

PACIFIC HEADS OF HEALTH

Réunion des directeurs de la santé du Pacifique

Strengthening Supply Chain

Lessons learned from efforts to improve
Immunisation Supply Chain

Current situation: Challenges in the national health supply chain

Limited visibility of supply chain data

Lack of analytical insight of demand

Limited fiscal space / fragmented procurement

Limited warehousing, storage and distribution capacity

Lack of skilled staff to man the supply chain workforce

Lack of local manufacturing capacity and reliance of offshore procurement

Geographical remoteness

Small market size less attractive to major suppliers

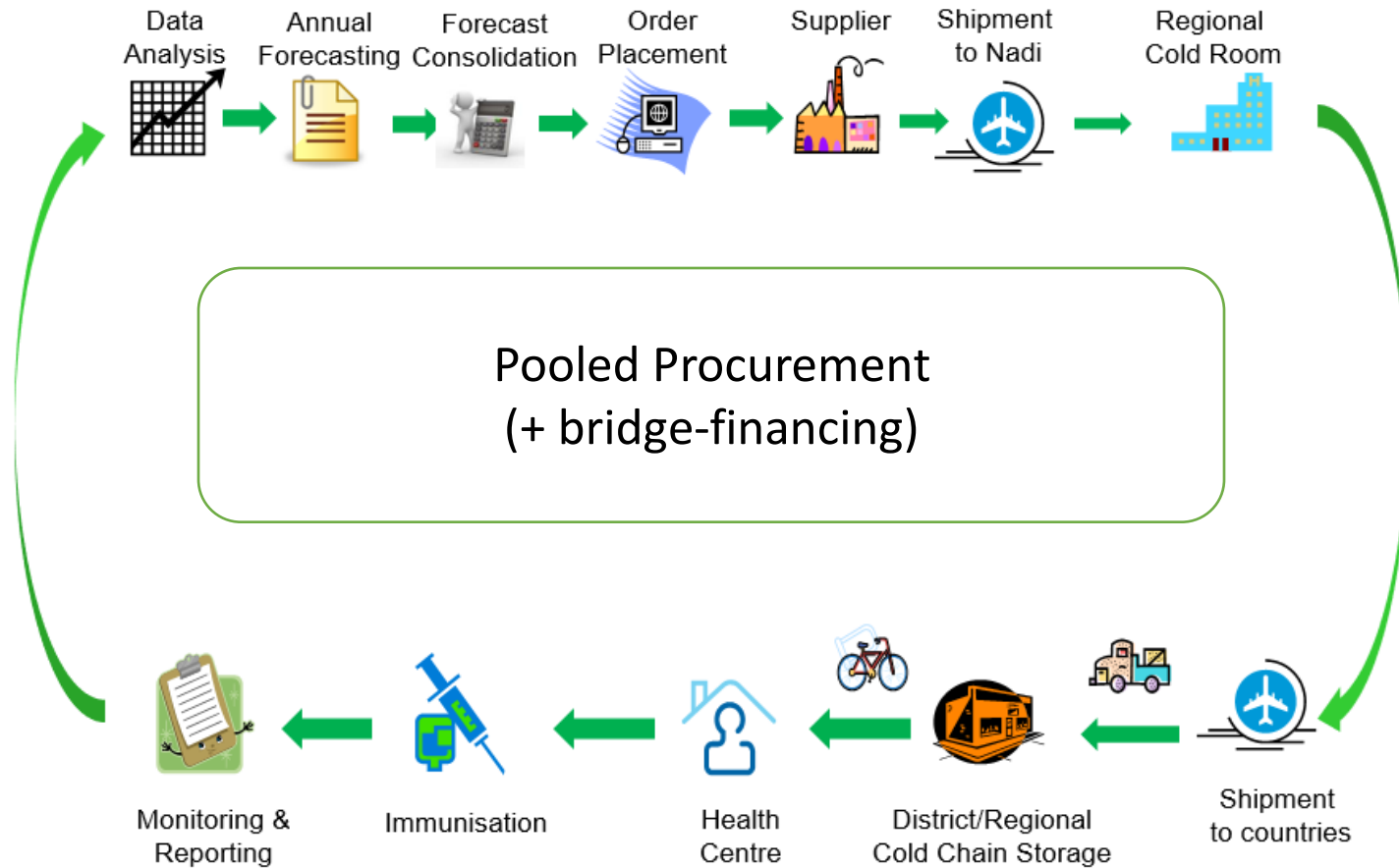
High costs (supplies, transportation)

