The WHO-UNICEF Immunization Supply Chain & Logistics Hub

Overview of objectives and strategy
The iSCL Hub is a response to several acute challenges

- **Fragmented evidence and insights for countries on iSCL topics**
  - “Countries don’t know where to go for guidance”
  - “Lot of good materials get created, but then they disappear because no-one is owns them and makes them available to countries”

- **Opportunity to strengthen coordination of technical assistance to countries**
  - “Countries at times receive contradictory advice … a UNICEF consultant may recommend one thing, the next month a WHO consultant recommends another thing…How do you expect countries to react?”

- **Historical challenges in aligning global partners**
  - “No-one was coordinating funding priorities and strategies across different organizations and different countries”
  - “The Hub could multiply exponentially the individual impact of each agency”
The Hub aspires to play two roles

- **Center of excellence for iSCL**
  - Best-in-class iSCL tools, guidance and evidence – review and fill gaps
  - Support countries navigate and access the right expertise and materials

- **Coordinator of technical assistance to countries**
  - Support countries strengthen iSCL planning and execution
  - Ensure agencies, MoH and other partners are aligned around a common iSCL plan anchored in the overall EPI strategy
  - Build local capability over time
We will pursue these goals via three strategic pillars:

1. **New cEVM**
   - Expanding the EVM to a **fully revamped process and comprehensive toolkit for countries to diagnose, prioritize, plan and implement change**.

2. **iSCL focus topics**
   - Take the lead on developing new evidence, tools and guidance on a **selected** number of high-priority iSCL topics.

3. **Community of practitioners**
   - Strengthen coordination and build a community of **skilled practitioners at the global, regional and country level**.
The Hub will complement, rather than replace, other partners and activities

The Hub will not...

- …take over activity best handled by individual agencies (e.g., purchasing by SD, regulatory pre-qualification by PQS) or other Alliance partners (e.g., funding by the GAVI Secretariat, market shaping by BMGF)

- …duplicate the work of the GAVI Alliance working groups (but will coordinate UNICEF and WHO input to these groups)

- …aim to tackle all iSCL issues but rather focus on areas of greatest unmet need that are not well-addressed by other partners

- …limit its support to GAVI-eligible countries – differentiated levels of support will be available for all countries that need it

- …create parallel structures to existing agency Country and Region Offices – it will work with COs and ROs to provide them with the right tools and support to be effective partners to local governments
The cEVM will include rigorous, systematic diagnostic, planning and execution.

**Step 0**
- Advocacy and in-country preparatory phase
- Limited in-country preparation and advocacy to stakeholders

**Step 1**
- Comprehensive EVM assessment
- Not all aspects of iSCL assessed comprehensively

**Step 2**
- Strategic planning for action
- Recommendations address identified weaknesses only, not forward thinking

**Step 3**
- Implementing for change
- Slow or no implementation of actions and monitoring

**Today EVM**
- New cEVM approach
- In-country preparation and advocacy to stakeholders
- Comprehensive iSCL performance assessment
- Multi-year national strategy for iSCL strengthening
- iSCL technical working groups to implement and monitor action plans

SOURCE: WHO, UNICEF
cEVM IP should be built into cMYPs and National Health Plans to ensure high-level buy-in
Putting the pieces together…
The Hub will take the lead on generating evidence and tools for a small set of high-priority topics

The Hub will focus on areas where:

▪ There is a high unmet need for additional guidance in countries

▪ There are clear gaps in the evidence base / toolkit

▪ There is no other natural owner

▪ Better tools/evidence could lead to significant impact across a wide range of countries

List of topics will be regularly re-evaluated and updated as needed

Initial focus topics:

1. CCE technologies and markets
2. CCE management systems
3. Temperature monitoring systems
4. Redesign, network & transportation optimization
Example focus topic: Temperature monitoring systems

**Current state / rationale**

- Major challenge in EVM
- Wide range of technologies
- Fragmented guidance on implementing temperature monitoring systems
- Naturally benefits from coordination across PD, SD and WHO, e.g. developing TPPs

**Hub commitments (not exhaustive)**

- Develop **guidance, protocols, and training materials** for selecting, installing and managing temperature monitoring systems
- Support the definition of **common data standards** to ensure interoperability
- Support process to define **TPPs** and assess performance of existing technologies
- Create **“buyer’s guide” for temperature monitoring systems** to help countries in selecting the most appropriate technology
- Compile and analyze a **global database of temperature monitoring studies** to provide a robust fact-base to inform policy and TPPs
- Support countries to conduct **cold room temperature mapping** and **temperature monitoring studies** and implement monitoring systems
The Hub will support the development of a community of skilled practitioners that help to perpetuate change in countries

Significantly strengthen the iSCL support provided at the regional level of UNICEF and WHO

Build a pool of pre-vetted consultants and institutions that are well-versed with the latest guidance and methods and can provide support to countries

Integrate Hub content into existing and new training centers, such as Logivac and the East Africa Center of Excellence

Facilitate South-to-South networks of iSCL practitioners (e.g., TechNet)
Achievements to date – selected examples

- GAVI SCS Strategy
- Reviewed BMGF SCS
- GAVI CCE Funding Platform

Countries supported in comprehensive improvement planning: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar, Laos, Nepal, Comoros, DRC,…

EVM Global Data Analysis shared and EVM Assessment review started integrating best practices from public and private sector

New cEVM

iSCL focus topics

- Zanzibar meeting – drove to new TPPs for RTMDs, new tools and guidance
- Workshop on independent freeze free passive carriers workshop (NYC): align on innovative approaches and PQS
- Redesign: EVM evaluation with AMP and working group launched …

Communities of practitioners

- Sending DRC EPI logisticians to Turkey to study drive-in cold warehouse
- Sponsoring training for solar installation and maintenance and LOGIVAC
- Sending technicians from Haiti to Benin

Implementation of the GAVI SCS strategy