

Outsourcing the Distribution Component of Vaccine and Medicine Supply Chains Guidance Report Fact Sheet

In support of the Gavi Alliance Immunisation supply chain strategy, the Private Sector Working Group on behalf of the Supply Chain Taskforce, has developed an **Outsourcing Guidance Report** which focuses on what steps need to be taken should Ministries decide to contract the private sector for the distribution of vaccines and medical products in sub-Saharan Africa.

Why was this guidance developed? Analyses suggest that immunisation supply chains too often fail to deliver potent vaccines—evidenced by country systems that are not meeting Effective Vaccine Management (EVM) standards. Meanwhile, new vaccine introductions are putting more value and volume into the supply chain, creating potential for greater health impact. Action is needed to address these challenges and to improve performance so that immunisation coverage can be increased, equity improved, and health impact realised.

The 2016 – 2020 Gavi Alliance supply chain strategy leverages the Alliance’s global capabilities and in-country resources to establish a powerful enabling environment for end-to-end supply chain improvement. The vision is that by 2020 immunisation supply chains efficiently provide potent vaccines to all. The strategy envisions significant changes in the way immunisation supply chains are managed to enable countries to sustain program success with an increasing portfolio of lifesaving vaccines while at the same time increasing coverage and equitable access.

These supply chains will benefit from new technology and approaches, including adoption of private sector management practices. There is an opportunity to leverage the advances in the science and practice of supply chain management made by the private sector. In addition, private logistics and transport capacity is expanding in many Gavi countries and there is a growing willingness to engage with the public sector.

What is this guidance? This report focuses on how to outsource the physical distribution of vaccines and medical products to a private sector Logistics Service Provider (LSP) in sub-Saharan Africa. The report provides guidance to governments on when and what parts of the immunisation supply chain to outsource, and how to do this, if governments decide to outsource to the private sector. It provides a framework and toolbox to determine when and how to appropriately outsource. The report has been designed with the user in mind and is modularized - it starts with a practical “how to” framework for outsourcing to the private sector and concludes with the broader context and examples.

How was this guidance created? The development of this guidance was commissioned to Transaid - an international development organisation that identifies, champions, implements and shares local transport solutions which improve access to basic services and economic opportunity for poor people in developing countries. Transaid was selected because they blend private (UK Transport & Logistics Industry) and public sector (their work in developing countries) expertise to build robust solutions.

Who should use this guidance? EPI managers, Ministries of Health, Policy Makers and any other parties who are interested in outsourcing of pieces of supply chain distribution to private sector logistics service providers should use this guidance. It is envisaged that this report will also be used by relevant ministries at the policy level and contribute to the discussion on outsourcing.



[Outsourcing the Distribution Component of Vaccine and Medicine Supply Chains](#)

This report focuses on how to outsource the physical distribution of vaccines and medical products to a private sector Logistics Service Provider (LSP) in sub-Saharan Africa. It analyses existing approaches to outsourcing, the challenges encountered and lessons learned, and provides a framework and toolbox to determine when and how to appropriately outsource.
