Challenges & Opportunities
Providing Quality Medication to the People of Ethiopia

Background
Ethiopia’s health supply chain characteristics include:
• Counterfeit and illegal trade.
• Inadequate supply of quality and affordable essential medication.
• High levels of waste and stockouts.
• Increased demand for medication.
• Lack of visibility for supply and demand.
• Minimal verification capabilities of medicine quality and authenticity.

Challenges
While implementation of global standards is needed, the path to traceability is challenging:
• Awareness about the importance of global supply chain standards is low.
• Regulatory and supply chain business processes to support implementation are inadequate.
• Global standards are poorly understood.
• Capacity of supporting industries such as printing, packaging, labeling, hardware, and software is inadequate.
• Need for policy framework to introduce global standards to improve performance of the supply chain.

Opportunities
The landscape assessment conducted by the Technical Working Group identified great opportunities, including:
• Stakeholder involvement: A National Steering Committee (including the Ministry of Health); the Food, Medicine and Health Care Administration and Control Authority; the Pharmaceuticals Fund and Supply Agency; manufacturing organizations; and health care providers.
• Implementation of a national strategy to develop the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector with a focus on export.
• Experience provided by global initiatives and increase in manufacturer and supplier compliance.
• Growth in use of mobile technology, including a verification app by JSI to allow patients to verify the quality of malaria medication, one of the most used and counterfeited products.
• High-level government commitment to developing a policy framework for implementation of global standards.