

24 April 2018

# Vaccine Procurement Practitioners Network (VPPN)

UNICEF Supply Division, Copenhagen



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Leslie Paas, VPPN Community of Practice Management Consultant

# Presentation outline

- What is the Vaccine Procurement Practitioners Network? (VPPN)
- Why do we need it - what we are trying to achieve?
- How the knowledge exchange works
- Progress to date
- What's in store?
- Q & A – and your thoughts



# What is the VPPN?



- A Community of Practice (CoP) focused on vaccine procurement in middle income countries (MICs)
- Hosted by UNICEF Supply Division; managed/moderated by the Vaccine Centre
- Funded by GAVI (The Vaccine Alliance)



## Vision

- UNICEF's hope is that the VPPN will be key to improving vaccine procurement outcomes for children in MICs including Gavi transitioning countries.

# Why the VPPN? Why focus on MICs?

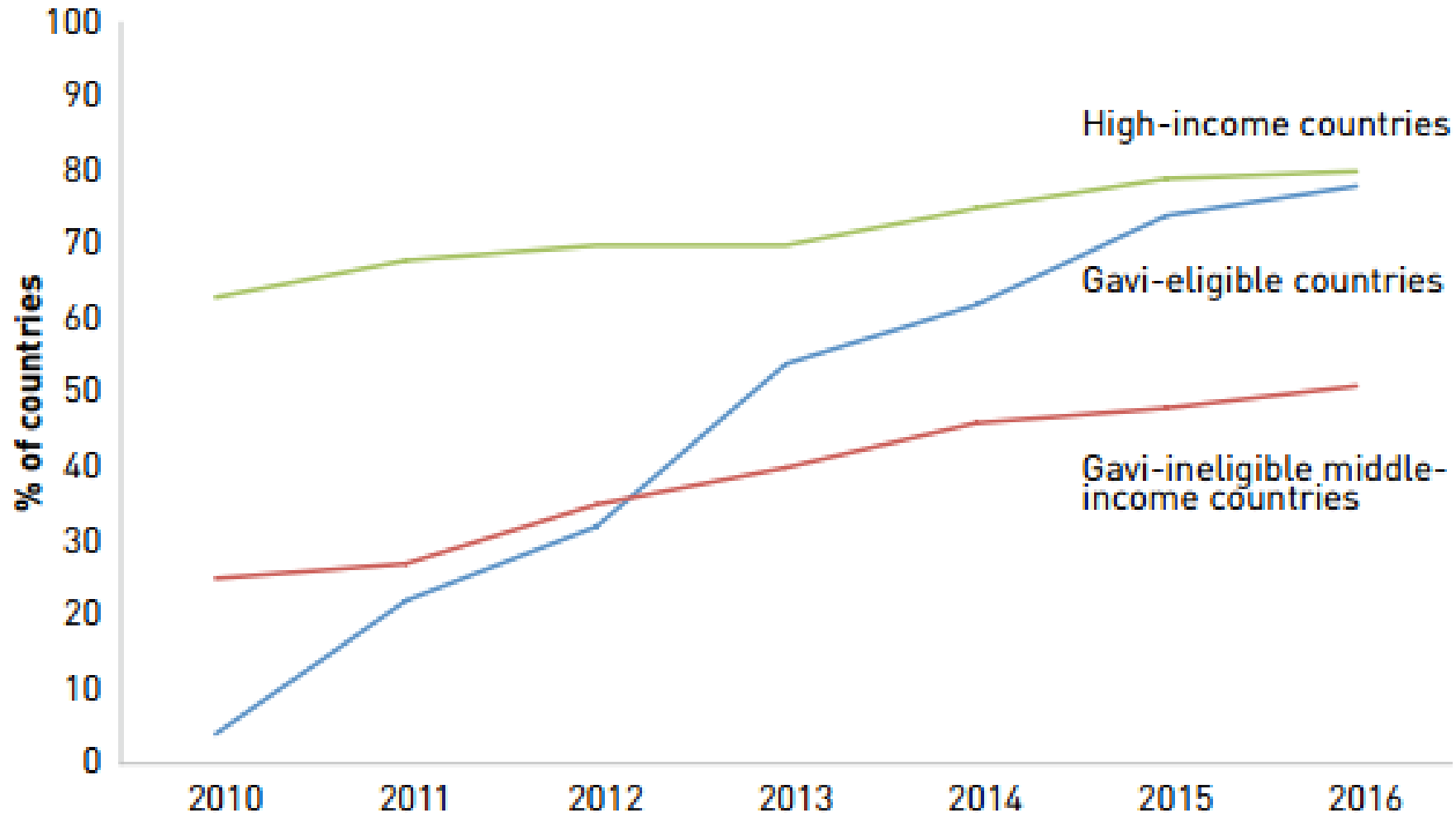
- 5 billion of the total world population of 7 billion people live in MICs, including 73% of the world's poor  
*(Source: 2018 World Bank MICs data)*
- the majority of vaccine-preventable deaths and unvaccinated children in the world occur in MICs
- MICs in general are not on track to achieving the Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP) targets  
*(Source: Assessment Report of GVAC, 2017)*

