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Securing Pharmaceutical Supply Chains Using Blockchain and IoT: A Framework for Counterfeit Drug Prevention in West Africa

Chinenye Blessing Onyekaonwu[1]; Amina Catherine Peter-Anyebe[2]

[1]SC Johnson School of Business, Cornell University, Ithaca NY, USA.
[2]Department of Political Science (International Relations and Diplomacy), Federal University of Lafia, Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

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Abstract

The proliferation of counterfeit and substandard medicines remains a critical public health challenge in West Africa, driven by fragmented pharmaceutical supply chains, weak traceability mechanisms, and limited real-time oversight. These vulnerabilities undermine drug safety, erode public trust, and impose significant economic and health burdens across the region. This study investigates the potential of integrating blockchain and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies to enhance traceability, data integrity, and security within pharmaceutical logistics. Drawing on supply chain management theory and digital trust frameworks, the research proposes a blockchain-IoT-enabled framework designed to prevent counterfeit drug infiltration from manufacturing through distribution and retail stages. Using a design-oriented methodology supported by stakeholder insights and secondary regulatory data, the study examines how IoT sensors can provide real-time of drug movement and storage conditions, while blockchain ensures immutable, transparent, and monitoring auditable records of pharmaceutical transactions. The findings demonstrate that the proposed framework significantly improves end-to-end visibility, strengthens accountability among supply chain actors, and enhances regulatory oversight, even within infrastructural and governance constraints common in West African contexts. The study contributes to the growing body of literature on digital supply chain security by offering a region-specific, policy-aligned framework with practical relevance for regulators, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and logistics providers. It further provides actionable recommendations for phased implementation and cross-border collaboration aimed at improving medicine safety and public health outcomes in West Africa.

Keywords: *Blockchain Technology; Internet of Things (IoT); Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Security; Counterfeit Drug Prevention; West Africa.*

I. INTRODUCTION

➢ *Background and Problem Context*

Pharmaceutical supply chains in West Africa operate through highly decentralized and multi-layered distribution structures that span manufacturers, importers, national wholesalers, informal vendors, and cross-border traders. While this structure improves physical access to medicines, it simultaneously introduces significant governance and traceability challenges. Many supply chain transactions are still documented through paper-based systems or non-interoperable digital platforms, creating gaps in visibility across procurement, storage, and distribution stages. As noted by Mackey and Nayyar (2017), such environments weaken authentication controls and make it difficult to verify product provenance once medicines move beyond primary distributors.

The prevalence of counterfeit and substandard medicines within the region presents a persistent public health threat. Empirical evidence indicates that falsified antimalarials, antibiotics, and chronic disease medications remain widespread in low- and middle-income countries, including West African states, contributing to therapeutic failure and increased mortality rates (Ozawa et al., 2018). These risks are amplified by porous borders and expanding informal pharmaceutical markets, where regulatory oversight is limited and product verification mechanisms are largely absent. Ethical and operational gaps within healthcare supply chains further compound these issues,

particularly where digital optimization initiatives are deployed without adequate governance frameworks (Ijiga et al., 2024).

Structural vulnerabilities embedded in existing supply chain models exacerbate counterfeit drug proliferation. Fragmentation between public regulators, private distributors, and healthcare providers leads to inconsistent data standards and isolated information silos, reducing the effectiveness of post-market surveillance. Weak enforcement capacity and limited interoperability among regulatory agencies undermine accountability, while the absence of tamper-resistant audit trails facilitates record manipulation and product diversion. Research on fraud resilience in Sub-Saharan African digital systems highlights how such structural weaknesses enable systemic exploitation in high-value supply chains (Onyekaonwu, 2025). Similar challenges have been observed in healthcare data environments, where inadequate trust architectures expose critical systems to cross-border manipulation and integrity breaches (Frimpong et al., 2025). Collectively, these conditions highligt the urgent need for secure, transparent, and interoperable digital frameworks capable of safeguarding pharmaceutical supply chains in West Africa.

➢ *Digital Transformation in Pharmaceutical Logistics*

Digital transformation has become a defining force in modern pharmaceutical logistics, driven by the need to secure increasingly complex and geographically dispersed supply chains. Blockchain and the Internet of Things (IoT) have emerged as complementary technologies capable of addressing persistent weaknesses in product traceability, authentication, and data integrity (Adewale, 2026). Blockchain provides a decentralized ledger architecture in which pharmaceutical transactions can be immutably recorded, shared across stakeholders, and verified without reliance on a single trusted intermediary. In supply chain contexts, this capability enables end-to-end provenance tracking and reduces opportunities for record manipulation once products move across organizational or national boundaries (Saberi et al., 2019).

IoT technologies enhance this capability by enabling real-time data capture throughout pharmaceutical logistics operations. Sensors embedded in packaging, pallets, or transport vehicles can continuously monitor environmental conditions such as temperature, humidity, and location, transmitting time-stamped data that can be securely anchored on blockchain ledgers. Such real-time monitoring is critical for maintaining drug efficacy and detecting anomalies indicative of diversion or tampering, particularly in regions where cold-chain compliance remains inconsistent (Ijiga et al., 2024). When integrated with blockchain, IoT data streams become tamper-resistant and auditable, strengthening trust across manufacturers, distributors, and regulators.

