

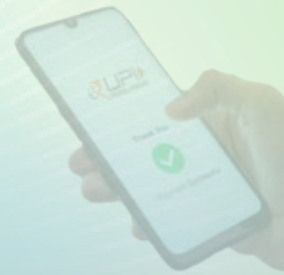
# Report on Leveraging India's Digital Experience in Payments & Vaccination Platform



**C+WIN**

Winning Over COVID

**NPCI**   
INTERNATIONAL



**EXPO  
2020**

**GDC**

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE



# **Preface**

## **Professor Sachin Chaturvedi**

Director General, RIS

As is well known, the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has guided India's relationship with fellow developing countries, that are confronting multiple challenges related to development and reconstruction. In this context, the Global Development Centre (GDC), established at RIS is promoting development programmes/flagship missions advocated by developing countries for their possible replication/adoption among peer countries. This is in tune with the idea of a better world for an enriched and inclusive growth in the Global South.

The workshops on NIPL's Digital Payments and Co-WIN Vaccination Platform organised by GDC on 4-5 March 2022 at Expo 2020, Dubai, UAE aimed to institutionalize knowledge on India's development initiatives as part of knowledge sharing in Asia and Africa with the help of its institutional partners. It intended to explore and articulate global development processes within a micro framework to collate and assimilate learning processes of other countries for promotion of equity, sustainability and inclusivity based on multidisciplinary and multi-functional approaches.

The present publication on 'Leveraging India's Digital Experience in Payments & Vaccination Platform', which GDC has brought out as outcome report of the workshop aims to remind us about the mutual commitment and collective engagement for true accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Seshadri Chari, RIS Governing Council and General Body Member and Amb Amar Sinha, GDC Advisory Committee Chairman & Distinguished Fellow, RIS for their guidance and support in the entire effort. We would also like to acknowledge the work done by Ms Rituparna Banerjee, Mr Amit Arora and Mr Omegere John Patrick, and RIS publication team for bringing out this publication.

I am sure policy makers, practitioners, stakeholders and researchers would find this publication useful and interesting.

**Sachin Chaturvedi**

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# Report on Leveraging India's Digital Experience in Payments & Vaccination Platform

3-6 March, 2022

India Pavilion-Expo 2020, Dubai, UAE

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## Context

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Historically, World Expos have been a platform to showcase the greatest innovations for various countries where they can come together and exhibit their achievements in numerous sectors. Expo 2020 hosted by Dubai continued the 170 year old tradition with the latest technology from around the globe. The expo provided a launch pad for the global collaboration and a chance for humanity to convene in a spirit of optimism, hope and shared purpose to exchange inspiring new ideas and new perspectives, with an emphasis on three subthemes / districts – Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability.

Organized under the theme '**Connecting Minds and Creating the Future**' Expo 2020 Dubai attracted participation from 192 countries, 11 international organizations like ASEAN Pavilion, African Union Pavilion, among others. The pavilions were spread across the three themes / districts. Each pavilion showcased the unique feature of their respective countries



and how international organizations and civil society are already working to address the current global challenges. The Expo initiatives such as *The Expo Live Global Innovation and Partnership Programme*, *Global Best Practice Programme*, etc. create opportunities for meaningful development impact.

The Expo's Programme for *People and Planet* offers a platform for the free and open exchange of new ideas and innovations. The programme is designed to help re-imagine the global economy; place equality, universal respect and human dignity at the centre of human progress; and instill a sense of responsibility to live in harmony and balance with the natural world. Through five tracks – Build Bridges, Leave No One Behind, Live in Balance, Thrive Together and UAE Vision 2071 – the programme explores humanity's most pressing challenges through a cultural, social, environmental and economic lens. Structured in ten theme weeks spread across the six months of the expo, the programme explores humanity's most critical challenges and opportunities. The theme weeks included food, agriculture, and livelihoods; health and wellness; water; climate and biodiversity; space; urban and rural development; etc.

