



## GOOD PRACTICES FROM THE STATE

### **eVIN (Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network) - Improving Vaccination System Through Digitization of Cold Chain Management in Nagaland of Health & Family Welfare Department**

**Background:** Nagaland eVIN project was introduced in May 2016 under the Universal Immunization Programme of the Health & Family Welfare Department supported by UNDP. The task of reaching due children and pregnant women with the right vaccines stored at the right temperatures at the right time has been a challenge in Nagaland given the difficulties of rough terrain and infrastructure. The need to monitor the use and ensure the safety of vaccines has been the paramount objective of eVIN so that safe and potent vaccines reach the right beneficiaries. The eVIN solution uses smartphone technology to digitize the entire vaccine supply chain.

**The Intervention:** Prior to the launch of eVIN, Nagaland had 112 cold chain points which are currently at 126 cold chain points. Streamlining of cold chain points and vaccine flow has been one of the major contributions of eVIN. Also, all vaccine registers were standardized and digitized through the use of technology. Installation of temperature loggers to enable live-temperature monitoring of cold chain equipment, online order management and capacity building of all cold chain handlers and program managers are some of the notable implementations. eVIN indigenously developed an Android mobile app through which cold chain handlers can easily upload entries using mobile internet and SMS without having to wait for computer operators to upload records despite the existing issues of irregular power supply and internet services.

#### **The After:**

- eVIN bulletin board successfully installed at the State level - Mission Director National Health Mission office to monitor real-time vaccine and equipment status of each and helps them make informed decisions as they can view all the 9 eVIN indicators on their dashboard.
- Re-organisation of Cold Chain Points – Many districts have seen the closing of Cold Chain Points in areas where coverage areas were less and shifted to areas with bigger coverage, with better infrastructure and logistically more viable to function as Cold Chain Points.
- Regular monitoring of Cold Chain Points by the eVIN Team (Project Officer and Vaccine & Cold Chain Manager) to follow up on issues, inactivity, necessary hand-holding support etc. The team also takes the opportunity to conduct physical stock verification of vaccines, validate stock & distribution registers and note down changes in cold chain equipment during such monitoring visits.
- All 123 Cold Chain Points in Nagaland have been equipped with necessary job aids to assist Cold Chain Handlers in their daily activities
- Apart from eVIN mobile app on the phone, DVSMs also have printed min-max of each Cold Chain Point for quick reference which aids them in performing their daily duties faster and easily

- Women empowerment: Cold Chain Handlers using smartphones for the first time in tribal areas. Women Cold Chain Handlers are a common sight in Nagaland, with Dimapur district being headed by a lady DVSM and 4 out of 9 Cold Chain Points being managed by women Cold Chain Handlers. This in turn has empowered these women with a sense of responsibility and dedication to perform their duties to the best of their abilities. Some Cold Chain Handlers who are aged and experienced health workers and never held a smartphone before are now confidently updating entries on eVIN.