Challenges in maintaining supply chain integrity

Regulatory and customs challenges

Impacts of climate change / natural disasters

Current situation: Immunisation Supply Chain Strengthening Efforts



- Vaccine Independence Initiative (VII) since 1995 – 13 PICTs
- Cold chain strengthening
- Capacity development in vaccine forecasting and stock management, and logistics
- Effective Vaccine Management Assessment (EVMA) and improvement plan – 11 PICTs

Effective Vaccine Management Assessment (EVMA)

The EVM criteria

EVM assesses 21 functions at different levels of the supply chain

The 21 criteria provide the necessary details to **identify and address root causes of problems within the supply chain.**



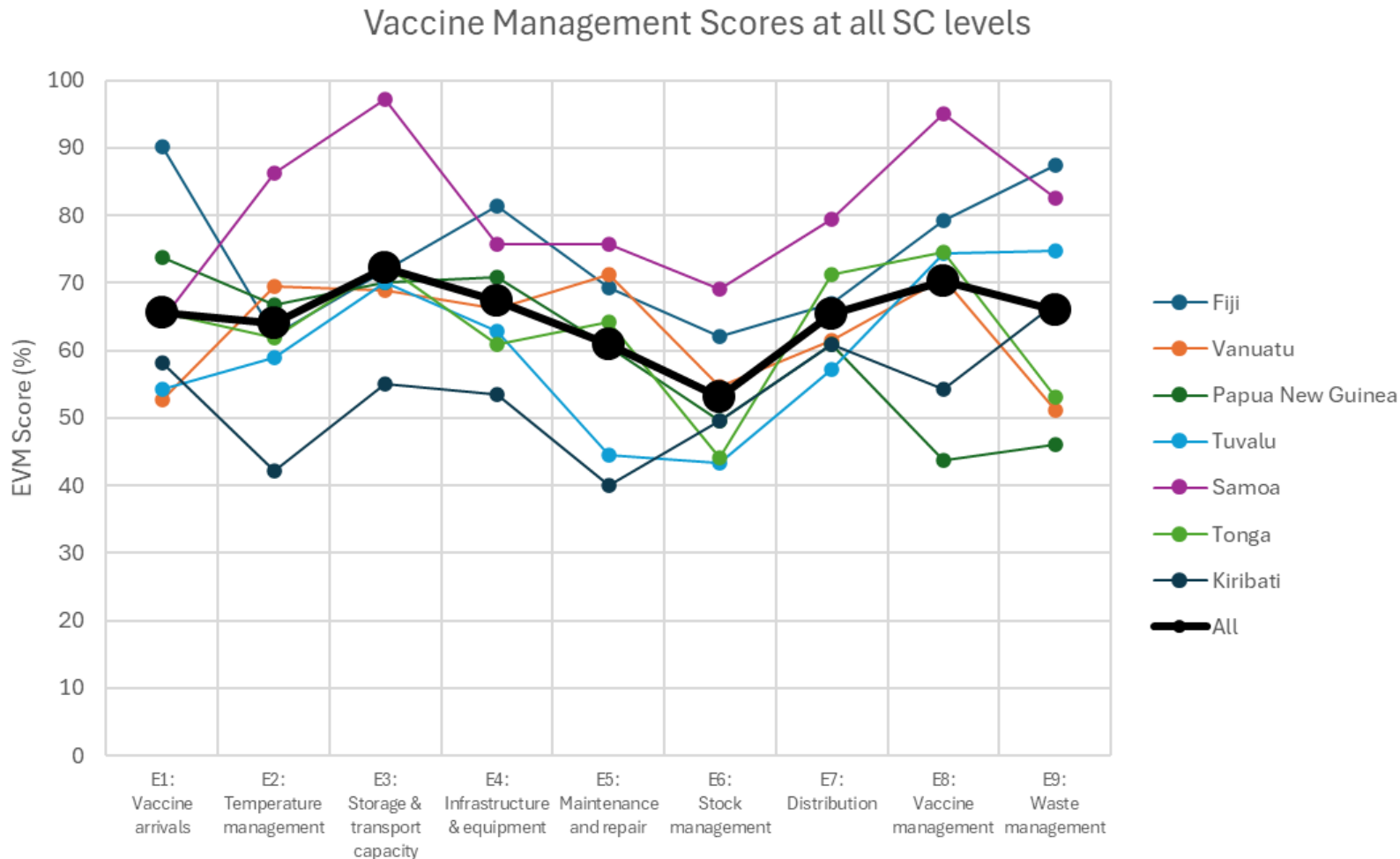
Improvement Plan

effect

cause



EMVA key findings – Facility Operations

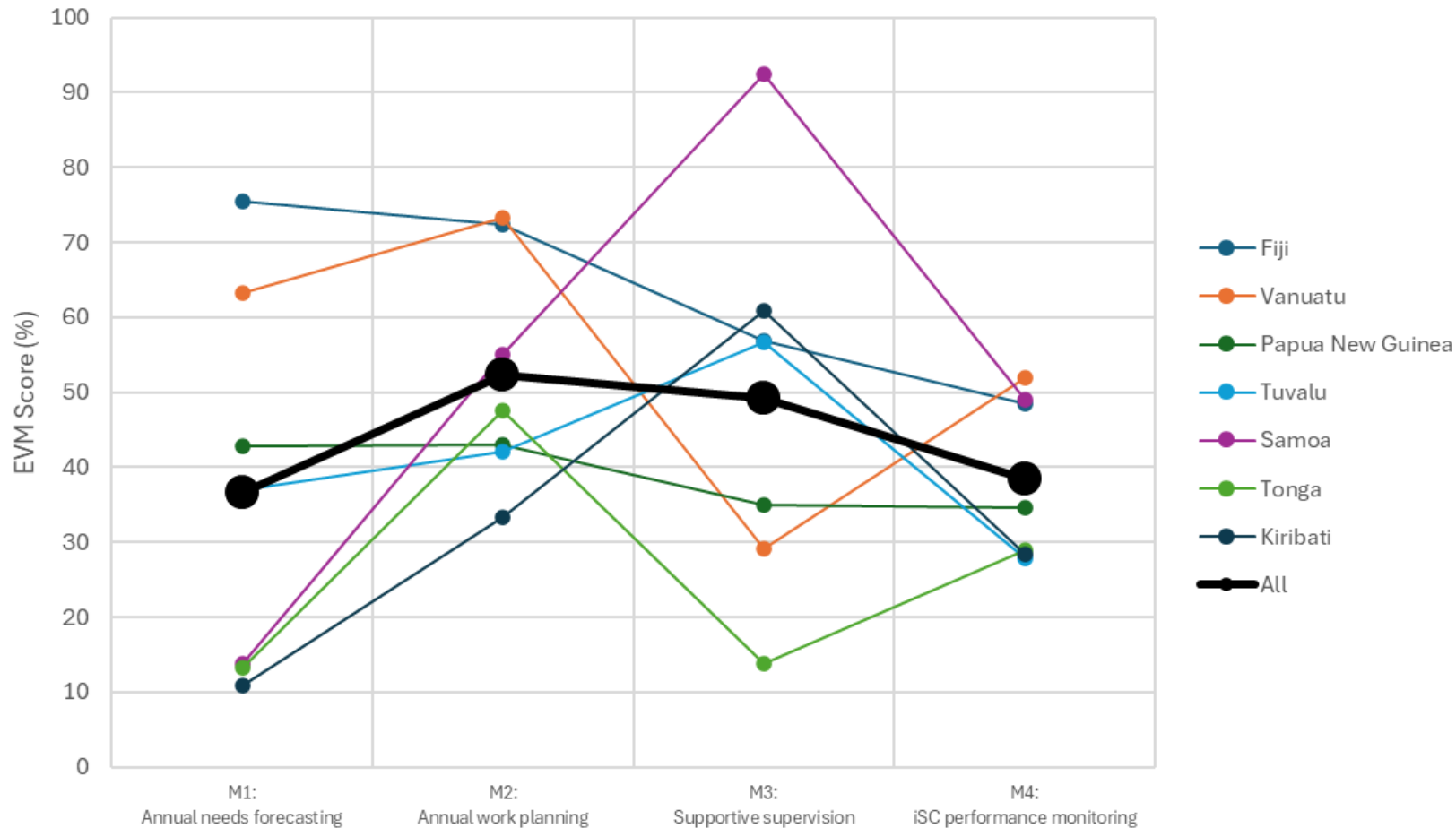


On average,

- EVM standard of 80% not met for any criteria
- Strongest
 - E3 Storage and transport capacity (72%)
 - E8 Vaccine management (70%)
- Weakest
 - E5 Maintenance (61%)
 - E6 Stock management (53%).