# Why the VPPN? Why focus on MICs?

- Many MICs are moving to self-procurement and/or being phased out of Gavi support
- Many are facing significant challenges in sustaining and developing their national immunization programmes
- MICs have expressed the need for learning and knowledge exchange on vaccine procurement

# Example: introduction of new vaccines

INTRODUCTION OF PNEUMOCOCCAL CONJUGATE VACCINE  
HAS BEEN SLOWER IN GAVI-INELIGIBLE MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES



# How does the VPPN work?

By:

- facilitating the continuous exchange of theoretical and practical knowledge, joint learning and collaborative problem solving related to vaccine procurement in MICs

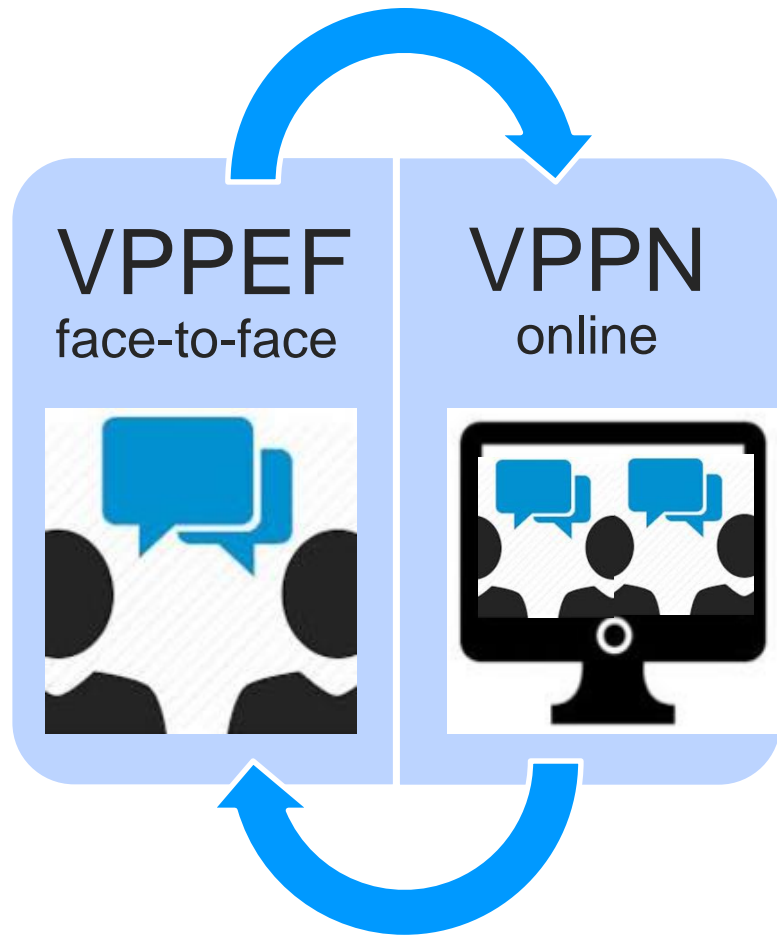


- emphasizing country-to-country peer learning through face-to-face and online knowledge exchange





# VPPN Knowledge Exchange



- Underpinned by the Vaccine Procurement Practitioners Exchange forums - VPPEF (*face-to-face*) and supported by the VPPN online platform
- Thematic focus areas for the VPPEF determined by country survey
- After the VPPEF, the knowledge exchange continues on the VPPN online platform

# More about the VPPEF

- Annual workshop in Copenhagen since 2015
- Sub-regional forums starting in 2018



## Welcome to the VPPN online platform for Knowledge Sharing

We're very pleased to see you here!

As a quick guide, please take a look at the strategy we propose for Knowledge Sharing (KS) over the coming months.

### Overall objective:

improve vaccine procurement outcomes for children in middle-income countries

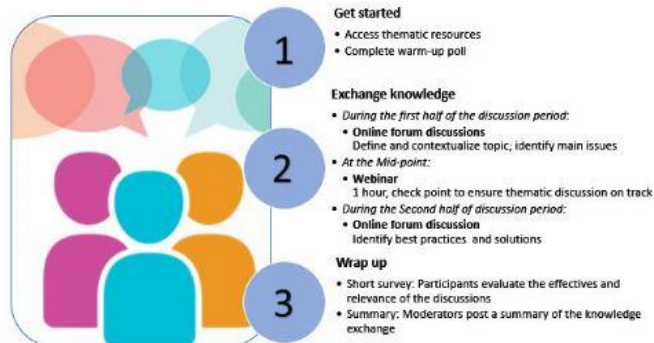
- ⇒ Eight thematic discussions, taking place via designated e-discussion forum spaces
- ⇒ Eight webinars, each accompanying a thematic discussion
- ⇒ Thematic support: an issues brief, case study and external links to contextualize each thematic discussion



### Topics and dates of the thematic discussions

Topic	Period
Supply	Oct. 23 – Nov. 24, 2017
Price	Nov. 27 – Dec. 22, 2017
Funding	Jan. 2 – Jan. 26, 2018
Planning / Forecasting	Jan. 29 – Feb. 23, 2018
Registration / Regulation	Feb. 26 – Mar. 16, 2018
Cold chain	Mar. 19 – Apr. 6, 2018
Procurement process	Apr. 9 – Apr. 27, 2018
Market	Apr. 30 – May 18, 2018

