## Tanzania leading the way with barcodes on vaccine packaging

Barcodes to Increase Supply Chain Visibility in Tanzania

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26<sup>th</sup> Global GS1 Healthcare Conference 21 - 23 October 2014 Copenhagen, Denmark





What if...

...in five years, any country, multilateral organization, and donor in the world can track the movement of vaccines from manufacturer to recipient through the use of inexpensive, easily usable, and reliable barcode technology?



#### Yet today, some challenges remain



#### But barriers are being overcome

- Continued investment from PATH's innovation fund to bring global best practices in supply chain to low and middle income countries
- Leadership by Tanzania Ministry of Health and Social Welfare's (MoHSW) efforts to improve the quality of immunization data management
- National deployment of electronic Logistics Management
   Information System across Tanzania

### Catalyst funding and leadership from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance





- Initiation by Pfizer to include barcodes on vaccine packaging shipped to Tanzania as of February 2014
- Gavi funding to develop and test software prototypes and hardware profiles in Tanzania
- WHO Vaccine Presentation and Packaging Group recommendation to use barcodes conforming to GS1 standards and specifications





#### Warnings regarding expiry dates

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#### Visibility into all levels of the supply chain

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#### Results

- Evaluated 60 scanner options, selecting representative models for field work
- Overall positive feedback as national, district, and regional immunization officers saw the addition of barcodes to the vaccine management process as very positive.
- Challenge scanning in low light with crowded conditions, and small size of barcode



"The system will improve my work by reducing time used to count the stock during receiving or dispatching of vaccines."

> "Would reduce the emergency trips which is usually caused by inadequate vaccine record keeping"

"The improvement of quality of data could be significant when assessing movement of stock (time) from higher levels to low levels."

#### **Next Steps**

- Incorporate barcode functionality into national systems
- Perform independent evaluation to measure impact
  - Closed vial vaccine waste
  - Emergency trips made to remedy stock issues
  - Accuracy of stock data
  - Reduce time spent by staff on distribution and inventory management



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#### Thank you

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#### **Global Background Leading to eLMIS**



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