As one of its major initiatives, Expo's Global Best Practice Programme showcased real solutions to the world's most pressing development challenges. The programme highlighted projects from around the world that have provided impactful and sustainable interventions, with a view to expanding them elsewhere. The programme focuses on five areas that are in line with a number of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), particularly inclusive and sustainable service delivery, inclusive and sustainable service delivery, social development, resilient habitant, water, food and energy security.

The convergence between the Expo 2020 initiatives especially regarding the global best practice programme and GDCs mission to scale best practices from the Global South provided an international platform to garner more support and project its presence to a wider global audience.

It was the best way forward to get across to a wide range of visiting delegations from Asian and African countries to the Expo and India Pavilion. Whereas visiting these countries in the backdrop of challenges posed by the unending menace of COVID pandemic or inviting them to India to GDC would have been far more complex and time taking.

The GDC activities at the Expo aimed to showcase India's development experiences and best practices, and India's efforts towards the creation of global digital public goods for the attainment of the United Nation's Agenda 2030. GDC was able to enlarge its footprint by reaching out to other interested constituencies for the possible replication or adoption of India's best developmental practices.



## Leveraging India's Presence at Expo 2020 Dubai

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India has an outstanding presence at the Expo 2020. The four storied India Pavilion, based at Sustainability district in the Expo, offered a unique way of displaying of India's successes in the sectors of agriculture, traditional medicine and yoga, automobiles, energy, financial services, healthcare, information and technology, digital advancements, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, space, food processing and dairy, environment, among other sectors. Managed by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the India Pavilion showcases 75 years of India's independence and contribution to the global economy. The week GDC participated between 3rd and 6th March, 2022 at India Pavilion had an average footfall of nearly 25 thousand people. Basing on the notable presence of the India Pavilion at the Expo 2020, GDC collaborated with FICCI to conduct activities at the India Pavilion. GDC also leveraged on India's Ambassador to UAE and Commissioner General of the India Pavilion to reach out to relevant stakeholders.

## Countries Invited in the Workshop

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GDC invited participants from various African countries to contribute in the workshops on India's digital innovation on payments and vaccination platform. Simultaneously, the team, in collaboration with FICCI, reached out to various Country Pavilions at the Expo to

invite Dignitaries/ Commissioner Generals/ Ambassadors to attend the GDC programmes at the India Pavilion and the ongoing efforts of GDC to strengthen the partnerships.

Following are the countries which were reached out in the process:

- Uganda, Rwanda, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Tanzania, South Sudan, Malawi, Zambia and Gambia

## **GDC Delegation**

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GDC team was led by Dr. Seshadri Ramanujan Chari, Eminent Scholar, Member, RIS Governing Council. The other members from GDC included:

- Ms. Rituparna Banerjee, GDC Manager
- Mr. Amit Arora, GDC Manager
- Mr. Omegere John Patrick, GDC Resource Person – Africa

GDC team was joined by representatives from Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), UK, National Health Authority (NHA), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India (GoI), NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), namely:

- Mr. Chandrakanth Vivekanandan, Programme Officer, Global Partnerships, India
- Mr. Aviral Gupta, Officer-on-Special-Duty (OSD) to CEO, NHA, MoHFW, GoI, New Delhi
- Mr. Savin Shetty, Lead - Business Development, Sub Saharan Africa Region, NIPL
- Mr. Vijay Shetty, In-charge for Real-time Payments Solution, NIPL

## **GDC Activities at Dubai Expo, 2020**

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GDC conducted workshops and bilateral sessions on India's digital vaccination platform Co-WIN and digital payment solutions offered by NIPL with representatives from several African countries. GDC also facilitated visit to India Pavilion and other country pavilions. The activities were conducted between March 3rd and March 6th 2022, at the India Pavilion of Expo 2020 Dubai. Principally, the objective of these activities was to showcase India's digital innovations and efforts towards to create digital public goods, in line with GDC's mandate of sharing development solutions from the Global South. In this regard, GDC aimed to create a platform for kick starting mutually beneficial partnerships between NIPL and NHA, MoHFW, GoI and their counterparts in different African countries. The details of the activities undertaken are:



