VILLAGE REACH®

Supply Chain Integrators Investment Overview

Photo: Paul Joseph Brown

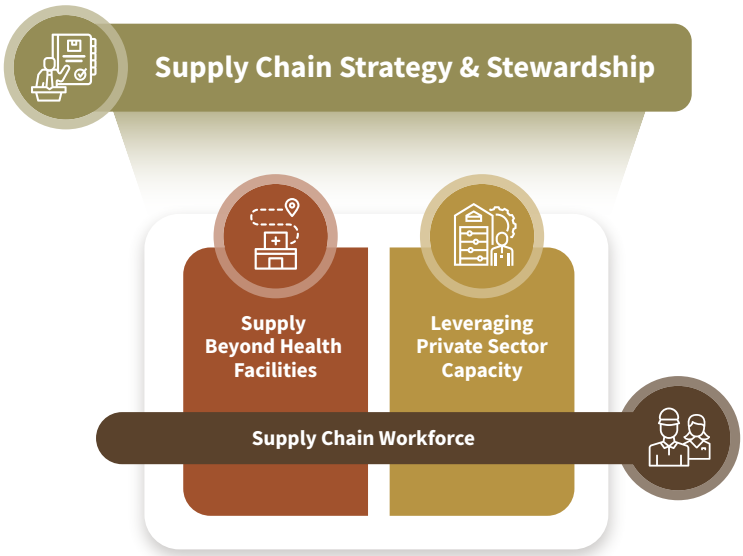
Improving the health and well-being of under-reached communities requires high-performing public health supply chains. At VillageReach, we work with governments and partners to build equitable, people-centered, resilient and sustainable supply chains in Africa. We use our Supply Chain Integration Framework[1] to guide this work. The Supply Chain Integrators (SCI) Investment enables us to operationalize the integration framework and catalyze a mindset shift that promotes a more holistic view of supply chain integration.

Operationalizing the Framework

The SCI Investment focuses on four components of the integration framework that we call 'areas of opportunity,' or areas of supply chain integration that stakeholders do not often consider. For example, existing programs often focus on integrated health product delivery and increasing data visibility. Our activities for this investment are designed to help governments and their partners explore areas of opportunity in their national supply chain programs. These areas include:

- **Supplies Beyond Health Facility:** making health products available for the most under-reached populations
- **Leveraging Private Sector Capacity:** utilizing all available local private sector resources to manage supply chain functions such as transportion or warehousing
- **Supply Chain Workforce:** ensuring an integrated supply chain is managed by a skilled workforce
- **Supply Chain Strategy & Stewardship:** ensuring governments lead in developing a holistic supply chain strategy and stewarding a holistically integrated supply chain

Integration Areas of Opportunity



SCI Investment in Action

The SCI Investment funds several activities and programs that we categorize by the four 'areas of opportunity.' Through implementing these activites with our partners and advocating for holistic supply chain integration we aim to catalyze sustainable change in the supply chain space.

LEVERAGING PRIVATE SECTOR CAPACITY

Procurement: Promoting the use of tech-enabled procurement mechanisms, such as the Africa Medical Supplies Platform[2], to assist African governments in obtaining high quality affordable health products from global and local suppliers.

Distribution: Encouraging governments to increase the participation of for-profit private distributors in the public health supply chain to improve the availability and accessibility of health products.

Transportation: Offering technical assistance and resources for outsourced transport to deliver health products to the health facility level and beyond in public health supply chains. See Outsourced Transport Resource Center[3].

Drones: Generating evidence for governments and their partners related to the impact and the financial viability of using outsourced drone logistics for health product transport, and increasing public-private collaborations through the the UAV for Payload Delivery Working Group (UPDWG[4]) community.

SUPPLIES BEYOND HEALTH FACILITIES

CHWs as Vaccinators: Research and advocacy showing how Community Health Workers (CHWs) can be leveraged to vaccinate the most under-reached populations, resolve health care workforce shortages, and increase access to routine immunization among zero-dose and under-immunized children.

Supplying CHWs: Connecting CHWs to national supply chain planning and distribution to increase their ability to provide health services beyond the health facility.

SUPPLY CHAIN WORKFORCE

Professionalization: Building capacity and advocating for professionalization[5] of the supply chain workforce by standardizing and institutionalizing national supply chain roles, competencies, training, and developing academic curriculum to create a sustainable pipeline of locally, adequately trained supply chain professionals.

Gender Equity: Applying a gender lens to the supply chain workforce, researching barriers to equitable participation and applying recommendations to remove those barriers.

SUPPLY CHAIN STRATEGY & STEWARDSHIP

Governance: The Supply Chain Investment Coordination & Advocacy (SCICA[6]) program in the Democratic Republic of Congo supports the prioritization of donor-funded and government-funded supply chain investments and more effective partner coordination at the national and provincial levels, thereby improving overall supply chain performance.

Through these activities we aim to catalyze:

Governments to adopt evidence-based policies and practices for supply chain integration and increase their stewardship of donor and domestic supply chain investments.

Local private sector companies to increase their participation in public health supply chains.

Funders and implementers to align on the importance of supply chain integration and adopt proven tools and approaches.

1 https://www.villagereach.org/supply-chain-integration-framework/
2 https://amsp.africa/
3 https://www.villagereach.org/project/otrc/
4 https://www.updwg.org
5 https://www.villagereach.org/project/supply-chain-professionalization/
6 https://www.villagereach.org/project/supply-chain-investments-drc/

To learn more about the SCI Investment, contact:

Kim Couri, Senior Manager, Supply Chain, **kim.couri@villagereach.org**

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