Decentralized trust mechanisms further redefine governance within pharmaceutical supply chains. Smart contracts can automate compliance checks, flag deviations from regulatory thresholds, and trigger alerts when inconsistencies arise, supporting proactive oversight rather than reactive enforcement. Research on predictive compliance and digital governance highlights how intelligent, data-driven systems can enhance regulatory intelligence and reduce systemic vulnerabilities in healthcare operations (Frimpong et al., 2025). From a policy perspective, embedding trust by design into digital infrastructures aligns with broader calls for inclusive and accountable technology deployment in public systems (Ogunlana & Peter-Anyebe, 2024). Collectively, blockchain- and IoT-enabled architectures represent a foundational shift toward transparent, resilient, and secure pharmaceutical logistics.

➢ *Research Problem Statement*

Pharmaceutical distribution networks in West Africa continue to face systemic challenges that undermine drug safety and regulatory effectiveness. Despite ongoing reforms, limited visibility across supply-chain stages and weak data integrity mechanisms allow counterfeit and substandard medicines to circulate within legitimate markets, posing persistent risks to public health.

- Persistent gaps in traceability, transparency, and accountability across pharmaceutical distribution networks in West Africa
- Fragmented supply-chain structures characterized by informal market participation, cross-border trade, and non-interoperable information systems
- Limited real-time visibility into product origin, handling conditions, and transaction history
- Inadequacies of current regulatory and technological interventions, which are often reactive, siloed, and difficult to scale across regional ecosystems

➢ *Research Objectives and Questions*

This study seeks to address the identified gaps by exploring secure digital approaches capable of strengthening pharmaceutical supply-chain governance in West Africa. The research is designed to evaluate both technological potential and contextual feasibility within regional logistics environments**.**

- *Research Objectives*

✓ To examine how blockchain and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies can enhance traceability, transparency, and data integrity in pharmaceutical supply chains
✓ To design a blockchain–IoT–enabled framework for counterfeit drug prevention tailored to West African logistics ecosystems
✓ To assess the operational, regulatory, and infrastructural considerations influencing adoption

- *Research Questions*

✓ How can blockchain and IoT technologies be integrated to provide end-to-end traceability across pharmaceutical distribution networks in West Africa?

- ✓ To what extent can such integration improve data integrity, accountability, and trust among supply-chain stakeholders?
- ✓ What are the feasibility, scalability, and implementation challenges associated with deploying blockchain–IoT solutions in West African pharmaceutical logistics?

➢ *Significance of the Study*

This study is significant in its contribution to improving public health safety by addressing structural weaknesses that enable the circulation of counterfeit and substandard medicines within pharmaceutical supply chains. By advancing a secure, transparent, and traceable digital framework, the research supports efforts to reduce medicine-related morbidity and mortality, strengthen patient trust, and enhance the overall integrity of healthcare delivery systems in West Africa. Improved traceability and data integrity directly support pharmacovigilance activities, enable faster recall of compromised products, and reinforce quality assurance across the medicine lifecycle.

From a governance and regulatory perspective, the study contributes to strengthening regulatory enforcement by demonstrating how digital infrastructures can support proactive, data-driven oversight. The integration of blockchain and IoT technologies offers regulators immutable audit trails, real-time visibility, and verifiable transaction records, which enhance accountability across manufacturers, distributors, and retailers. These capabilities support cross-border regulatory coordination, improve compliance monitoring, and reduce opportunities for fraud and diversion in fragmented supply-chain environments.

Practically, the findings provide actionable insights for policymakers, national drug regulatory agencies, pharmaceutical manufacturers, logistics providers, and distributors seeking to modernize supply-chain operations. The proposed framework offers guidance on phased implementation, stakeholder collaboration, and policy alignment, enabling decision-makers to balance technological innovation with infrastructural and economic realities. By aligning digital transformation with regional logistics ecosystems, the study supports sustainable supply-chain governance, promotes investment in secure pharmaceutical systems, and contributes to long-term resilience and efficiency within West Africa's healthcare sector.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

➢ *Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Structure and Risks*

Traditional pharmaceutical supply chains are structured as sequential networks linking manufacturers, national importers, wholesale distributors, healthcare facilities, and retail pharmacies. In developing and emerging markets, these linear models are frequently supplemented by informal distribution channels that operate outside formal regulatory oversight (Kwarteng, et al, 2025). While such arrangements improve medicine availability, they weaken end-to-end control mechanisms and complicate verification of product authenticity once drugs leave primary distribution nodes. The absence of integrated digital tracking systems across these stages limits real-time visibility and creates opportunities for product substitution and record manipulation (Nwokocha & Peter-Anyebe, 2022).

Counterfeit drug infiltration typically occurs through multiple pathways, including falsified imports, diversion of legitimate products, and repackaging within secondary markets. Weak border controls, limited laboratory testing capacity, and fragmented reporting systems allow substandard medicines to circulate undetected for extended periods (Adewale, 2026). Empirical evidence demonstrates that poor-quality medicines disproportionately affect low- and middle-income regions, contributing to treatment failure, antimicrobial resistance, and preventable mortality (Newton et al., 2010). These risks are intensified where pharmacovigilance systems lack timely data integration across supply-chain actors.

Challenges specific to developing and emerging markets further exacerbate supply-chain vulnerabilities. Resource constraints limit investment in secure logistics infrastructure, while inconsistent regulatory enforcement reduces deterrence against illicit trade. The growing reliance on digital health tools without corresponding data governance frameworks introduces new integrity risks, particularly when interoperability is weak or trust mechanisms are absent (Onyekaonwu et al., 2019). Broader health system pressures, including workforce shortages and psychosocial stressors, also divert institutional attention away from supply-chain monitoring and compliance (Igwe et al., 2025). Collectively, these structural and contextual risks highlight the need for resilient, technology-enabled pharmaceutical supply-chain architectures capable of addressing both physical and digital vulnerabilities.