# Workshop on NIPL's Digital Payments

Digital payment in India has achieved extra-ordinary growth. India has since emerged as the global epicenter for digital payments accounting for the highest number of digital transactions in the world – 25.5 billion transactions. It is projected that 71.7 percent of the total transactions will be digital by 2025. In this context, GDC organized the workshop to showcase NIPL's digital payment solutions on March 4th and 5th March 2022.

The launch of Unified Payment Interface (UPI), RuPAY, etc. by the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) has been critical for driving digital payments. UPI provides a common payment platform for all digital payments in India. The system merges multiple bank accounts into a single platform (mobile application and USSD) enabling instant money transfer and merchant payment. This is made possible through an openly defined set of Application Programming Interfaces (API) to facilitate payments to any bank.

With UPI, bank account holders can create a virtual payment address through which they can send and request for payments using a mobile phone. One-click two-factor authentication ensures safety and security of payments. Later developments code-named UPI 2.0 introduced new features which allow linking overdraft accounts, in addition to current and savings accounts; preauthorizing transactions; verification of invoices before confirming payment; and an additional security measure which enables customers to check the authenticity of merchants while scanning QR codes.

UPI has achieved phenomenal success in India, processing over 4.5 billion transactions worth over Rs 8.2 trillion in a month owing to its success in India; GDC is keen to share the UPI experience with other countries especially in the South. In line with its mandate of promoting best practices from the South, GDC is facilitating engagement between

NPCI and Southern Countries. The purpose of the workshop was to share experiences and transfer technology on India's digital payment systems to countries from the Global South. The workshop was attended by delegates representing Central Banks from Africa and Representatives/ Commissioner Generals of several African countries' pavilions at the Expo.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Seshadri Ramanujan Chari, Member, Governing Council, RIS. The following are the key points from his opening remarks:



*Dr Seshadri Chari inaugurating workshop on digital payments*

- India has progressed in digital payments to such an extent that anyone can live in India for any number of days or years without even looking at the currency bill. That is the kind of progress India has made as far as the use of digital payments are concerned.
- Digital payment process is an integration of three stakeholders (the payer, the payee and the facilitator vis-à-vis a robust platform/protocol).
- This works very well for exchanges by individuals to merchants to corporate and countries alike.
- To improve the economy and reduce cash component in any business, the world has to soon get into a system like this where digital mode of payment becomes imperative. Because countries of the Global South are not just developing but are emerging economies.
- GDC at RIS is essentially one of the platforms which is transforming the knowledge to practical applications and engaging with the rest of the world encouraging multilateralism.

## Brief on NIPL offerings

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Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, not just business houses, but globally countries have been forced to rethink their strategy to take measures to recuperate from the impact the pandemic has caused. The long-predicted less cash society, where cash in circulation sees decreasing trend seems closer to reality. More so, the COVID pandemic has brought about a transformation in customer behaviour in terms of favouring digital payments. The pandemic has brought to light the significance of digital payments and need for robust payment infrastructures in India and its peer countries from the Global South.

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India. It was incorporated with similar goals in mind, to transform and modernize the payment infrastructure by driving innovations in payments in a country of over 1.4 Billion, which is diverse and is home to different cultures and languages.



