effective collaboration. Commonly known as ‘control towers’ in the private sector, VANs comprise an information hub that affords visibility on inventory and shipments, linking data from other applications into one console to provide a picture of what’s taking place in the supply chain. Implementing a VAN approach can help catapult the health supply chain to higher levels of performance and close to an integrated state. ***By providing a coordinated view of such information, a VAN aims to achieve goals such as improved Government planning for better inbound***

deliveries and enabling donors, procurers and manufacturers to carry out more coordinated ordering and delivery planning.

Benefits of a VAN

- Provide Ministries of Health with oversight and ownership of the supply chain, without being involved in the day to day operations.
- Be the first point of integration in improving visibility across silos, without physically integrating supply chains.
- Be an enabler for a data driven culture focused on continuous improvement.
- Enable better coordination on how to allocate limited health resources.
- Reaching more people with the right product at the right time.
- Deliver products to countries in a timely and cost effective manner.

- Drive collaboration and integration across vertical health programs.
- Identify and improve data gaps and quality issues.

A Value Proposition for a VAN

Following the FP2020 summit in July 2017, BMGF and DFID committed to funding the design and pilot of a Global VAN for Family Planning, in partnership with USAID and UNFPA with further plans to develop Country VANs. **What are the distinctions and what does this mean?**

A global VAN is a system that captures and consolidates upstream global procurement, supply data and allows procurers, suppliers, freight forwarders and country staff visibility of the flow of commodities from the manufacturer through to the Central Medical Store. This then enhances forecasting and proper allotment of funding for commodities and helps eliminate the constant time gap for commodity supply. ISG Partners are currently working to develop commodity specific global VANs, for example a VAN for family planning and one for HIV but it will be possible to configure these to share data with one another.

A country VAN is a system that captures and consolidates downstream procurement and supply data and would be primarily used by country staff to make decisions about allocation of inventory, replenishments, and supply management. It covers the flow of

commodities from a central medical store through to a service delivery point. The country VAN will provide this visibility by coordinating and consolidating end to end data of the country supply chain, such as, consumption, supply pipeline, inbound supply, regardless of the financing or procurement source. A country VAN should be interoperable with independent country LMIS systems and with any existing Global VANs.

Current Activities of ISG Partners

The Global FP VAN program will shortly appoint a provider to build the IT platform. Thereafter, there will be a one year pilot designed as a 'proof of concept', intended to cover four manufacturers, two or three commodities and two countries, Malawi and Nigeria. It is intended to be scalable, to allow for additional users of the system (manufacturers, freight forwarders, donors, and countries) broadening the scope of the Global FP VAN.

Country VANs are still evolving and the implementation of such a system requires a coordinated orchestration of number of stakeholders that include Government, donors, private sector and implementing partners. Countries that are receiving support to develop a Visibility and Analytics Network include Kenya, Nigeria Pakistan, and South Africa. The ISG can play a critical role in convening partners to investigate opportunities for Country VAN development.