EMVA key findings – Facility Management

Supply Chain Management Scores at all SC levels

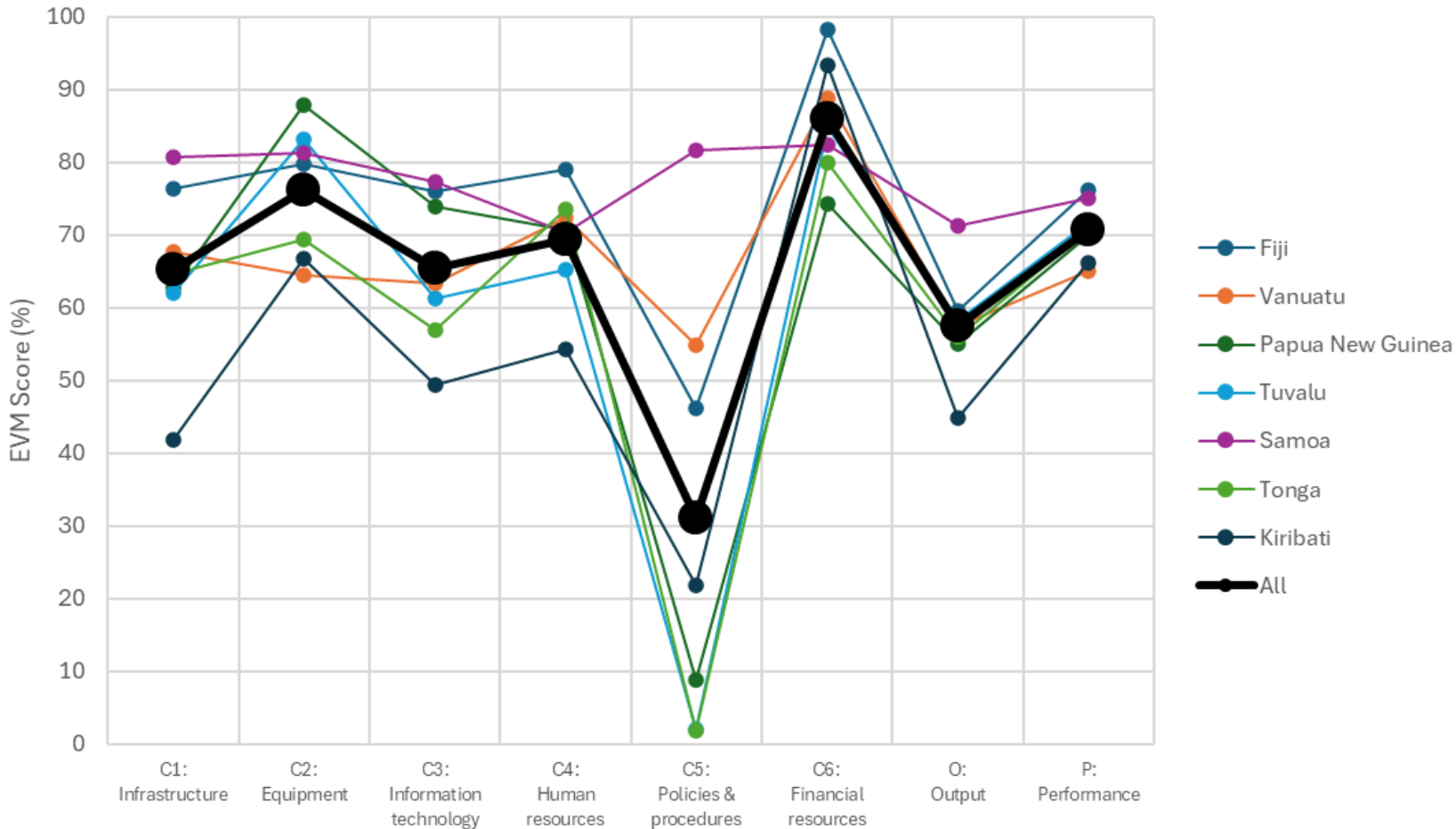


On average,

- EVM standard of 80% not met for any criteria
- Overall weak with the weakest in:
 - M1 Annual work planning (37%)
 - M4 Supply chain performance monitoring (38%)

