

Supply Chain Working Group Meeting

Wednesday 29th May '24, Online, via Zoom

Participants:

Rachel Park (RP), Adriano Ferreira (AF), PV Raju (PVR), Saameer Lele (SL), Taufik Wilmansyah (TW), Yiyuan Chen (YC), Dominique Maugeais (DM), Sonia Villasenor (SV), Prerna Kumar (PK)

Meeting started at 14:06 hours and adjourned at 15:02 hours CET.

RP welcomed the participants and established the scope of this meeting as for discussing the advances of the objectives and tasks set on our last meeting.

COVID-19 Pandemic Survey

DM provided an overview of the plan to conduct a survey on how DCVM members responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal is to capture the successes, contribution, challenges, and lessons learned by manufacturers during the crisis. The survey will be sent for feedback to all the WG members in order to be able to be sent to all 43 DCVM members (and a few non-members) in early July, no confidential information will be requested. The results are to be consolidated and presented at the DCVM AGM in October. An article summarizing the findings will also be published by the end of the year, this will help in making the stakeholders to understand better the great contribution that DCVMN is doing for the global public health.

DM said we still need to fine tune where do we want to position the center of gravity of the study; and since we are the supply chain working group, it is likely to concentrate the study on the manufacturing challenges and successes and only have a few questions to mention the upstream and the development, and a few questions mentioning the downstream. Trying to cover more topics would make the survey very lengthy and will take more time to get ready. PVR requested to include to some extent the market dynamics (advance purchase agreement, the role of COVAX, etc). Also mentioned that since not all 43 members were involved in R&D, others in manufacturing COVID-19 vaccine, others only in distribution, and others did not participate at all, so sending the survey to all 43 members will give a different picture of what really happened. So suggested to have 2 different subsets of respondents.

SV updated that IFC and PAHO approached us to propose a survey to be sent to all members with non-COVID-19 questions to be sent to all members. They will be incorporating their questions on our survey.

Volumetric Analysis for Packaging Optimization

PVR provided background on the initiative to analyze DCVM members' vaccine packaging and cold chain practices, with the aim of identifying opportunities to optimize packaging, reduce waste space, and lower freight costs. While an initial analysis was done last year based on data from 6-8 members, the response rate was low. The initial assessment identified around 20% of dead space in freight containers.

The group discussed sending a more targeted "Volumetric Analysis Questionnaire" rather than a full survey to get additional inputs, and to be sent in two weeks from now to supply chain contacts rather than CEOs, who will be receiving the COVID-19 survey. The goal is to finalize this analysis in parallel with the COVID-19 survey. There is no need to send it to the 8 companies that have already provided a response.

Implementing TRVST by UNICEF

TW provided an update on efforts to get more DCVM members to join the TRVST initiative with UNICEF. The first step is to reach out to the TRVST program lead to understand the process and requirements for joining. TW has already shared the contact details in the slides he has previously shared. The group agreed to follow up on this in the next meeting.

Meeting Recaps

RP summarized the key next steps: 1) Dominique will present a draft of the COVID-19 survey at the June 14 meeting, 2) The team will send a targeted "questionnaire" to DCVM members on packaging optimization, and 3) The group will follow up on getting more members engaged with the TRVST initiative.

RP thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

End of minutes

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



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