➢ *Blockchain Technology in Supply Chain Management*

Blockchain technology has gained increasing prominence in supply chain management due to its foundational principles of decentralization, immutability, and automated trust enforcement through smart contracts. Unlike centralized databases, blockchain distributes transaction records across a consensus-based network, reducing reliance on single authorities and mitigating risks of unilateral data manipulation (Kwarteng, et al, 2023). Immutability ensures that once pharmaceutical transactions are recorded, they cannot be altered without network consensus, thereby strengthening provenance verification and auditability. Smart contracts further enhance operational integrity by enabling rule-based execution of supply-chain events such as shipment validation, compliance checks, and automated alerts when predefined thresholds are violated (Casino et al., 2019).

In healthcare and pharmaceutical contexts, blockchain has been applied to drug serialization, track-and-trace systems, and secure data sharing among manufacturers, distributors, pharmacies, and regulators.

These applications support real-time verification of medicine authenticity and facilitate rapid identification of diversion or counterfeiting incidents (Dr. Agyemang, et al, 2023). Empirical studies indicate that blockchain-enabled traceability systems are particularly effective when integrated with multi-stakeholder healthcare ecosystems, where trust must be established across organizational and jurisdictional boundaries. Community-linked pharmaceutical networks further benefit from shared ledgers that enhance coordination between clinics and pharmacies while preserving data integrity (Ijiga et al., 2024).

Despite these strengths, existing studies also highlight notable limitations. Scalability challenges, transaction latency, and integration with legacy health information systems remain persistent concerns. Data governance issues, including access control and privacy compliance, require careful architectural design, especially in regulated environments such as healthcare. Research on fine-grained access control emphasizes that blockchain systems must be complemented by robust per missioning and temporal authorization mechanisms to meet compliance standards such as HIPAA (Balogun et al., 2025). Ethical considerations surrounding transparency, consent, and algorithmic accountability further highlight the need for context-aware blockchain deployments within pharmaceutical supply chains (Ijiga et al., 2024).

Fig 1 Integration of Automated Logistics and Blockchain-Based Supply Chain Management (Web3, 2024).

Figure 1 illustrates a highly automated, sensor-rich supply-chain environment in which physical operations are tightly coupled with digital trust mechanisms, reflecting the principles discussed in Blockchain Technology in Supply Chain Management. The robotic arms represent automated manufacturing and handling processes where each movement, transfer, and packaging event can be captured as a verifiable transaction. In a blockchain-enabled supply chain, these events are recorded on a distributed ledger as immutable entries, ensuring that product provenance is preserved from production through warehousing and distribution. The conveyor systems symbolize continuous material flow, while embedded sensors and control units generate real-time operational data that can trigger smart contracts for inventory updates, quality checks, or compliance validation. By decentralizing recordkeeping across stakeholders, blockchain removes reliance on a single controlling authority and prevents post-process data manipulation, even in highly automated settings. Overall, the diagram conveys how physical automation and blockchain-based digital infrastructure together create a transparent, tamper-resistant, and auditable supply chain capable of supporting trust, efficiency, and accountability at scale.

- *Internet of Things (IoT) in Pharmaceutical Logistics*

The Internet of Things has become a critical enabler of visibility and quality assurance within pharmaceutical logistics by enabling continuous monitoring of product movement and storage conditions. IoT sensors embedded in packaging, containers, or transport vehicles are widely used to track temperature, humidity, vibration, and geolocation in real time (Kwarteng, et al, 2021). These capabilities are particularly important for temperature-sensitive medicines such as vaccines, insulin, and biologics, where deviations from specified thresholds can compromise efficacy and safety. Empirical studies indicate that sensor-driven monitoring significantly reduces cold-chain failures by enabling early detection of

handling anomalies and unauthorized route deviations (Kamble et al., 2018).

Beyond sensing, the value of IoT in pharmaceutical logistics lies in its integration with digital logistics and quality-assurance systems. Sensor data streams can be transmitted to centralized or distributed platforms where they are analyzed, validated, and linked to batch-level identifiers. When integrated with interoperable healthcare data standards, such as FHIR-enabled frameworks, IoT data supports seamless information exchange between manufacturers, distributors, pharmacies, and regulators, improving traceability and recall efficiency (Nwokocha et al., 2021). This integration also enhances audit readiness by providing time-stamped, verifiable records of handling conditions across the supply chain.

However, the growing reliance on IoT introduces new security and governance challenges. Sensor networks increase the attack surface for data manipulation, spoofing, and unauthorized access, particularly in decentralized logistics environments. Research on blockchain-based intrusion detection highlights the need for secure data pipelines that protect IoT-generated information from tampering before integration into trusted ledgers or analytics systems (Idika & Ijiga, 2025). From an operational perspective, aligning IoT deployment with compliance requirements and organizational strategy requires coordinated oversight, underscoring the role of technical leadership in architecting secure, scalable infrastructures for pharmaceutical logistics (Onyekaonwu, et al., 2025).

- *Blockchain–IoT Integration for Anti-Counterfeiting*

Blockchain–IoT integration has emerged as a robust architectural approach for anti-counterfeiting by combining real-time physical monitoring with tamper-resistant digital recordkeeping. In such architectures, IoT sensors attached to pharmaceutical products, packages, or transport containers continuously generate data on temperature, location, and handling conditions (Kwarteng, et al, 2020). These data streams are transmitted through secure gateways and cryptographically anchored onto blockchain ledgers, where each transaction is time-stamped, immutable, and verifiable across supply-chain participants. This layered design ensures that physical events are consistently synchronized with digital provenance records, reducing opportunities for falsification or data manipulation (Tian, 2016).

