



# OpenMIS-Product Registry Interoperability

RFA #2019-016: Concept Note

## Two-Sentence Overview

VillageReach proposes to collaborate with the OpenMIS community to make OpenMIS interoperable with an OpenHIE Product Registry powered by PCMT (Product Catalog Management Tool). VillageReach, as lead creators of the open source PCMT, proposes to provide technical advisory services and collaborate with OpenMIS software developers to establish this important interoperability.

## Executive Summary

OpenMIS is the leading open source software to realize Universal Health Coverage, and PCMT (Product Catalog Management Tool) is a new Product Registry open source global good. PCMT is being created by VillageReach with support from Digital Square. PCMT will serve as a Product Registry in OpenHIE, meaning it will provide consistent master data about health products (medicines, vaccines and commodities) as they are managed throughout a health information ecosystem. PCMT will help provide consistent product identification, allow interoperability for supply chain visibility, and support adoption of GS1 global standards.

It is critical for OpenMIS to interoperate with a Product Registry so that medicines and health products provided to patients through insurance coverage can be tracked, ordered, financed, and reported. Having consistent product identifiers across OpenHIE systems allows integration of data, reporting, and interoperability. To that end, a key outcome of this work will be **a documented, working interoperability between OpenMIS and PCMT**. This critical outcome will help countries and stakeholders plan adoption of OpenMIS in an OpenHIE architecture with a PCMT Product Registry as well as use of GS1 for product identification, barcoding and more.

To support OpenMIS-PCMT interoperability, VillageReach proposes to provide technical advisory services and to collaborate with OpenMIS software developers. VillageReach brings an extensive background in supply chain with expertise as creators of PCMT and as long-time leaders in the OpenMIS community. As described in the **Consortium Team** section, we are seeking partners or a prime organization who would provide the software development on OpenMIS. VillageReach can help establish the interoperability requirements, can provide any needed software development on the PCMT side to support interoperability, and can support OpenMIS software developers as they conduct software development on the OpenMIS side. We also expect to contribute to documentation so that the documented, working interoperability is ready for production use by any implementers and countries.

## Consortium Team

VillageReach is **seeking partners and prime organizations** who would want to collaborate to make OpenMIS interoperable with a PCMT Product Registry. VillageReach wants to be part of a consortium or support a prime organization in the OpenMIS-PCMT interoperability scope of work. VillageReach can lead any coding/customization of PCMT that might be needed. We would expect the prime organization or partners to provide expert knowledge of OpenMIS, insurance, UHC, and its data structures and use cases. We expect that prime or partners would lead software development on the OpenMIS side of the interoperability, while VillageReach would lead any needed software development on the PCMT side.

VillageReach would contribute to establishing the interoperability requirements as well as documenting the working interoperability so that it can be adopted for production use by any implementers and countries.

VillageReach brings deep expertise in supply chain as creators of PCMT and as long-time leaders in the OpenLMIS community. We have actively participated in OpenHIE, including co-chairing the OpenHIE Supply Chain Sub-community. VillageReach is an endorser of the Principles for Digital Development. We proactively support open standards, interoperability, global standards, and open source. We have a track record of effective software development that is agile, transparent, and community-driven along with a rich history of helping advance global goods to support global health and development.

## Project Description

### Background

This proposed “OpenLMIS-Product Registry Interoperability” fits in the RFA work stream 2, “Nepal Feature Requests,” which includes interoperability for OpenLMIS with OpenHIE components including a Product Registry. We are optimistic that this work would support interoperability in Nepal, and we would ensure that it is done in a generic and scalable fashion for re-use in other countries. This work would result in software improvement in OpenLMIS and PCMT that would be released under their existing open source licenses. The documentation will be published under a creative commons license and contributed to each community’s respective repository.

### Objectives

VillageReach proposes a collaborative approach to develop interoperability requirements and then to work with the prime organization or partners to make OpenLMIS-PCMT interoperability a reality. We would seek to work with the prime organization to map our activities into their monitoring and evaluation framework.

### Deliverables & Schedule

VillageReach expects to align with the project plan and schedule of the prime organization or consortium partners. Our schedule and availability is flexible between now and June 2020 to collaborate on this interoperability. We expect this work would need to fit in where appropriate to their schedule, priorities, and the logical progression of work on OpenLMIS modular functionality and Nepal feature requests. We expect that key **deliverables** will include interoperability requirements as well as the documented OpenLMIS-PCMT interoperability.

### Risk Mitigation

VillageReach would seek to work with the prime organization to identify risks and mitigations. One possible risk we can anticipate is if no country or organization is ready to begin using the interoperability, then it may be a challenge to get accurate requirements and to have engaged stakeholders. We look forward to collaboratively identifying risks and mitigation approaches to make sure that this project is a success and achieves the desired benefits.