

VIETNAM

Empowering Supply Chain Managers for saving more lives in hard-to-reach villages



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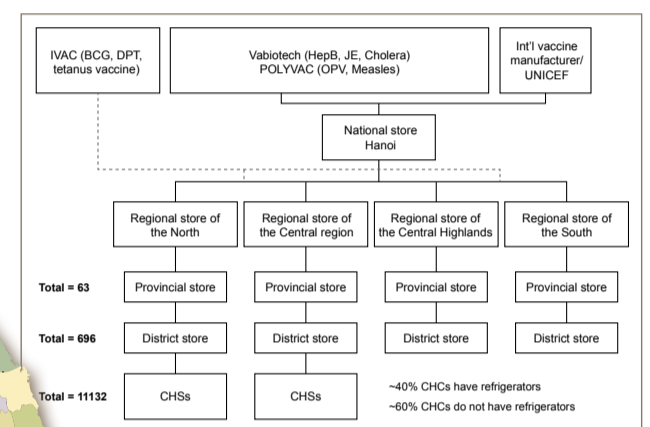
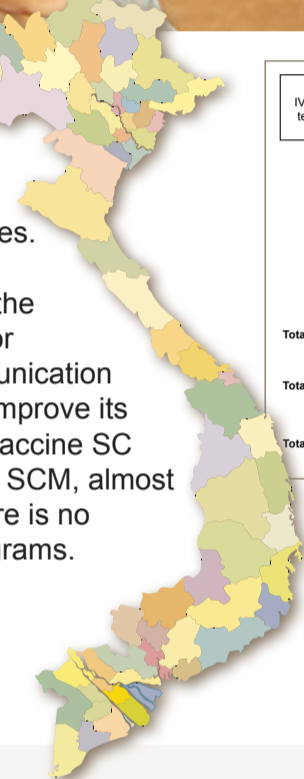
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BACKGROUND

The need for Vaccine Supply Chain Managers in Vietnam

Since 1985, Vietnam's National EPI has made remarkable achievements in the delivery of vaccination services to protect children from dangerous and common communicable diseases. Nevertheless, Vietnam is still facing issue related to inequities in immunization coverage of children especially in hard-to-reach and poor villages where coverage is between 60-70. In the recent years, NEPI improved vaccine practices with the introduction of a specific software for management of vaccines, the creation of a Web based platform for NEPI operations, communication & advocacy, and e-learning of NEPI staff. One of the key priorities still not addressed, is to improve its logistics structure and immunization supply chain (SC) management. Indeed, professional vaccine SC manager is not available in Vietnam. According to the national logistics structure for vaccine SCM, almost 12,000 personnel are involved from central to commune health center (CHC). However, there is no professional vaccine supply chain manager/personnel and even training and education programs. Therefore, AMP and the National EPI in Vietnam are collaborating to reinforce immunization performance through available skilled human resources professionalized in vaccine supply chain management. This poster is an advocacy message for professional vaccine supply chain managers in Vietnam.



CREATING VACCINE SC MANAGERS

Investing in SC Personnel

In Vietnam, there is a need to reinforce capacity of Vietnam to rely on skilled Supply Chain Manager. Indeed, limited expertise to operate and oversee SC is considered as the vaccine supply chain key challenge. Efforts should be allocated to ensuring the matching between adequate number of competent Supply Chain Managers and appropriate provision of vaccines and drugs in health facilities. Priority actions to be performed are 1) building coherent national leadership for establishing a plan for SC Manager, 2) generating evidence on the value of investing and acknowledging SC Manager, 3) increasing performance of SC Manager with competence-based curricula, accreditation and regulation of training institutions, 4) and investing in the SC Manager with long term predictable support (domestic and external funding) aligned to country needs and SC national plans. This is the way forward to ensuring skilled SC personnel will be available at the right place and the right time.

PROFESSIONALIZING SC MANAGERS & PERSONNEL

Empowering training institutes & improving HR performance management

Key competencies of SC managers are related to immunization planning, vaccine forecasting and storing – immunization delivery and waste management. These competencies are not available in one personnel but mainly distributed through several NEPI staff. Because of the lack of recognition of the position in the past, Vietnam did not sufficiently develop pre service and in service training. Likewise, performance management with clear indicators and competencies criteria needs to be reinforced. Building the capacity of Vietnam to train and retrain human resources in SCM is essential to increase performance of immunization performance. In the recent years, partners have tested innovative and competence based training programs, knowledge sharing platforms, and certification of SC managers - i.e. LOGIVAC/ AMP and People that Deliver. These could serve as models for adaptation to the Vietnam context.

INFLUENCING HUMAN RESOURCES POLICY FORMULATION

Evidence based advocacy for Supply Chain Managers

A critical step is to influence national supply chain policies and system by providing decision makers with evidence and relevant information. This effort will demonstrate benefits for HR policy change and encourage the adoption of transformative SCM. A Vietnam community of SC advocates at national level would be of worth. They would be empowered to assess HR policies and strategies, identify key players, analyze evidence and relevant information, conduct policy advocacy campaigns. Key existing national stakeholders such as the National Immunization Technical Advisory Board (NITAG) should be engaged, or even existing regional committees with experts in vaccine SCM might be engaged for supporting professionalization of SCM in Vietnam.

SYNERGIZING RESOURCES

Fostering multisectoral collaboration

There are several opportunities to mobilize resources to strengthen vaccine SCM in Vietnam:

- > The Pharmacy Strategy to 2020 and vision to 2030 (approved by the Prime Minister) foresees investment and support to development of the drug supply chain for the socio-economic disadvantaged areas.
- > Global Funds to fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria has a capacity building program in SCM
- > GAVI Alliance Immunization SC strategy – People and practices initiative
- > Networking SC managers in the public and the private sectors