*Mr Savin Shetty and Mr Vijay Shetty introducing NIPL offerings in digital payments*



*Participants from Reserve Bank of Malawi*

NPCI processes over 10 Billion transactions every month across all its platforms which include ATM switch (NFS), Immediate Payment Services (IMPS), National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC), Domestic cards scheme (RuPay) – today enjoys dominant market share of 61% in India and has grown to becoming the 4th largest card scheme globally. NPCI enjoys a good relationship with JCB cards and also promotes issuance of co-badged cards in India. Last but

most importantly the much talked about Real-Time Payments Platform - Unified Payments Interface (UPI). UPI is a collaborative platform that promotes complete interoperability, speed and importantly security. UPI, in 2021 has processed over 39 Billion financial transactions in 2021 with commerce of over US\$ 940 Billion. The cumulative commerce for year 2021 is now equivalent to approximately 31% of GDP of India

To showcase the solutions, Mr. Savin Shetty and Mr. Vijay Shetty delivered a joint presentation during the workshop. The key points from their presentations included the following;

- One of the key driving factors that warranted the launch of a completely open and interoperable payment platform like UPI in India was to drive financial inclusion and digitalize the cash payments. UPI has paved the way for Government and business leaders to work together and propel economic growth. UPI can also empower the Government to effect direct benefit delivery to its citizens.
- Post the success of NPCI's solutions in India, a wholly owned international subsidiary NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) was setup in April 2020. NIPL's goal is to take indigenously developed best-in-class digital payment solutions to International markets. NIPL's focus is to promote Digital Public Good globally by way of collaboration with Central Banks to offer solutions in area of democratised payment platforms to cater to the following endeavour:
  - » Supporting financial inclusion
  - » Direct delivery of citizen welfare programs from government
  - » Risk Mitigation and promoting security of transactions
- Collaboration opportunities given the current landscape and capabilities:

**a. UPI like deployment:**

- » Having built a robust interoperable payment platform and having scaled it at an ecosystem level, NPCI endeavors to work with other countries which have aspirations and need for such open payment systems (with open banking theme) to be deployed in their country and derive similar benefits as India.
- » NIPL wishes to approach this through the 'UPI for Digital transformation' mode through enabling deployment of UPI like solution. Establishing UPI as a global payments standard by licensing the technology and standards, India can leverage on the Soft Power diplomacy.

**b. Network to Network arrangement for driving cross-border remittances:**

- » As of recent numbers, India receives ~US\$ 83 Billion as remittance from various countries annually.
- » Currently these transactions are routed through MTO, Bank Bi-laterals and SWIFT – not the most cost effective and optimal way.
- » Based on the Remittance Prices Worldwide report of Sep 2020, the global average cost of remittances is 6.75 % in Q3 2020.
- » NIPL is keen to explore a direct partnership with Central Bank, wherein networks connect directly to support real-time credit to beneficiary in India using our state of art UPI solution.
- » UPI solution covers the length and breadth of the India and runs on aliases (with limited information ask from remitter) – providing reach and simplicity.

**c. Acceptance of RuPay branded Cards:**

- » As of today, 700 Million RuPay Cards are in circulation in India, this is 61% of cards issued in India
- » It is understood that over 300 Million Indians travelled overseas in 2018. These include Indians traveling overseas for Business, Pleasure and Education.
- » This number shall only show an upward trend in the times to come (post COVID normalcy). Further, by enabling RuPay Acceptance, the merchants stand to gain exposure to incremental target audience from India and incremental business opportunities by creating acceptance of a new card scheme.

**d. Acceptance of UPI powered Apps:**

- » NIPL currently have over 252+ Million Active Users on UPI powered apps such as GooglePay, AmazonPay, PhonePe (Walmart owned), BHIM, WhatsApp Pay etc.
- » These users actively use UPI as a solution for both P2P (Peer to Peer) and P2M (merchant) payments using QR, In App, and Web based payments etc.