### Elements of each thematic discussion



### Projected outcomes of each thematic session

- ⇒ Identify challenges
- ⇒ Propose tangible solutions
- ⇒ Exchange best practices

### Calendar overview



# VPPN Knowledge sharing strategy

- Time-limited thematic e-discussions each accompanied by a webinar, issues brief, selected case study and external links
- Quarterly Newsletter



# VPPN Online Platform



HOME ▾



## Network

Understand the VPPN, see media

Knowledge sharing structure

VPPN activities

Members

Photos & Videos

Vaccine news

**ACCESS NOW!**

## Discussions

Contribute to e-discussions, participate in webinars

Current: Price

Past: Supply

Upcoming:

Funding

Planning / Forecasting

**ENGAGE NOW!**

## Resources

Discover and share resources

VPPEF Information

Country Posters

Thematic Support:

Briefs

Case studies

**LEARN NOW!**

# Platform Functionalities

- Member profiles
- News & Events
- E-discussion spaces
- Polls
- Database of resources
- Multi-media sharing
- Messaging/email

The screenshot shows the 'Vaccine Procurement Practitioners Network' website. At the top, there are navigation tabs for HOME, NETWORK, DISCUSSIONS, and RESOURCES. The UNICEF logo is in the top right corner. A user profile for 'Hi Leslie Paas' is visible. The main content area features a discussion titled 'PRICE (NOV. 27 - DEC. 29, 2017)'. The summary states that a price thematic discussion period was held from November 27 to December 29, 2017, guided by a price brief and case study. A yellow callout box says 'Click here to see the webinar recording (opens in a new window)'. Below the summary, there are three presenter profiles: Heather Deehan (Chief of Vaccine Center, UNICEF Supply Division, Denmark), Dr. Randa Hamadeh (Head of Primary Health Care Department, Ministry of Public Health, Lebanon), and Abdelkrim TANOUTI (Head of administrative department DP, Ministry of Health, Morocco). To the right, there is a section for 'Price Webinar (Dec. 12, 2017)' with a yellow callout box and a list of 'key questions' for discussion, such as 'What has been your experience with vaccine price negotiations as a vaccine procurement practitioner?' and 'Do you think the prices you pay are fair? If not, what could be done to ensure they are cheaper or more fair?'. There are also links for 'For an issues overview: see the Price Brief' and 'For inspiration: see the Price case study'.

The screenshot shows a member profile for Aurelia Gasca. The profile picture is a woman with dark hair. The name 'Aurelia Gasca' is displayed, along with '5 views' and 'Member since: Thursday, 01 February 2018 10:18'. Below the profile information, there are tabs for 'STREAM' and 'ABOUT ME'. The 'ABOUT ME' tab is active, showing a message from Aurelia Gasca: 'Dear Mr. Tanouti, Thank you kindly for participating at the Planning and Forecasting Webinar and your kind words and feedback. Very much appreciating you sharing the experience of Morocco on good practice regarding vaccine forecasting. This is great platform to share and to learn from the practical application on vaccine planning with pos...'. There are icons for 'Add as Friend', 'Send Message', and 'Participate in discussion'.

The screenshot shows the 'Country Posters' resource page. It features a globe icon and a list of countries with links to their respective posters. The countries listed are: Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, Syria, Armenia, Lebanon, Somalia, Tunisia, Botswana, Libya, Seychelles, Ukraine, Cabo Verde, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, Ethiopia, Maldives, Swaziland, and Vietnam. A note says 'Highlight: see the Action Points (click to download its file) countries committed to during the WPP 2017.' Below the list, there are several profile cards for other members: heba almohtaseb, Mariame Sylla, Carla Orozco, and YOTHIN THANORMWAT.

# VPPN 2017-18 Webinar series

- Countries present their country context, challenges and solutions found
- Invited experts present the UNICEF SD perspective and provide guidance
- Comments and questions follow each presentation

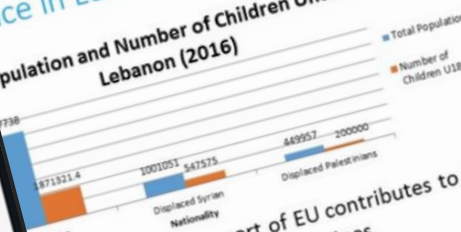
### Supply Issues & Solutions

Main Challenges	Solutions
1. High Cost of vaccines-costs are normally very higher than the planned budget than we face challenges in order as per our needs on the ground.	Pooled procurement to benefit from economies of scale
2. Limited numbers of Suppliers in the market and Some Manufacturers just stop to manufacture some of the vaccines because they are not viable in terms of profits. E.g Meningitis and PCV 23.	Advocate with MSF, WHO and UNICEF encourage technology transfer to other Countries.
3. Volumes are small because we are a small population Country thus delaying the Manufacturing of vaccine because the quantities	Advocate with MSF or WHO to negotiate with Manufacturers to consider small markets. Small Markets to also consider

Speaking now: 


### Vaccine Price in Lebanon: Overview

#### Total Population and Number of Children Under 18 in Lebanon (2016)



Category	Total Population	Number of Children U18
Lebanese	4,871,321.4	1,001,051
Displaced Syrian	547,575	449,957
Displaced Palestinians	200,000	200,000

through the kind support of EU contributes to \$5.8 Million \$ providing needed doses of vaccines.