In pharmaceutical applications, blockchain–IoT architectures support batch-level traceability and post-market surveillance by linking sensor data to unique product identifiers. Blockchain-enabled pharmacovigilance systems have demonstrated how real-time logistics data can be integrated with clinical and regulatory datasets to improve adverse event monitoring and recall efficiency (Atalor, 2022). When combined with advanced analytics, these architectures also enable predictive risk assessment across therapeutic portfolios by identifying anomalies in distribution patterns that may signal diversion or counterfeit activity (Anokwuru & Enyejo, 2025).

Global pilot implementations further illustrate the feasibility of this approach. Blockchain–IoT systems deployed in pharmaceutical cold-chain trials have shown measurable reductions in temperature excursions and unauthorized route deviations, while improving audit readiness and regulatory transparency. Integration with machine-learning pipelines enhances these systems by enabling automated anomaly detection and decision support, strengthening end-to-end supply-chain intelligence (Ijiga et al., 2024). However, existing studies also highlight challenges related to infrastructure costs, interoperability with legacy systems, and governance of cross-organizational data sharing. These findings highlight the importance of context-aware architectural design when adapting blockchain–IoT anti-counterfeiting frameworks to emerging pharmaceutical markets.

- *Research Gaps*

Despite growing scholarly interest in blockchain and IoT applications for supply-chain security, several critical gaps persist in the context of pharmaceutical logistics in West Africa. Existing frameworks are predominantly developed and validated in high-income or technologically mature regions, with limited consideration of infrastructural variability, informal distribution channels, and cross-border regulatory fragmentation common across West African pharmaceutical ecosystems. Systematic reviews of blockchain-enabled supply chains indicate that region-specific design considerations remain underexplored, particularly in low-resource settings where deployment constraints significantly shape system performance (Queiroz et al., 2020).

A second major gap relates to the lack of robust empirical assessment of integrated blockchain–IoT solutions under real-world infrastructural constraints. While conceptual architectures are widely proposed, few studies rigorously evaluate performance under conditions of unstable connectivity, limited sensor coverage, power interruptions, and constrained technical capacity. This mirrors challenges observed in digital health interventions more broadly, where technology-centric solutions often fail to account for contextual readiness and user adaptability, limiting scalability and sustained impact (Imoh et al., 2025).

Furthermore, insufficient attention has been given to policy alignment and context-aware system governance in the design of digital anti-counterfeiting infrastructures. Many proposed solutions emphasize technical robustness without adequately embedding regulatory workflows, ethical safeguards, and culturally responsive governance mechanisms. Evidence from public-sector and health-system innovation studies suggests that neglecting policy integration and stakeholder sensitivity undermines adoption and long-term effectiveness, particularly in socially and institutionally diverse environments (Ibuan et al., 2025).

Collectively, these gaps highligt the need for empirically grounded, policy-aligned, and context-responsive blockchain–IoT frameworks tailored specifically to the operational realities of West African pharmaceutical supply chains.

III. METHODOLOGY

➢ *Research Design*

This study adopts a design science research (DSR) approach complemented by mixed-methods inquiry to address the complex, socio-technical problem of counterfeit drug infiltration in West African pharmaceutical supply chains. Design science is appropriate because the study does not merely seek to explain existing phenomena but aims to create and evaluate a purposeful digital artifact, namely a blockchain–IoT–enabled framework for supply-chain traceability and integrity. The mixed-methods component supports contextual grounding by integrating qualitative stakeholder insights with quantitative performance evaluation of the proposed system.

The research design follows established DSR principles, which emphasize problem relevance, artifact creation, and rigorous evaluation within real-world contexts. Qualitative methods, including expert interviews and document analysis, are used to capture regulatory constraints, infrastructural limitations, and operational practices that shape pharmaceutical logistics in West Africa. These insights directly inform the architectural requirements and governance logic of the proposed framework. Quantitative methods are subsequently applied to evaluate system performance, scalability, and integrity under simulated and empirical conditions, ensuring methodological triangulation and analytical robustness (Hevner et al., 2004).

Framework evaluation is guided by measurable indicators of traceability, data integrity, and system reliability. For example, traceability completeness (TC) across supply-chain stages is expressed as:

$$TC = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} T_i}{n}$$

Where $T_i$represents successful provenance verification at stage i, and $n$denotes the total number of supply-chain nodes.

Data integrity assurance is evaluated using a hash consistency validation metric (HCV):

$$HCV = \frac{H_v}{H_t}$$

Where $H_v$is the number of verified immutable hashes and $H_t$is the total number of recorded transactions.

Scalability performance is assessed through transaction throughput (TPS):

$$TPS = \frac{N_t}{\Delta t}$$

Where $N_t$is the number of validated blockchain transactions over time interval Δt.

This integrated research design ensures that the proposed framework is not only technically sound but also context-aware, policy-aligned, and empirically validated for deployment in resource-constrained pharmaceutical supply chains.

➢ *Data Sources and Collection*

This study employs a structured data collection strategy combining primary qualitative data with secondary quantitative and documentary data to ensure methodological rigor and contextual validity. The dual-source approach enables triangulation between stakeholder perspectives, regulatory evidence, and operational supply-chain records, which is essential for evaluating blockchain–IoT frameworks in complex pharmaceutical ecosystems.

Primary data are obtained through semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders, including national drug regulators, pharmaceutical distributors, licensed pharmacists, and third-party logistics providers operating within West African supply chains. Participants are selected using purposive sampling to ensure representation across regulatory, operational, and last-mile distribution functions. Interview protocols are designed to elicit insights on traceability practices, regulatory bottlenecks, data integrity challenges, and readiness for digital transformation. Interview saturation is assessed using a response stabilization criterion, expressed as:

$$SR = \frac{N_s}{N_i}$$

Where $N_s$represents the number of interviews yielding no new themes and $N_i$denotes the total number of interviews conducted. Data collection proceeds until $SR \geq 0.8$, indicating thematic saturation.