EMVA key findings – Inputs

Category Scores at all SC levels

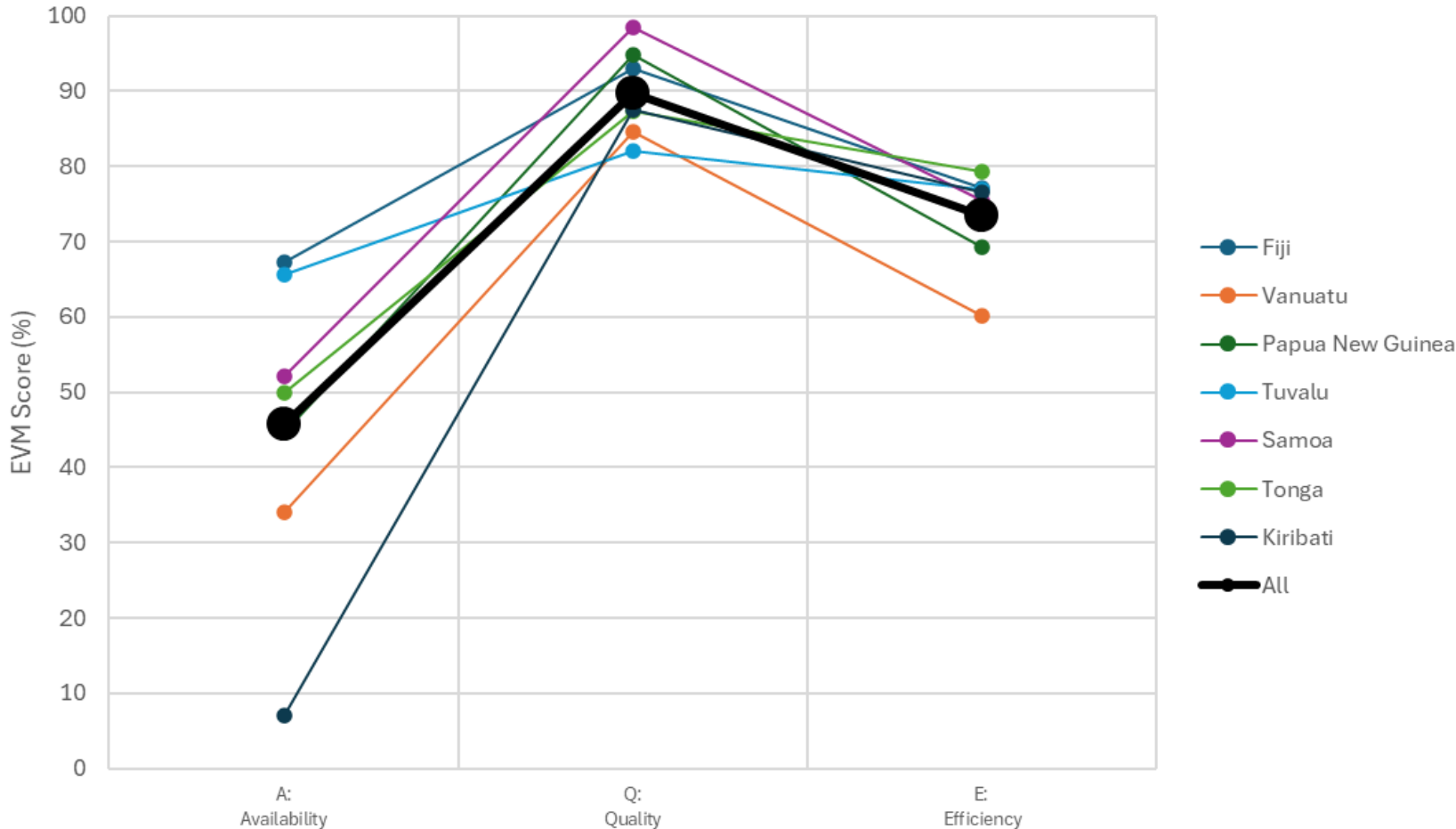


On average,

- EVM standard of 80% met for C6 Financial resources (86%)
- Strongest