Speaking now: 

**Dr. Randa Hamadeh**  
Head of PHC Department, MoPH  
Lebanon

### Challenges and their status

- Conversion's problems – solved in 2017
- Several installments for vaccines – one tranche in 2018
- Local currency fall in 2017 – 2 times increase of vaccine budget
- Poor knowledge of the ministry of finance about current requirements in immunization (new vaccines' introduction, 25% stock buffer)
- Price change at global market
- Difference in procedures and requirements between UNICEF and MF of Uzbekistan
- Difference in budget planning for vaccine price
- Establishment of local market and introduction of some payments not included into budget in advance
- Lack of budget for custom clearance

46:37 / 1:07:20

### Clarifications:

 **Aurelia Gasca**  
Contracts Manager  
UNICEF Supply Division, Denmark

Aurelia: Ok. The idea of the provisional plan is based on the forecast data we receive from the country. So if you include everything in the forecast template, then everything will be included in the provisional plan.

 **Bervery Chawaguta**  
Procurement Services Specialist, UNICEF Nigeria

Nigeria: But everything is included in the forecast.

 **Ekpemauzor Chinenye**  
Deputy Director, National Primary Health Care Development

Aurelia: So what you said - that all the procurement of all vaccines they have been planned in the forecast but they have not been included in the provisional plan?

21:35 / 1:02:47

# VPPN Membership

- Primary target: National level, senior professionals and technical experts working to support immunization programmes in MICs
- Limited to participants of the VPPEF
- ‘Closed’ group designed to encourage open exchange
- UNICEF Supply Community is an important part of the knowledge exchange:
  - provides expertise and guidance
  - gains first-hand understanding of participating countries’ constraints and opportunities



# UNICEF REGIONS and VPPPN countries





# UNICEF REGIONS and VPPN countries

31 VPPN countries span 6 regions:

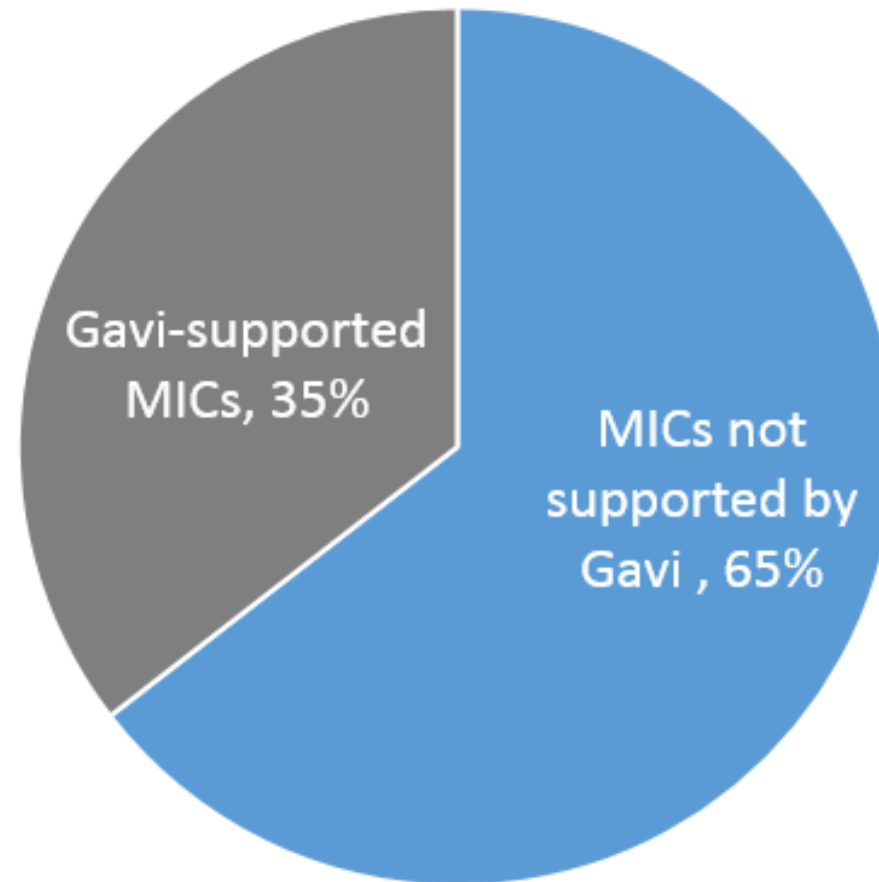
- ECARO = 9
- MENARO = 9
- ROSA = 1
- EAPRO = 4
- ESARO = 5
- WCARO = 3



# VPPN MICs and Gavi Support

Of the 31 VPPN countries:

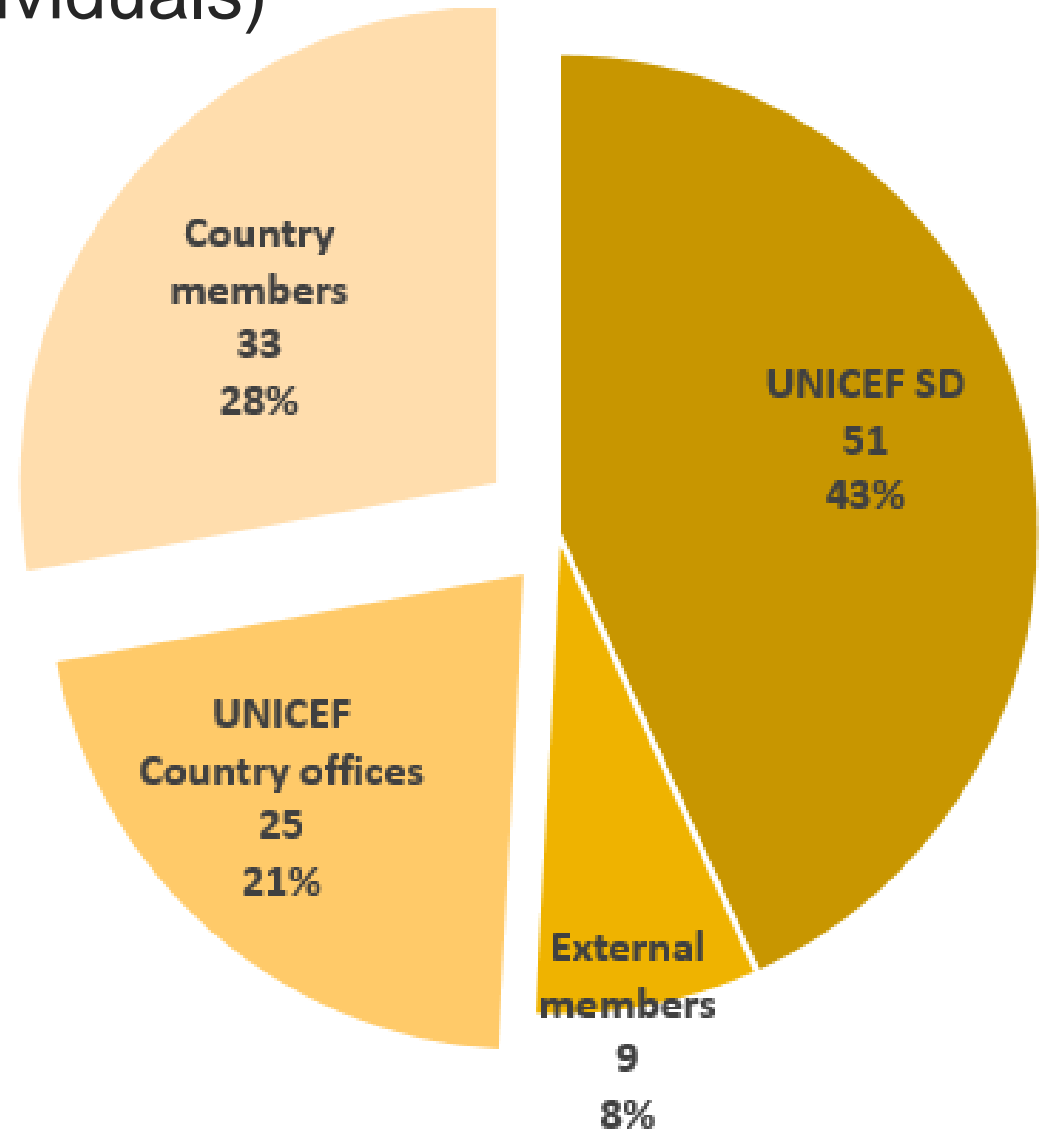
- 11 countries are currently supported by Gavi (35%)
- 20 countries are not (65%)



# Breakdown of VPPN platform registered users

(total = 118 individuals)