*Deliberations during NIPL workshop*

- » NIPL is looking at increasing the acceptance footprint of the solution beyond India for UPI Apps.
- » UPI is most renowned Real Time Payments Platform in the world and in 2020 it processed volume worth US\$ 940 Billion (which is equivalent to 31% of India's GDP)
- NPCI is a critical catalyst for India's journey to financial inclusion from offering a single rail network in 2008, to innovation led product growth and moving to UPI led platform approach in 2022.
- **Seven pillars of UPI:**  
Interoperable platforms, runs on aliases, real-time payment platform, integrations with multiple servicing clients, collaborative management model, open banking and API driven; inclusive and standardization.
- In India, UPI Ecosystem has been the catalyst for financial inclusion and is at the forefront of driving digital public good.
- UPI, in 2021 has processed over 39 Billion financial transactions in 2021 with commerce of over US\$ 940 Billion.
- UPI has processed 4.52+ Billion financial transactions and USD 110+ Billion transaction value in February 2022, originating from a base of over 252+ million consumers.
- UPI is an open-source architecture which makes the system very affordable for participants.
- The UPI has a modular architecture which allows for flexibility in deployment. The system comprises a back-end and front-end solution which can be individually applied.

- UPI complies with international risk management standards including Committee on Payment and Market Infrastructure (CPMI) Fast Payment Principles, Principles for Financial Market Instruments (PFMI).
- UPI offers benefits to all stakeholders in the payment ecosystem ie consumers, merchants, banks and FinTech's.
- UPI has aided government to deliver Citizen Welfare support services.
- UPI has multiple use case scenarios.
- RuPAY is India's Card system now issued by over 1125 banks, and over 710+ million cards so far issued.

NPCI is on a mission to reach over 1 billion people where RuPAY takes pride in disruptive use cases such as Contactless, Wearable, Tokenization, Mobility, etc. NIPL presentation was greatly appreciated by delegates of African Central Banks and representatives of African countries. The attendees appreciated aspects of UPI particularly low transaction costs, interoperability, real-time capabilities and its multiple use scenarios. The delegates also asked very relevant questions relating to localization of the solution and the checks and balance the solutions offers in terms of cross border payments and remittance space where the transfer happens.

## India-Malawi Bilateral Session on Digital Payments Offerings by NIPL

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*Participants from Reserve Bank of Malawi attending Bilateral Session with NIPL*

Based on Malawi's interest, GDC facilitated a bilateral session between NIPL and Reserve Bank of Malawi. Chaired by Dr. Seshadri Ramanujan Chari, the Bilateral Session was an opportunity for further in-depth technical exchange with respect to the specific requirements of Malawi based on their local contexts. The representatives of Reserve Bank of Malawi included the following;

- Mr. Emmanuel Thomas Muleso, Principal Inspector, Foreign Flows Monitoring, Reserve Bank of Malawi
- Mr. Emmanuel Kanichi Kaombe, Senior Inspector, Compliance, Reserve Bank of Malawi
- Mr. Peter Ellis Kambalame, Manager, Manager, Policy and Oversight National Payment Systems Dept, Reserve Bank of Malawi

During the session, the team from Malawi presented details of Malawi’s plan towards advancing digital payment systems and appreciated the potential of experience sharing and peer learning based on India’s experience with UPI and RuPay Cards. They also shared insights on the Reserve Bank of Malawi’s procedures for implementing such a system.

On the other hand, the team from NIPL presented further technical details, implementation and operational modalities, financing mechanisms, etc,including operations costs, capacity building requirements, etc. The NIPL team and Malawi delegation also agreed on the next steps of their engagement.



*Participants from NIPL workshop*

# Workshop on Co-WIN Vaccination Platform

COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network (Co-WIN) a digital vaccination platform has been critical for the successful roll-out of one of the world's largest COVID vaccination programmes. Recently, India exceeded one billion COVID vaccine doses administered. Co-WIN provides an end-to-end solution for vaccine management and distribution including scheduling vaccination appointments, data management, and issuing globally recognized vaccination certificates. It has relevance not just COVID-19 vaccination, but also pre-existing vaccination programmes.

The Workshop was organized in collaboration with the National Health Authority, Ministry of Health, Government of India. The objective of the workshop was to showcase India's digital Vaccination System - Co-WIN, and establish collaboration for possible adoption of CO-WIN in interested African Countries. The Workshop was attended by representatives from Ministries of Health/ Agencies in-charge of Vaccination programs from Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Zambia, Mozambique, and South Sudan. In addition, representatives/ Commissioner Generals of other African Country Pavilions from the Expo also participated.