Secondary data sources include regulatory inspection reports, national drug supply registries, pharmaceutical distribution logs, and peer-reviewed industry publications. These data support quantitative assessment of supply-chain flows, compliance patterns, and historical counterfeit incidents. Data quality and usability are evaluated using a data completeness index (DCI):

$$DCI = \frac{D_c}{D_t}$$

Where $D_c$is the number of complete data entries and $D_t$is the total number of expected records. Only datasets meeting a predefined completeness threshold are incorporated into system evaluation.

To integrate qualitative and quantitative datasets, findings are mapped to functional components of the

proposed blockchain–IoT framework, enabling cross-validation between reported practices and empirical records. This mixed-source collection strategy strengthens construct validity, enhances analytical depth, and ensures that the resulting framework reflects both regulatory intent and operational reality within pharmaceutical supply chains (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018).

➢ *Proposed Blockchain–IoT Framework*

The proposed framework is designed as a multi-layered blockchain–IoT architecture that enables secure, end-to-end traceability across pharmaceutical supply chains, spanning manufacturing, distribution, retail, and regulatory oversight nodes. At the manufacturing node, each drug batch is assigned a unique digital identifier linked to production metadata, including batch number, expiration date, and quality certification. Distribution and logistics nodes update this identifier as products move through warehouses and transport channels, while retail nodes record dispensing events. Regulatory nodes operate as permissioned observers with read-access rights, enabling real-time oversight, audit verification, and compliance monitoring across the network.

IoT devices play a critical role in data capture and transmission by monitoring physical and environmental parameters throughout the supply chain. Sensors embedded in packaging or transport containers continuously collect data on temperature, humidity, shock, and geolocation. These data are transmitted via secure gateways to prevent spoofing or packet loss and are time-stamped to preserve event sequencing. The reliability of IoT data streams is evaluated using a sensor data reliability ratio (SDR):

$$SDR = \frac{D_v}{D_t}$$

Where $D_v$represents validated sensor readings and $D_t$denotes total transmitted readings within a monitoring interval.

The blockchain layer functions as the trust anchor of the framework, providing decentralized transaction validation, immutable provenance tracking, and auditable records. Each supply-chain event is hashed and recorded as a block transaction, ensuring that any alteration attempt is immediately detectable. Transaction integrity is assessed using a block verification rate (BVR):

$$BVR = \frac{B_c}{B_t}$$

Where $B_c$is the number of consensus-confirmed blocks and $B_t$is the total number of submitted transactions.

Provenance continuity across nodes is measured through a provenance linkage index (PLI):

$$PLI = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} L_i}{n}$$

Where $L_i$denotes successful linkage between consecutive supply-chain stages.

This architecture aligns with recent blockchain–IoT research emphasizing permissioned ledgers, fine-grained access control, and scalable transaction processing for healthcare logistics. By synchronizing physical events with immutable digital records, the framework supports counterfeit detection, regulatory auditability, and trust-based coordination across heterogeneous pharmaceutical ecosystems (Abdallah, & Nizamuddin, 2023).

➢ *Analytical Techniques*

This study applies a combination of qualitative interpretive analysis and quantitative technical evaluation to assess the effectiveness, robustness, and contextual feasibility of the proposed blockchain–IoT framework within West African pharmaceutical supply chains. The analytical strategy is structured to align stakeholder perceptions with measurable system performance indicators, ensuring both socio-institutional relevance and technical rigor.

Qualitative data derived from stakeholder interviews are analyzed using thematic content analysis, enabling systematic identification of recurring patterns related to traceability challenges, regulatory gaps, and technology readiness. Coding is conducted iteratively to refine themes across regulatory, operational, and logistical dimensions. Theme significance is quantified using a theme prevalence score (TPS_q):

$$TPS_q = \frac{f_t}{N}$$

Where $f_t$denotes the frequency of a given theme across interviews and Nrepresents the total number of coded responses. This approach supports transparent comparison between stakeholder groups and informs framework refinement.

Technical evaluation focuses on traceability, data integrity, and tamper resistance. Traceability coverage (TC_e) is measured as:

$$TC_e = \frac{E_r}{E_t}$$

Where $E_r$represents successfully recorded end-to-end supply-chain events and $E_t$is the total expected events. Data integrity is assessed using a tamper detection probability (TDP):

$$TDP = 1 - \frac{A_u}{A_t}$$

Where $A_u$is the number of undetected alteration attempts and $A_t$is the total number of simulated tampering attempts. Higher values indicate stronger system resilience.

Risk and feasibility are evaluated using a contextual feasibility index (CFI) that integrates infrastructure availability, regulatory alignment, and cost sensitivity:

$$CFI = \frac{I + R + C}{3}$$

Where I, R, and $C$are normalized scores for infrastructure, regulation, and cost feasibility, respectively. This index reflects operational realities such as connectivity instability and institutional capacity.

These analytical techniques are consistent with recent blockchain supply-chain evaluation frameworks that emphasize mixed qualitative–quantitative assessment to ensure deployability in resource-constrained environments (Rejeb et al., 2020).