 - C2 Equipment (76%)
- Weakest
 - C5 Policies and Procedures (31%).

EMVA key findings – System indicators

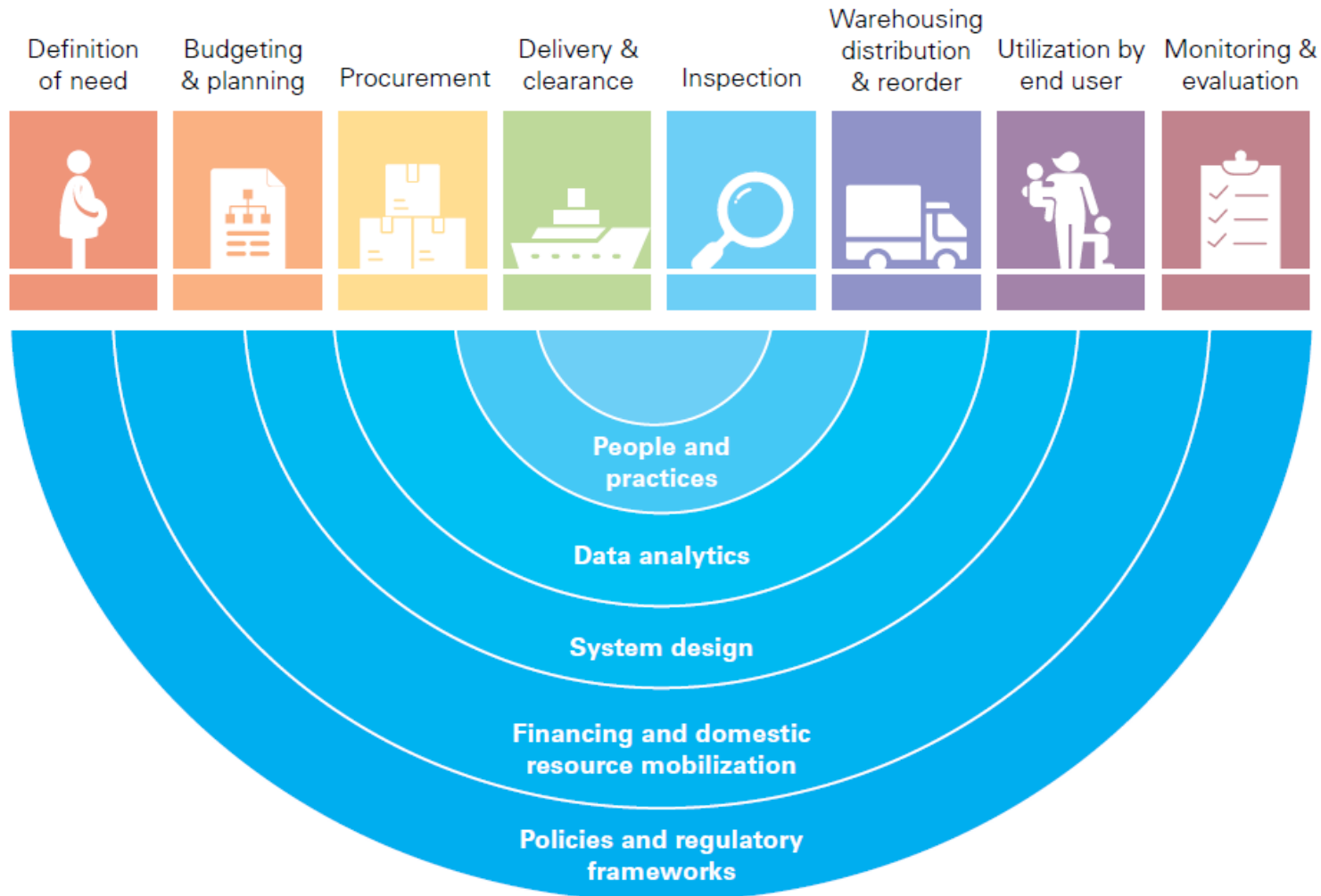
Supply Chain Performance Scores at all SC levels