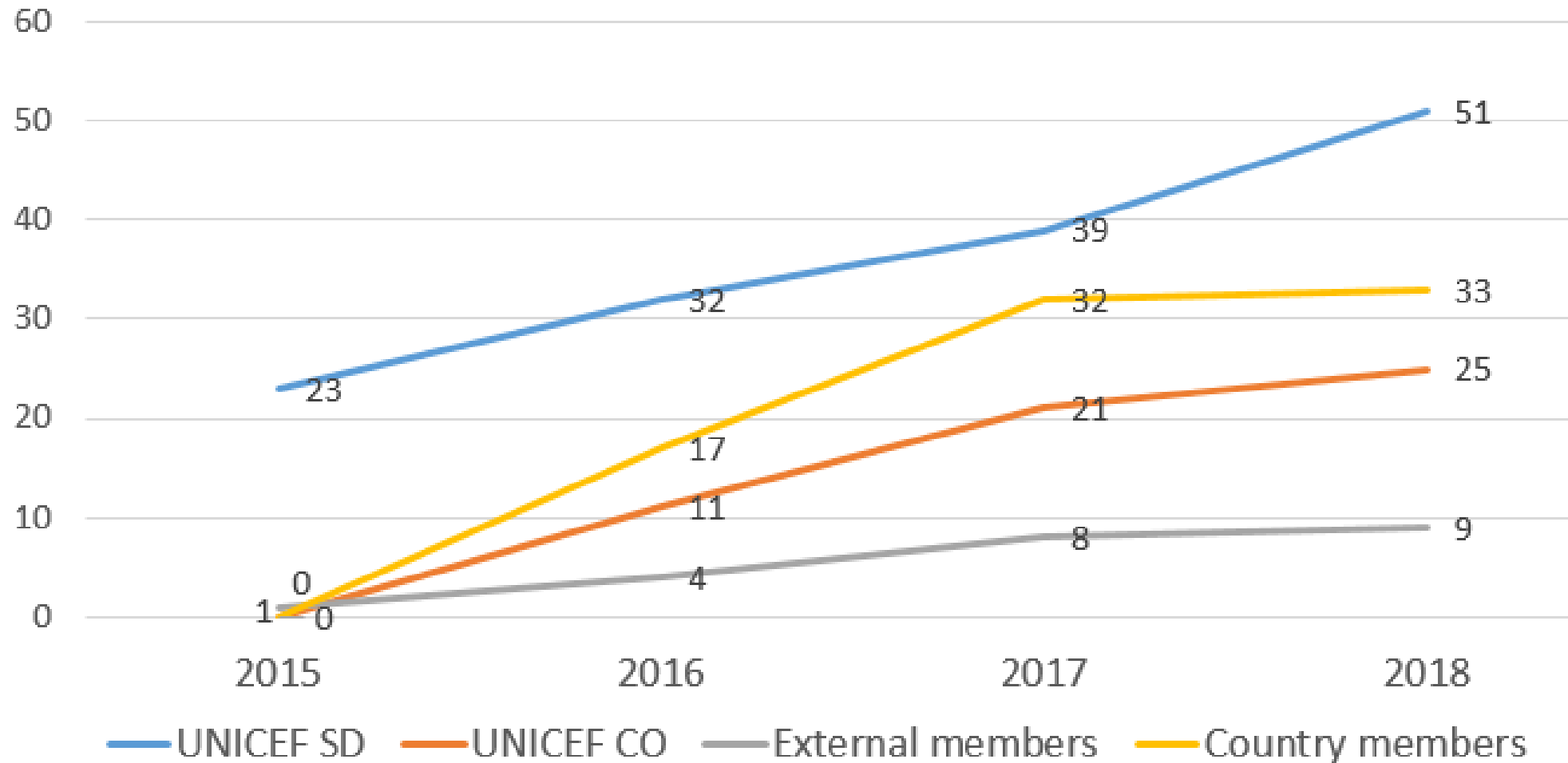
- 33 country members represent 21 of the 31 countries on the VPPN
- Country members together with UNICEF staff located in country offices represent 27 of the 31 countries
- A sum of VPPN 49% of membership is country-based



# VPPN Growth in membership (people)

Total membership as of Apr. 18, 2018 = 118

(not counting administrators and external members that have requested entry)



# Outputs to date (May 2015-Apr. 2018)

- 3 editions of the VPPEF where 31 countries intensively shared knowledge
- Selection, implementation and optimization of the online platform
- Execution of four thematic Webinars and e-discussions—Supply, Price, Financing, Planning/Forecasting where MOH members shared knowledge
- Several questions from countries answered by UNICEF staff
- Formalization of knowledge sharing strategy and communications plan



Presenters:



Aurea  
Manager, UNICEF  
Division



Jorgen  
Specialist, UNICEF  
Division



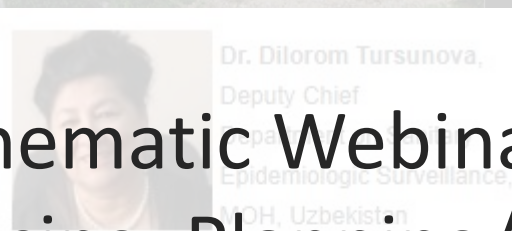
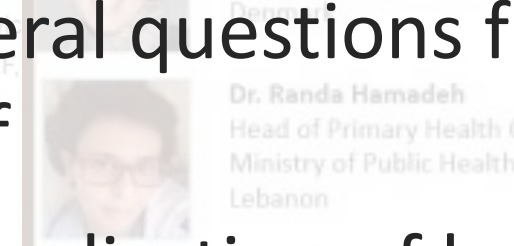
Ekpenmauzor  
Deputy  
Primary Health  
Development  
Nigeria



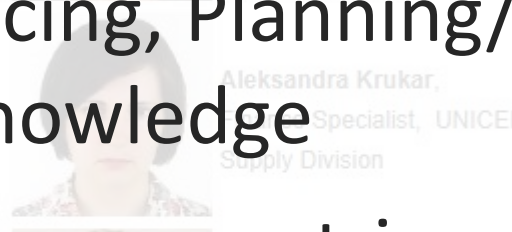
Bervery Chawagut  
Procurement  
Specialist, UNICEF  
Division



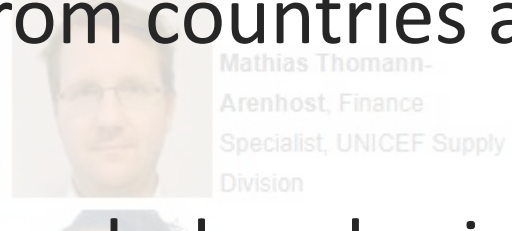
Alex Ceban  
Epidemiologist  
Centre for Public Health  
Moldova



