

Key considerations for the selection of temperature monitoring systems

Clinton Health Access Initiative, Inc. Author: Tara Banani

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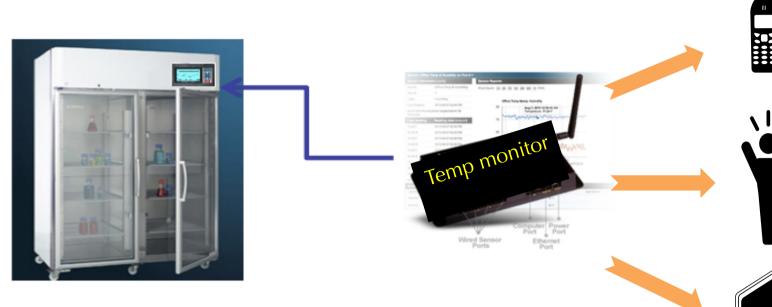


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BACKGROUND

Monitoring temperature at different levels of the supply chain

Continuous temperature monitoring systems can detect and prevent harmful temperature excursions that permit millions of compromised vaccines each year. These systems offer immediate and long-term prevention via three different mechanisms:



- **1. Proactive prevention of vaccine damage** and wastage
- 2. Cold chain system visibility to better direct maintenance and repair
- 3. Evidence-based decision-making in future procurements of cold chain equipment



Maintaining proper temperatures for vaccines is challenging, especially in places with extreme climates, unreliable electricity, and weak transportation infrastructure. At each level of the supply chain, remote temperature monitoring (RTMs) and/or non-remote systems can be selected upon consideration of different operational, environmental, and technology parameters:

SEGMENT:	SEGMENT DESCRIPTION	CONSTRAINTS	OPERATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS	RTM vs. NON-RTM PRODUCT CONSIDERATIONS	KEY TECHNOLOGY CONSIDERATIONS
Primary level	National and regional stores. Cold rooms or multiple fridges per site. High volumes of vaccines.	Low	Power availability and cellular connectivity stable. Convenient access to computer likely.	Good infrastructure, connectivity & high vaccine volumes make RTMs highest potential choice.	 Multiple sensor units and different sensor types Flexible and actionable data management platform Alert escalation capabilities
Sub-national level	Provincial and large district stores. Multiple fridges per site. Fairly high volumes of vaccines.	Low-Medium	More challenging environmental conditions (e.g., interrupted power availability and cellular connectivity).	Good connectivity & fairly high vaccine volumes make RTMs high potential choice.	 Multi-sensor units Elevible/actionable data management
Lowest delivery level	Stores that supply health facilities directly. Single fridge per site. Low volumes of vaccines.	Medium-High	Challenging environmental conditions and lower human availability to respond to alerts than Segments 1 and 2. Convenient access to computer unlikely.	RTMs both viable	Battery holdover and device lifetimeInternal memory capacity
Service point	Health facilities with refrigerators, cold boxes, or carriers. Low volumes of vaccines.	High	Unlikely access to power for charging or monitoring equipment. Limited cellular connectivity. No access to computer.	With limited connectivity and very low vaccine volumes, non-RTMs likely highest potential choice.	 Device lifetime Internal memory capacity Multiple use capabilities Enclosure robustness

METHODS

Step-wise procedure for product selection

We have leveraged pilot experience to develop tools that can help users to identify high-potential products for continuous temperature monitoring at different levels of the supply chain:

Steps:	Key considerations:	
Site selection	Identify targeted segment for intervention, and operational challenges	

PRODUCT COMPARISON & SELECTION

Key features used for comparison

- Power source(s)
- Battery/device lifetime
- Ease of maintenance/replacement
- Sensors per device
- Visual display
- Local alarm
- Ease of software configuration and customizability
- SMS/Call/Email on alarm

Examine product landscape

Identify WHO prequalified products and market-ready units that fall within respective segment

Product comparison & selection

Side-by-side weighted comparison of hardware and software, data management features, and costs.

Software & Dashboard

Costs & Fees

Hardware

- Dashboard design
- Device & sensor grouping
- Periodic report customizability
- Alarm layers and escalations
- Data and user access tiers

• Unit and sensor costs

- Installation and training costs
- Recurring costs (replacement or software fees

Wish to know more, or access CHAI-developed resources? Contact Author here:

Tara Banani – Cold Chain Technology Analyst tbanani@clintonhealthaccess.org