Held on March 5th, 2022, the workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Seshadri Ramanujan Chari, Eminent Scholar & Member, Governing Board, RIS delivered the welcome remarks. The following are the key points from his opening remarks:



*Participants attending workshop on digital vaccination platform*



- There is a need for cooperative framework among all Global South partners.
- Pandemic was a challenge and equally an opportunity. It was during the pandemic, India was probably the first country not only to manufacture anti-virus inoculation but also to export and give it for free to as many countries as possible.
- It had certain effects on India's own system, but we did not allow countries to stop from approaching India.
- There is a huge amount of opportunity for India and Africa to work together. India and Africa have common problems, challenges and opportunities. All these years we have not been able to tap the potential of these countries.
- There cannot be a hegemonic approach towards cooperative framework. Instead the cooperative framework should be developed under the aegis of South-South-Cooperation.
- India and Africa can mutually open doors for each other for sharing learning and experiences to overcome present and future challenges.

## Presentation on Co-WIN

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With a view of illustrating the unique features of Co-WIN, a detailed presentation was delivered by Mr. Aviral Gupta, Officer on Special Duty, National Health Authority, Ministry of Health, Government of India. The presentation detailed how distinct features of Co-WIN enhanced India's roll-out, and potential for replication in other interested countries. The key points of the presentation included the following:

- COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network (Co-WIN) is a tech-based platform facilitating the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of Covid-19 vaccination in India.
- CO-WIN is the backbone of India's COVID19 vaccination programme. The system provided a mechanism for managing vaccine supply chain.
- While Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)- provides Real Time tracking of stock and temperature, COVID Vaccine Intelligence Network (Co-WIN) provides Real time recording of Vaccination event.



*Mr Aviral Gupta presenting Co-WIN as a successful tech-based vaccination platform*

- Co-WIN is a scalable, inclusive and open platform designed to provide for equity and inclusivity, single source of truth, evolvability and scalability, Feedback and analysis.
- The Co-WIN architecture is open and Interoperable allowing for connection with third party applications.
- Use of open API allows for interoperability that enables innovation.
- For the citizens, Co-WIN provides functionalities such blended (online and offline) vaccination registration, tracking vaccination schedule, convenience in vaccination slot booking, and an instant digitally verifiable certificate.
- Minimal data requirements reduces concerns over data privacy,
- For the vaccinator, Co-WIN provides for vaccine stock management, publishing vaccine schedules, verification of citizens and a real time dashboard.
- For policy makers, Co-WIN provides a single source of truth hence overcoming information asymmetry, tracks Adverse Effects Following Immunization (AEFI),



*Dr. Kendiene Chong, Director General, Ministry of Health, South Sudan sharing country experience on vaccination*



*Dr. Selma Da Costa Xavier, Medical Staff Manager, Ministry of Health, Mozambique speaking on their existing vaccination drive*



*Dr. Meseret Zelalem, Director, Maternal, child & Nutrition Directorate, Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopia during Q&A session*

efficient tracking of certificates, evaluating geographical coverage and ensuring inclusivity.

- Co-WIN dashboard ensures transparency of data for all stakeholders.
- The Co-WIN Certificate Module is based on a globally recognized (and WHO-DDCC:VS compliant software) open-source software stack - "DIVOC". So far over 1.8 billion machine readable and digitally verifiable certificates have been issued.
- In India, the success of Co-WIN has led to deliberations on repurposing it for universal immunization programs, blood donation platform, and organ donation platform, as it is also plugged into the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.
- Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission enables citizens to check availability of medical resources, discover health services and products, book health services, order health products, avail health services and products; healthcare providers access and view patient's health history provide digital health consultations to patients and primary care; policy makers to view and analyze public health at a national level and implement policies effectively at a local level.