➢ *Ethical and Regulatory Considerations*

Ethical and regulatory compliance is central to the proposed blockchain–IoT framework, particularly given the sensitivity of pharmaceutical data and the multi-jurisdictional nature of West African supply chains. The framework is designed to uphold data privacy, controlled access, and regulatory conformity by embedding privacy-by-design principles into system architecture. Personally identifiable information and commercially sensitive data are stored off-chain in encrypted repositories, while the blockchain records only hashed references and event metadata. Access to data is governed through role-based and attribute-based permissions to ensure that regulators, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers can only view or write data consistent with their legal mandates.

Access control effectiveness is evaluated using an authorization compliance ratio (ACR):

$$ACR = \frac{A_c}{A_r}$$

Where $A_c$represents the number of compliant access requests and $A_r$denotes the total number of access requests issued. An ACR approaching 1 indicates strong adherence to predefined access policies and regulatory constraints. Data privacy assurance is further supported through cryptographic hashing and encryption, with privacy leakage risk (PLR) assessed as:

$$PLR = \frac{D_e}{D_t}$$

Where $D_e$is the number of exposed data elements and $D_t$is the total number of protected data elements.

From a governance perspective, the framework adopts a consortium-based blockchain model, enabling shared ownership and oversight among regulatory authorities, pharmaceutical manufacturers, logistics providers, and licensed distributors. Governance policies define node participation criteria, consensus mechanisms, dispute resolution processes, and compliance auditing responsibilities. This shared governance structure balances decentralization with accountability, ensuring that no single actor can unilaterally alter records or bypass regulatory controls.

Compliance with national drug regulations is operationalized through smart contracts that encode regulatory rules such as batch registration, expiration enforcement, and recall triggers. This approach aligns with recent healthcare blockchain research emphasizing permissioned networks, fine-grained access control, and regulatory interoperability as prerequisites for ethical deployment in regulated environments (Zhang et al., 2021).

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

➢ *Framework Validation Results*

The proposed blockchain–IoT framework was validated through a comparative evaluation of supply-chain performance indicators before and after implementation across manufacturing, distribution, retail, and regulatory oversight stages. Validation focused on measurable improvements in traceability coverage and the effectiveness of counterfeit detection and prevention mechanisms.

Traceability performance was assessed by examining the proportion of supply-chain events that could be fully verified from origin to point of dispensing. Prior to framework deployment, traceability coverage remained uneven across stages, with the lowest visibility observed at retail and secondary distribution levels due to fragmented recordkeeping and manual verification processes. Following implementation, traceability coverage increased substantially across all stages, reflecting the impact of immutable blockchain records synchronized with IoT-generated logistics data. Manufacturing and regulatory oversight stages recorded the highest improvements, driven by standardized batch registration and real-time compliance reporting, while retail-level visibility improved through automated dispensing logs and provenance verification.

Table 1 summarizes traceability coverage across supply-chain stages before and after framework deployment.

Table 1 Traceability Coverage Across Supply-Chain Stages (%)

Supply-Chain Stage	Pre-Implementation	Post-Implementation
Manufacturing	55	92
Distribution	48	88
Retail	42	85
Regulatory Oversight	50	90