Dr. Dilorom Tursunova,  
Deputy Chief  
Epidemiologic Surveillance,  
MOH, Uzbekistan



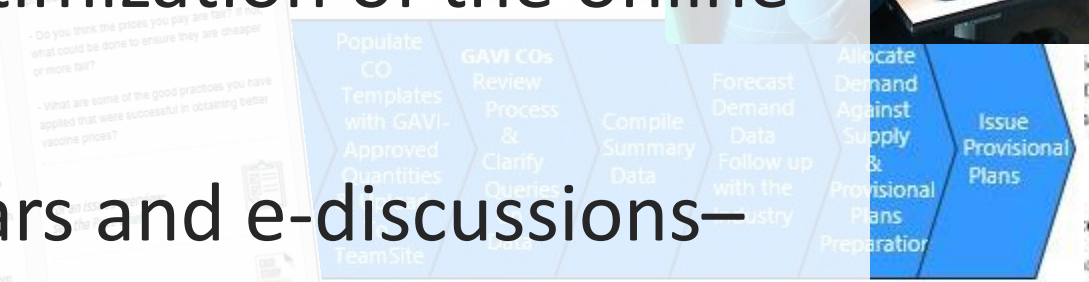
Aleksandra Krugar,  
Specialist, UNICEF  
Supply Division



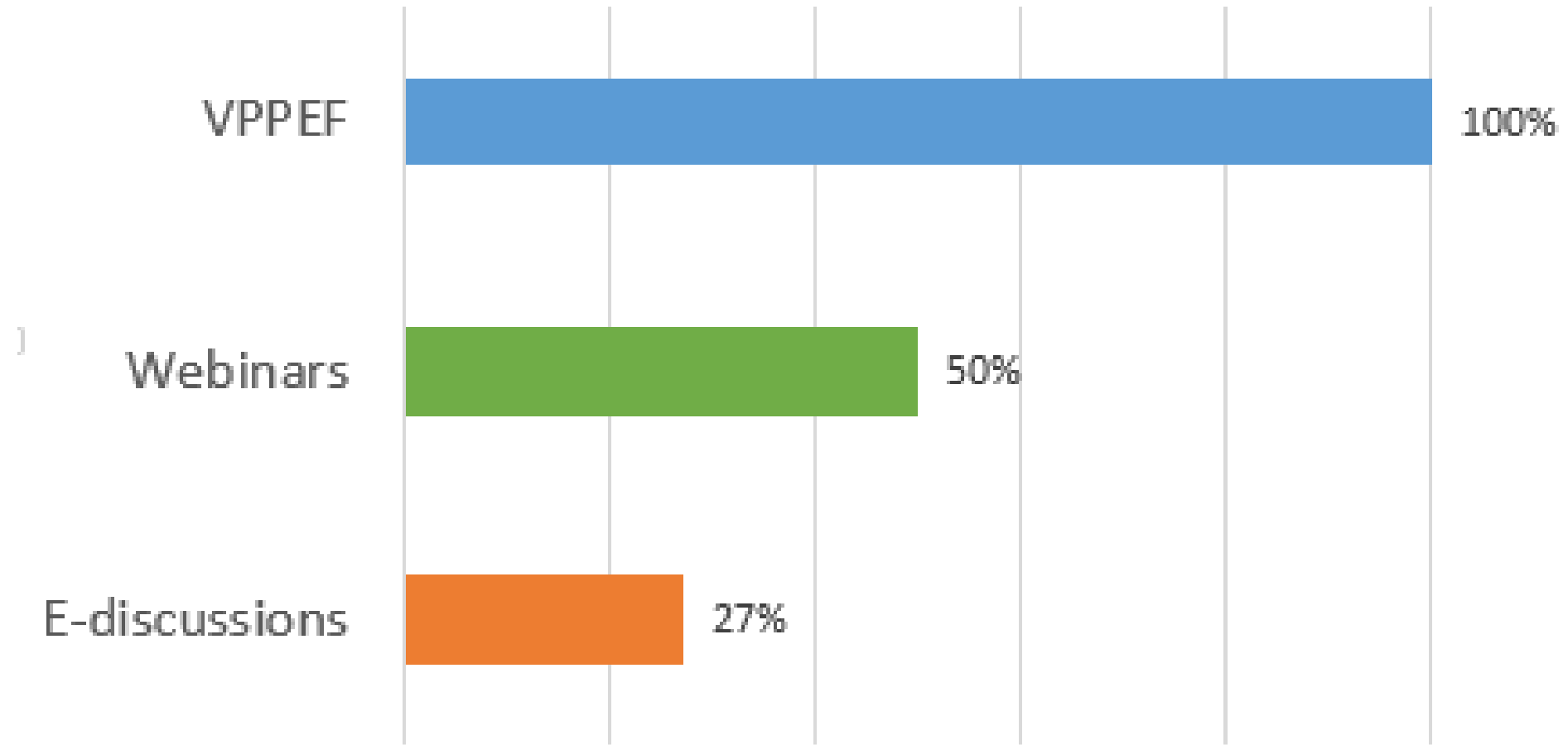
Mathias Thomann-  
Arenhost, Finance  
Specialist, UNICEF Supply  
Division