*Mr. Lukwago Martin, Senior M&E Officer, Ministry of Health, Uganda interacting with NHA Official*



*Mr. Hassan Sibomana, Director, Vaccination Unit, Rwanda Biomedical Centre sharing their country experiences*



*Mr. David Ngula, Principal Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Ministry of Health, Republic of Zambia interacting with participants*

## India-South Sudan Bilateral Session on Co-WIN Vaccination Platform

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Owing to the genuine interest by South Sudan, GDC organized a bilateral session between the National Health Authority, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and delegates from the Ministry of Health, Government of South Sudan. The delegates from South comprised the following:

- Dr. Kendiende Chong, Director General, Policy Planning, Ministry of Health, South Sudan.
- Mr. Moses Mila, Director, Monitoring and Evaluations, Ministry of Health, South Sudan.
- Mr. Jacob Magai Aruei, Executive Director, Ministry of Health, South Sudan

The Bilateral Session was an opportunity for a more detailed technical exchange between South Sudan Delegates and NHA. The delegation from South Sudan led by the Director General, Ministry of Health presented plan to acquire a digital system with greater capabilities compared to the system which is currently used in the country. They shared their interest in systems that support quality data entrance and processing for which CO-WIN has distinct strengths.

Mr. Aviral Gupta shared India's willingness to implement aspects of the Co-WIN system as per South Sudan interest. He also shared details of the potential support from NHA in mobilizing resources for the implementation of the system. Both entities agreed to engage further through exchange visits, capacity building programmes, among others.



*Participants from South Sudan interacting during bilateral session with NHA official*

## India- Ethiopia Bilateral Session on Co-WIN Vaccination Platform

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GDC facilitated a bilateral session between the Ministry of Health Ethiopia and National Health Authority, Ministry of Health, Government of India. The delegation from Ethiopia comprised of the following;

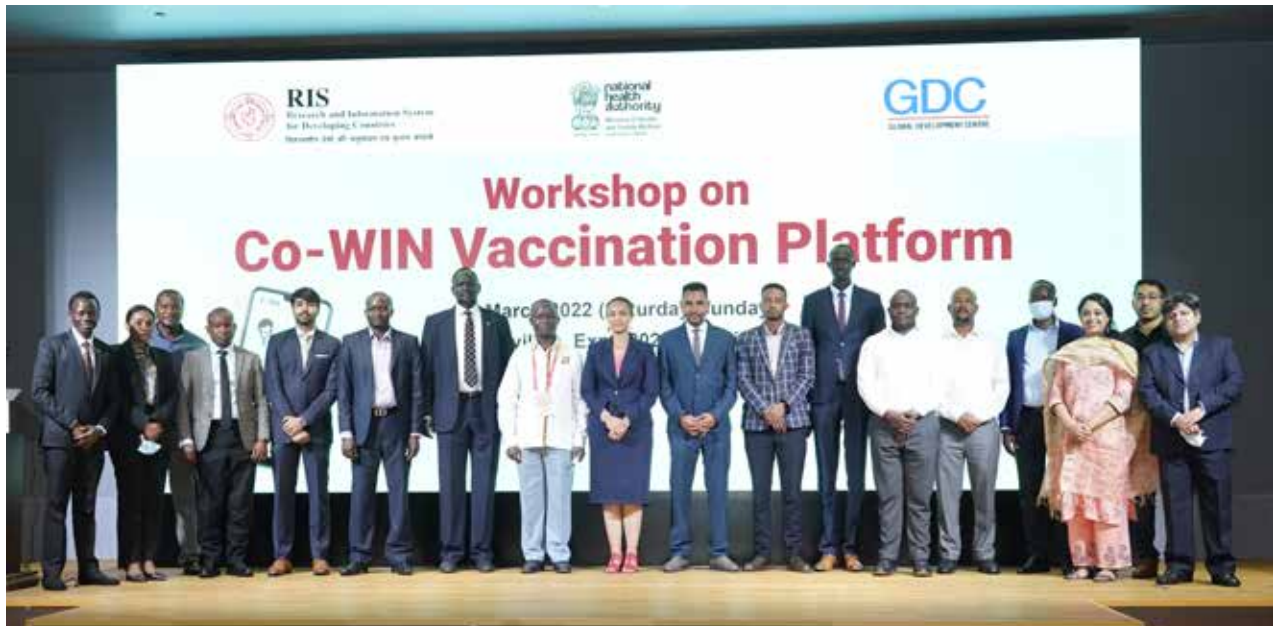
- Dr. Meseret Zelalem, Director, Maternal, Child & Nutrition Directorate, Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopia
- Mr. Yohannes Lakew, Programme Manager, Expanded Programme on Immunisation and MCHD Assistant Director, Maternal, Child & Nutrition Directorate, Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopia
- Mr. Yakob Wondarad, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopia

The Ethiopian delegation led by Dr. Meseret Zelalem expressed Ethiopia's interest to advance the current District Health Information (DHI-2) system used in the country. They particularly reiterated their interest to improve the reporting mechanisms, both for COVID19 and other existing programmes. Additionally, they stressed the need for a system that can be plugged to interoperable work with their current systems. They also called for support in capacity building of their staff.



*Participants from Ethiopia interacting during bilateral session with NHA official*

Mr. Aviral Gupta expressed keen interest in working with the Ministry of Health Ethiopia. He also provided technical details of the Co-WIN system that would plug the reporting challenges as expressed by the Ethiopian delegates. He also shared highlights on NHA's engagement with donor organisations to provide financing for the implementation of agreed Co-WIN modules. Both parties agreed to continue their engagements.



*Participants from Co-WIN Workshop*

## **Synthesis: Institutional Linkages for Partnership Development**

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- While interacting in the workshop, Zambia expressed interest to GDC to conduct a bilateral session with NHA officials to have an in-depth understanding on Co-WIN platform. In accordance to that, GDC has planned to conduct a virtual bilateral session with NHA and the representatives from Zambia proposed to take place on 1st April 2022, Friday.
- GDC had established linkages with National Bank of Rwanda to explore opportunities of co-learning and suitable adoption of relevant offerings provided by NPCI International Payments Limited, India in the field of digital payments. The team was invited to attend the workshop at Expo 2020. Unfortunately due to COVID related travel restrictions, they preferred to join a virtual session over physical participation at the Expo. The virtual session was planned according to their willingness. During the bilateral session, Rwanda was led by Mr. Karamuka Bagirishya John, Director Payment Services, National Bank of Rwanda. NIPL's digital payment offerings were showcased, followed by a Q&A session. The virtual session was well appreciated by officials from National Bank of Rwanda. Further requests for more bilateral sessions have been received from Rwanda bank officials.



# RIS

**Research and Information System  
for Developing Countries**

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

## About RIS

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is a New Delhi-based autonomous policy research institute that specialises in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues.

The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS is engaged across inter-governmental processes of several regional economic cooperation initiatives. Through its intensive network of think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues and the development partnership canvas.

For more information about RIS and its work programme, please visit its website: [www.ris.org.in](http://www.ris.org.in)

## **About GDC**

Global Development Centre (GDC) established at RIS aims to take the Indian development experience to other countries. The Centre will contribute towards evolving an alternative development paradigm anchored on the virtues of inclusiveness and sustainability. It strives to promote indigenous alternative development programmes/flagship missions advocated by India for their possible replication among its partner countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

GDC envisages institutionalising knowledge on India's development transformations and external cooperation. The Centre shall support India's efforts in creation of global public goods and help in establishing global relevance of India's development efforts. It will also help India learn from the experiences and development initiatives of other countries.

The broad thematic focus/verticals for research and advocacy under GDC include: Health, STI & Digital Technologies, Agriculture and Development Practices & New Frameworks.

For more information about GDC and its work programme, please visit its website: [www.gdcin.org](http://www.gdcin.org)



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