

**Participants:**

Lingjiang Yang (LY) - Chair, Berniece Warley (BW), KR Krisnamurty (KR), Taufik Wilmansyah (TW), Vishnu Rayapeddi (VR), Sonia Pagliusi (SP), Stephen Jarrett (SJ), Sonia Villaseñor (SV).

**Meeting started at 12h05 and finished at 13h15 (CET).**

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LY opened the meeting welcoming the vaccine supply chain working group (WG) members attending. She indicated that it was an appropriate time to assess where the WG had reached in terms of actions on the 3 priorities of the WG, namely, traceability, stockpiling and new packaging technologies. She further noted that the Gavi Market Shaping Strategy 5.0 included transformational innovation and partnership with VIPS. VIPS prioritized microarray patches (MAPs), traceability and heat stability (the controlled temperature chain – CTC) and planned to set up Action Plan in the second half of 2021. Thus DCVMN Supply Chain WG is fully aligned with broader global goals.

SJ had circulated a brief mid-year assessment to WG members. On traceability, the consortium had been established with 4 members and had held its first meeting. Recently, Sinergium, Argentina, had indicated that it was also working on a traceability project as required by its national regulatory authority. He mentioned that UNICEF, on behalf of the international immunization community, had issued a request for proposal on the development of Global Trust Repository, whose aim was to develop a global traceability system that could initially help countries identify fake COVID-19 products, but then be expanded to tracking a series of health products including vaccines. Given the increasing focus on traceability, SJ suggested the idea of a survey among DCVMN members on their engagement in traceability actions, including GS1 licensing, what are manufacturers doing in terms of barcoding and traceability and how is this working in their products, and also to provide information on relevant resolutions by national regulatory authorities (as is the case with Argentina, India and Indonesia, among others) and on the intentions of ministries of health in digitizing their medical supply systems.

On traceability, SP introduced the funding situation, where US\$300,000 from a donor had been approved for traceability pilots, but to date only one pilot study (Xiamen Innovax) had been approved by an independent advisory group and funded, leaving around US\$250,000 unallocated. She indicated that companies in the consortium were moving ahead with traceability actions and may not need DCVMN support. SJ indicated that 2 companies, Bharat Biotech and Biological E, had indicated the wish for DCVMN support but had not as yet specified specific funding gaps. In this regard, KR stated that Bharat Biotech has implemented traceability standards and would not need DCVMN resources. SJ said he would follow up with Biological E to secure a decision as to their intent. TW seconded the need to seek clarification from Biological E on their need for DCVMN support. Depending on the response from Biological E, the unallocated funds would be either around US\$200,000 or \$250,000. SP urged the WG to consider how these resources might be used in supporting manufacturers' supply chain needs and activities.

BW asked whether GS1 could provide a demonstration on how traceability systems work, what machinery was needed and what costs were involved. SP indicated that this could be done by the local GS1 team, as they did for the DCVMN workshops in Shenzhen<sup>1</sup> and Hanoi<sup>2</sup>, but that it would not involve any funding need. VR confirmed that IIL was already working with a GS1-certified provider. In the case of Xiamen Innovax, DCVMN was providing support of a senior adviser and a junior consultant from a local GS1-certified provider to help with the design and planning of their traceability pilot.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dcvmn.org/DCVMN-Training-workshop-on-Supply-Chain-Management-Quality-by-Design-and-Supply>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.dcvmn.org/DCVMN-Training-workshop-on-Supply-Chain-Management-Quality-by-Design-and-Supply>



SP advised that the funding situation would need clarification before the Donors Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for 1 September, in order to seek their agreement. In effect, there is a need to consider new proposals for using the funds, which could include urgent needs connected to COVID19 vaccine production and distribution. Proposals could include stockpiling or new packaging technologies, which were not discussed in the meeting, but also other areas where DCVMN members could benefit. It was clarified that DCVMN can support activities that exclude capital costs such as infrastructure and equipment. It can support consultancy and other services, training, research, some consumables and software.

It was agreed that SJ will ask WG members by email to suggest projects that could be considered for DCVMN support within the general realm of the vaccine supply chain, in order to have a potential project inventory to evaluate. The deadline for WG inputs to SJ would be 10 August with discussions on these in the next WG meeting scheduled for 17 August.

LY closed the meeting thanking consortium members for their inputs and agreeing to the next meeting of the working group to be held mid-August.

Notes taken by Steve Jarrett



Lingjiang Yang  
Chair of the Supply Chain Working Group  
27 July 2021