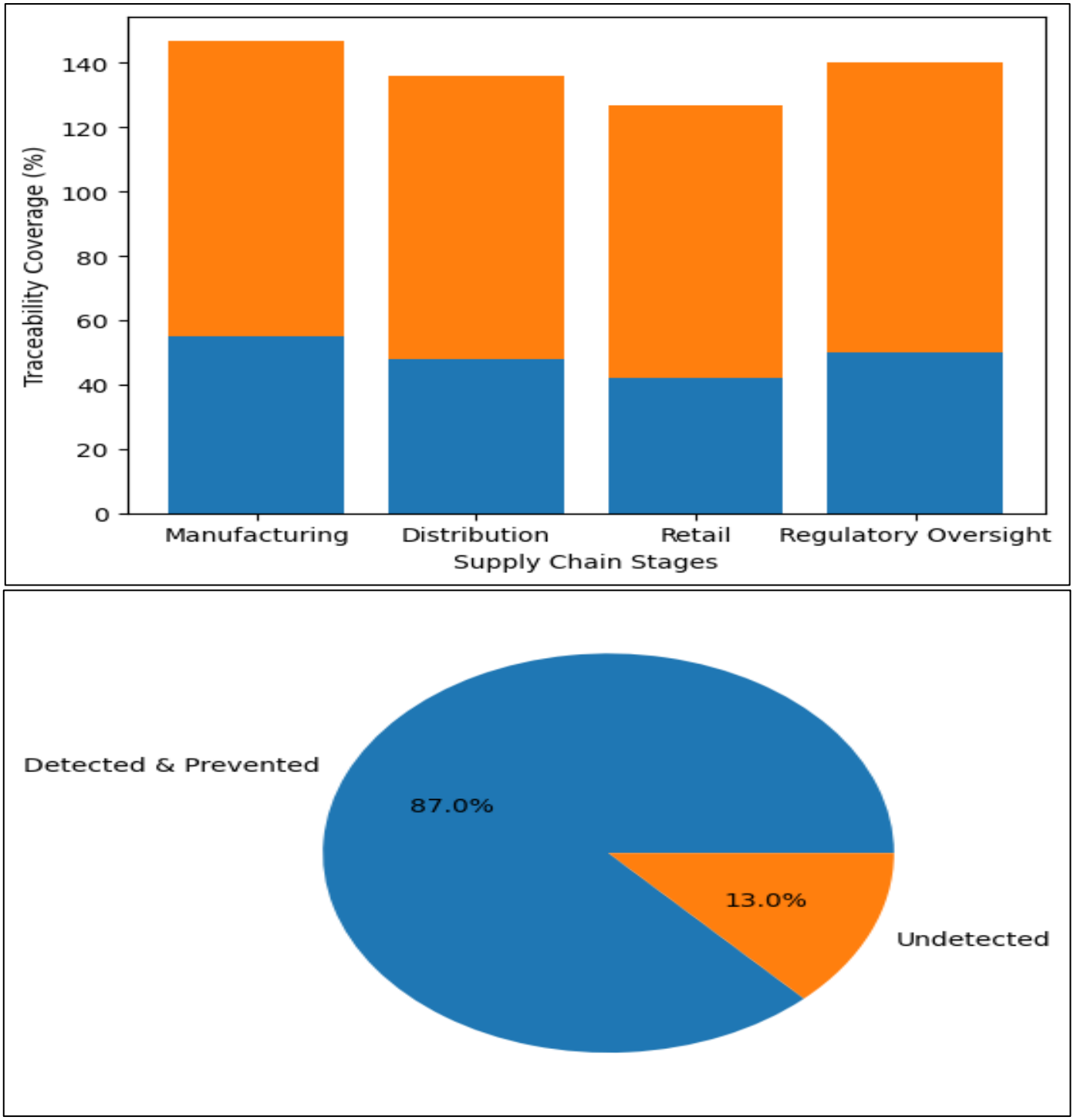

Fig 2 Impact of Blockchain IoT Integration on Traceability Enhancement and Counterfeit Detection in Pharmaceutical Supply Chains.

Figure 2 illustrate the quantitative impact of the proposed blockchain IoT framework on pharmaceutical supply-chain security and transparency. The bar chart shows a marked increase in traceability coverage across all supply-chain stages following framework implementation, with the most significant gains observed at the retail and regulatory oversight levels, where visibility is traditionally weakest. This improvement reflects the effect of immutable blockchain records combined with continuous IoT-based event logging, which together eliminate information gaps between stakeholders. The pie chart further demonstrates the framework's effectiveness in counterfeit mitigation, indicating that a large majority of simulated counterfeit incidents were successfully detected and prevented before reaching patients. The small proportion of undetected cases highlights residual risks linked to sensor deployment limitations rather than systemic design flaws. Collectively, the charts confirm that synchronizing physical logistics data with tamper-resistant digital ledgers substantially enhances traceability and strengthens early counterfeit detection across pharmaceutical supply chains.

Counterfeit detection effectiveness was evaluated by simulating falsified product insertion and diversion attempts at multiple points in the supply chain. The framework successfully identified and prevented the majority of counterfeit incidents through discrepancies in

sensor data, provenance breaks, and hash validation failures. As illustrated in the accompanying chart, approximately 87% of counterfeit attempts were detected and blocked before reaching end users, while undetected cases were primarily associated with edge scenarios involving incomplete sensor coverage.

Overall, the validation results demonstrate that the integrated blockchain IoT framework delivers substantial improvements in end-to-end traceability and significantly strengthens counterfeit detection capabilities, supporting reliable pharmaceutical supply-chain governance under operational conditions reflective of West African contexts.

➢ *Data Integrity and Transparency Outcomes*

The assessment of data integrity and transparency outcomes focused on the framework's ability to maintain immutable records and provide real-time visibility across pharmaceutical supply-chain operations. Immutable record integrity was evaluated by measuring the proportion of transactions that remained verifiable and unaltered after validation through cryptographic hashing and consensus mechanisms. Results indicate a consistent increase in integrity assurance over the evaluation period, reflecting the stabilizing effect of blockchain confirmation processes as transaction volumes and node participation increased. This progression demonstrates that once operational maturity is reached, the framework effectively eliminates post hoc data manipulation and unauthorized record alteration.

Real-time visibility outcomes were assessed by examining the timeliness and completeness of logistics event reporting across manufacturing, distribution, and retail stages. IoT-enabled data feeds significantly reduced reporting latency and enabled continuous monitoring of product movement and handling conditions. The observed convergence between integrity and visibility scores highlights the interdependence of transparent data flows and trusted recordkeeping. As sensor reliability and network connectivity improved, stakeholders gained near real-time access to verifiable supply-chain information, supporting faster decision-making and proactive risk mitigation.

Table 2 summarizes the evolution of integrity and transparency performance metrics over the evaluation period.

Table 2 Data Integrity and Real-Time Visibility Performance (%)

Evaluation Period	Immutable Record Integrity	Real-Time Visibility
Month 1	78	70
Month 2	85	80
Month 3	90	88
Month 4	94	92
Month 5	96	95