On average,

- EVM standard of 80% met for Quality (90%) (*vaccines in the supply chain are of good quality [not expired, VVM good, labels intact, etc.]*)
- Efficiency (74%) (*unopened vial wastage rates are greater than 1% in more than 20% of facilities*)
- Availability (46%) (*many facilities do not receive sufficient vaccines to meet expected demand*)

Future vision – resilient and well-functioning health systems through strengthening each component of the supply chain



- Data visibility and use
- Strategic planning
- System optimization
- Workforce development
- Infrastructure and equipment with robust maintenance systems
- Integration and harmonization

Examples of recent progress

- Fiji and Vanuatu showed a significant improvement in EVM scores
 - Fiji - National EVM mean score 77% (2023) vs., 66% (2012)
 - Vanuatu – National EVM mean score 64% (2023) vs., 51% (2015)
- Implementation of electronic logistics management information systems (eLMIS)
- Development of standard operating procedures for vaccine and cold chain management

Why urgent action is needed now?

- Strong supply chains adaptable to the changing needs of health programmes are critical to quality essential health services
- Despite the significant investments made in ‘hardware’, evidence-informed management practices (e.g., equipment maintenance, stock management, planning and monitoring, and standardization of the procedures) remain common challenges across supply chains
- Challenges during COVID-19 pandemic and preparedness for future crisis as an integral part of strengthening health system resilience

Proposed recommendation for Governments

- Improve stock management and forecasting via investing in fit-for-purpose national information systems
- Invest in supply chain workforce development
- Learn from and leverage existing supply chain improvement efforts
- Invest in development of a comprehensive (incl. cold chain) equipment maintenance strategy / system as a matter of priority
- Consider strengthening regional supply chains for selected standard commodities

Proposed recommendations for development partners

- Continue providing financial support and technical assistance for PICTs to fully implement the continuous improvement plans based on EVMA or other health supply chain assessment findings
- Support countries to develop guidance and evidence for integration – e.g., information systems
- Coordinate supply chain support among partners to minimize duplication and achieve collective impact