

Supply Chain Working Group Meeting

Monday, 29th April '24

Online, via Zoom

Participants:

Rajinder Suri (RS), Rachel Park (RP), Adriano Ferreira (AF), Aryanto (A), PV Raju (PVR) Ryan Myburgh (RM), Saameer Lele (SL), Taufik Wilmansyah (TW), Dominique Maugeais (DM), Sonia Villaseñor (SV), Prerna Kumar (PK)

Meeting started at 14:005 hours and adjourned at 15:02 hours CET.

RS welcomed DM, who introduced himself to the group, with his over 30 years of experience in the vaccine industry and more recently as an external consultant to GAVI during COVID-19 pandemic. Then RP invited to a round of introduction of the members.

RP reminded the members that the priority objectives that the group had decided in the previous meeting and invited them to discuss on the reassessment of the objectives to be pursued as well as the priority to be followed:

1. Traceability and verification system (TRVST). Documents related have already been shared amongst the members. This will be a requirement in the near future, so the team can discuss how this can be implemented.
2. Volumetric analysis in air freight shipments in order to reduce dead space and freight reduction. In this sense, DM advised the participants to consider that not always a reduction in dead space is a reduction in freight costs, as the cost is also composed by the volume. PVR clarified that this element is also considered in the analysis.
3. Re-packaging validation in case of flight delays.
4. Write a paper on the lessons learnt during the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting that out of the 13.8 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccine produced, 8 billion were produced by DCVMNs, and how these manufacturers did in order to have the product on time. We can compile experiences from different manufacturers and write a paper.

RP emphasized the fact that the outputs need to be ready before the AGM in October.

PVR suggested to have a workshop or seminar in which the members can share best practices in Supply Chain area.

RS suggested him to draft an agenda with RP, with the support of DH, on which topics they want to talk about, what are the key messages learned from COVID-19 and what are the parameters on which they can be judged to know where there has been an improvement or not.

RS suggested working on an action plan with 4 elements: what to do, start and end date, Responsibility Center (RC) and cost involved.

The group need to define the frequency for the meetings.

DM also suggested to make an analysis on lead times, and how we were working in the past with lead times and the relationship between inventory and lead times, and how to work to reduce lead times in order to offer the freshest shelf life when the product comes to the market. RS said this topic is very interesting, but since the working groups are funded by PATH and mainly BMGF, we need to keep in mind what is the benefit for public health of each of

the initiatives we take, not only the benefit to the manufacturers. Some members interpreted it as stockpiling and expressed their interest. DM clarified that it is more related to the inventory strategy within a manufacturing plant and the lead times and how we factor in our inventory, whichever is related to campaigning, to protecting from potential batch reject, or to protecting against demand variation between forecasts and actual orders and so on. DM and RS agreed that this proposal may be kept for a later stage

RP summarized the priority given to the four objectives will remain as follows:

1. TRVST
2. Write a paper to highlight the role of DCVMs during COVID-19 pandemic and how the manufacturers were prepared.
3. Finalize the volumetric analysis for freight reduction

RS said that all members can contribute to get the right information. Even if it is confidential, it could be sent directly to him so that the Secretariat can consolidate the information and bring out what all was involved and how much was produced.

RP invited the members to suggest the specific action plan for the objectives.

1. For the implementation of the TRVST, PVR suggested members review the document already shared by TW and contact UNICEF to be included in the project. RP noted that this is a project that is not feasible in 4 to 6 months.

DM asked what the process is of writing an article at DCVMN.

RS responded that the basic steps are:

DCVMN asks for interest of those companies willing to participate and sign a letter of intent. Sometimes it is partially sponsored by DCVMN, so we ask whether they need any funding support. The information is shared with all the people participating in the project. Based on the inputs, the information is collated and shared with some script writer (somebody knowledgeable) to prepare the paper. The draft is circulated with all participants or authors for their inputs and then for final comments. Then it is submitted to the journal.

RS then requested all those members who were involved in the manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines or even tried, to share their success stories or efforts to begin with; anything that is meaningful, e.g. what challenges were encountered, how were they mitigated, how did they go for tech-transfer, or developed, in a sequential manner. This should include the total capacity and the used capacity. RP suggested creating a template for members to fill in.

DM offered himself to have an active role in this objective and take the lead for this action.

Regarding objective number 3, RS suggested to create a survey in such a way that it can elicit response. Information will be shared with the secretariat and consolidated.

End of minutes

**Notes taken by SV
29 April '24**



**Rachel Park
Chair of Supply Chain Working Group -DCVMN**