Alex Ceban  
Head of administrative de  
Procurement Services  
Manager, UNICEF Supply  
Division



# Country participation

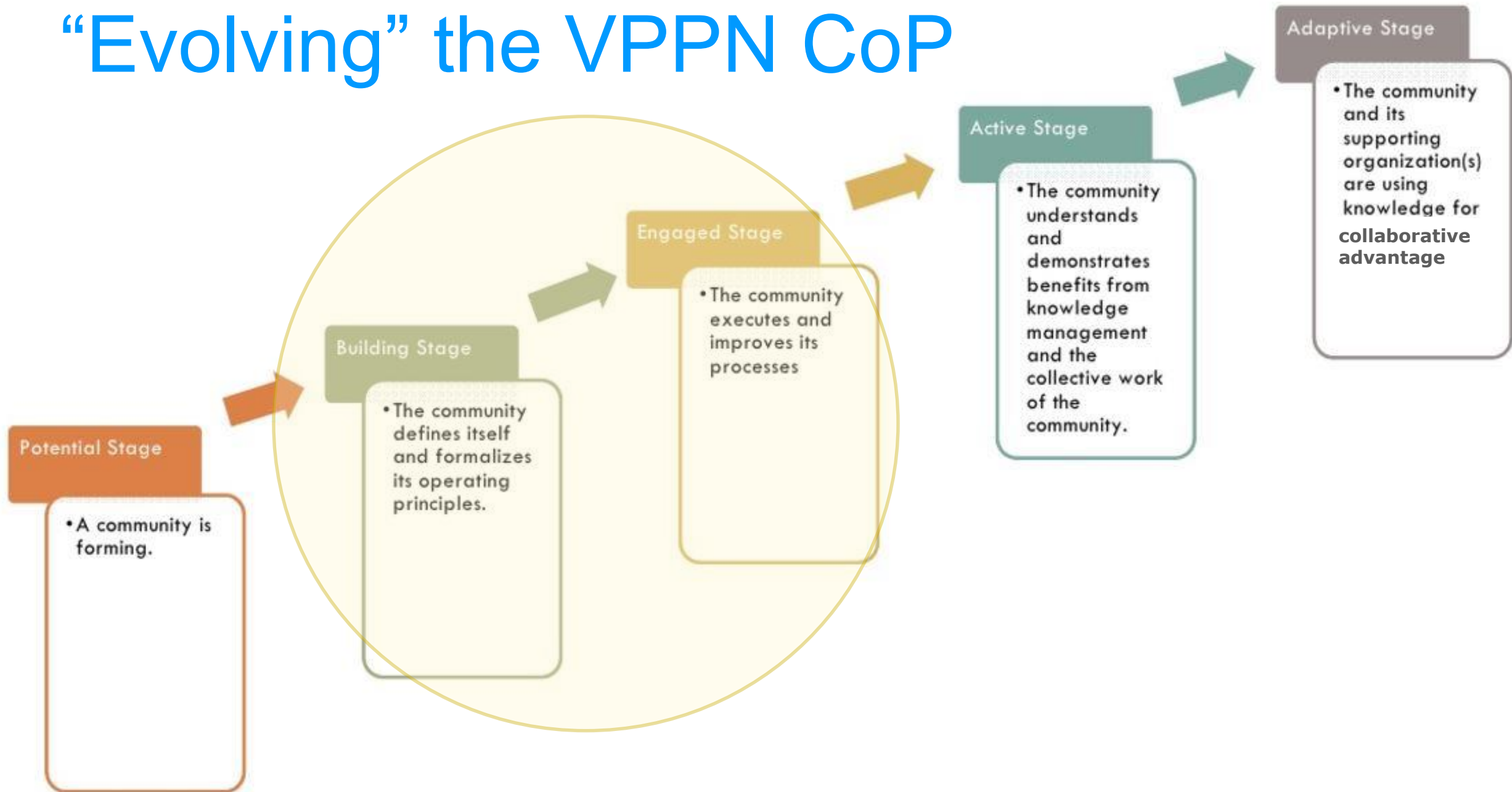


# Lessons Learned

- There is tremendous knowledge exchange during the VPPEF, but not so much during the VPPN
- Higher levels of participation during webinars than in online forums
- Relatively small group – what counts is not individual participation but country learning. Thus, For MOHs, individual members need to be grouped by countries and 1-2 focal points for each country to selected



# “Evolving” the VPPN CoP





# What's in store

- Working with Web developers to further optimize some platform functionalities (e.g. improving the 'library')
- More of the same: webinars, e-discussions, newsletter
- VPPEF 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (October, 2018)
- Implementation of the strategic communications plan and monitoring & evaluation plan
- Creation of infographics and strengthening geospatial aspects
- Expanding the network – more countries; external partners



Your thoughts?



# Question

- To Country members: what would you like to see from UNICEF Supply Community members?
- To UNICEF Supply Community: what activities would be beneficial for you on the VPPN?



# References & further information

- The [World Bank Atlas method](#) - detailed methodology
- [World Bank Data Middle Income](#)
- [Assessment Report of the Global Vaccine Action Plan](#) World Health Organization (WHO) 2017