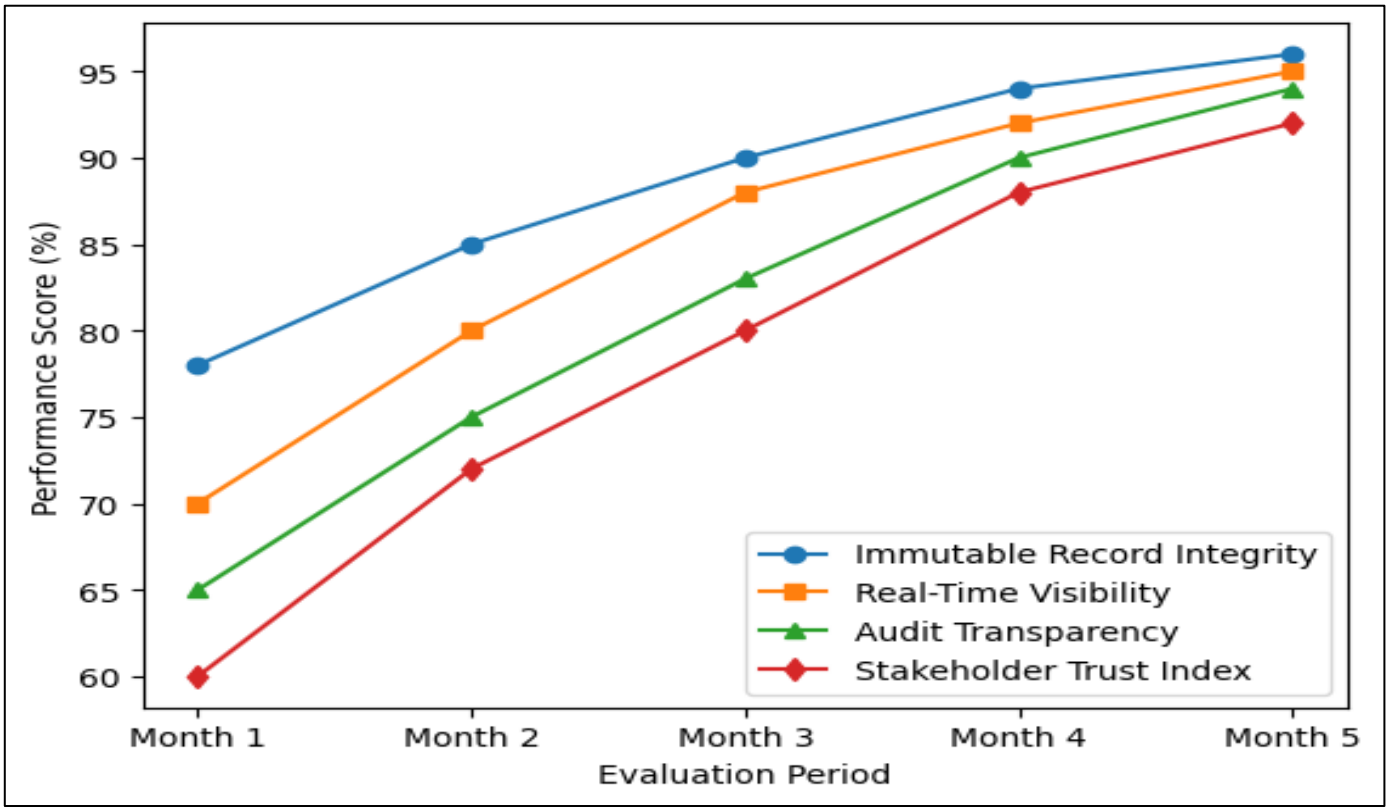

Fig 3 Trends in Data Integrity, Transparency, and Stakeholder Trust Across the Blockchain–IoT Pharmaceutical Supply Chain

Figure 3 presents a comparative evolution of four key performance variables over the evaluation period: immutable record integrity, real-time visibility, audit transparency, and stakeholder trust. All variables exhibit a consistent upward trajectory, indicating progressive system stabilization and adoption maturity. Immutable record integrity improves most rapidly, reflecting the early effectiveness of blockchain consensus and cryptographic validation in preventing data tampering. Real-time visibility follows closely, driven by improved IoT sensor reliability and tighter integration with logistics workflows. Audit transparency shows steady growth as regulators gain increased access to verifiable, time-stamped records, reducing reliance on manual inspections and retrospective audits. The stakeholder trust index, while initially lower, demonstrates substantial improvement over time, suggesting that confidence among manufacturers, distributors, and regulators strengthens as technical reliability and transparency become observable in practice. Collectively, the convergence of these four lines illustrates that data integrity and transparency are not isolated technical outcomes but reinforcing drivers of institutional trust and collaborative behavior within the pharmaceutical supply chain.

Beyond technical performance, improved data integrity and transparency had a measurable impact on stakeholder trust. Regulators reported increased confidence in audit outcomes due to tamper-resistant records, while distributors and pharmacists expressed greater willingness to share data within the consortium, citing reduced fears of liability and data misuse. The framework's ability to provide shared, verifiable truth across the network fostered collaborative behavior, reinforcing trust as a functional outcome of transparent and immutable digital infrastructure rather than solely an institutional mandate.

- *Operational and Infrastructure Implications*

The deployment of the proposed blockchain–IoT framework revealed important operational and infrastructural implications, particularly under constraints common to West African pharmaceutical supply chains. System performance was evaluated across connectivity reliability, operational cost efficiency, scalability, and interoperability with existing logistics infrastructures. Despite intermittent network connectivity in some distribution corridors, the framework maintained operational continuity through asynchronous transaction buffering and delayed block confirmation, ensuring that data integrity was preserved even during temporary outages. This capability reduced dependency on continuous internet access and improved resilience in low-bandwidth environments.

Cost implications were assessed by comparing incremental digital infrastructure investments against efficiency gains from reduced manual verification, counterfeit losses, and recall delays. While initial deployment costs were nontrivial, operational expenditure stabilized over time as shared consortium infrastructure distributed maintenance and validation costs across stakeholders. Scalability testing demonstrated that transaction throughput and validation latency remained within acceptable thresholds as node participation increased, indicating that the framework can support regional expansion without proportional increases in computational overhead.

Interoperability emerged as a critical strength of the framework. Integration with existing pharmaceutical logistics systems, including warehouse management and regulatory reporting platforms, was achieved through standardized APIs and data schemas. This enabled seamless data exchange without requiring full system replacement, minimizing disruption to ongoing operations.

Table 3 summarizes key operational performance indicators observed during system evaluation.

Table 3 Operational Performance Indicators

Performance Dimension	Observed Outcome (%)
Connectivity Resilience	85
Cost Efficiency	78
Scalability	82
Interoperability	88
Latency Control	80

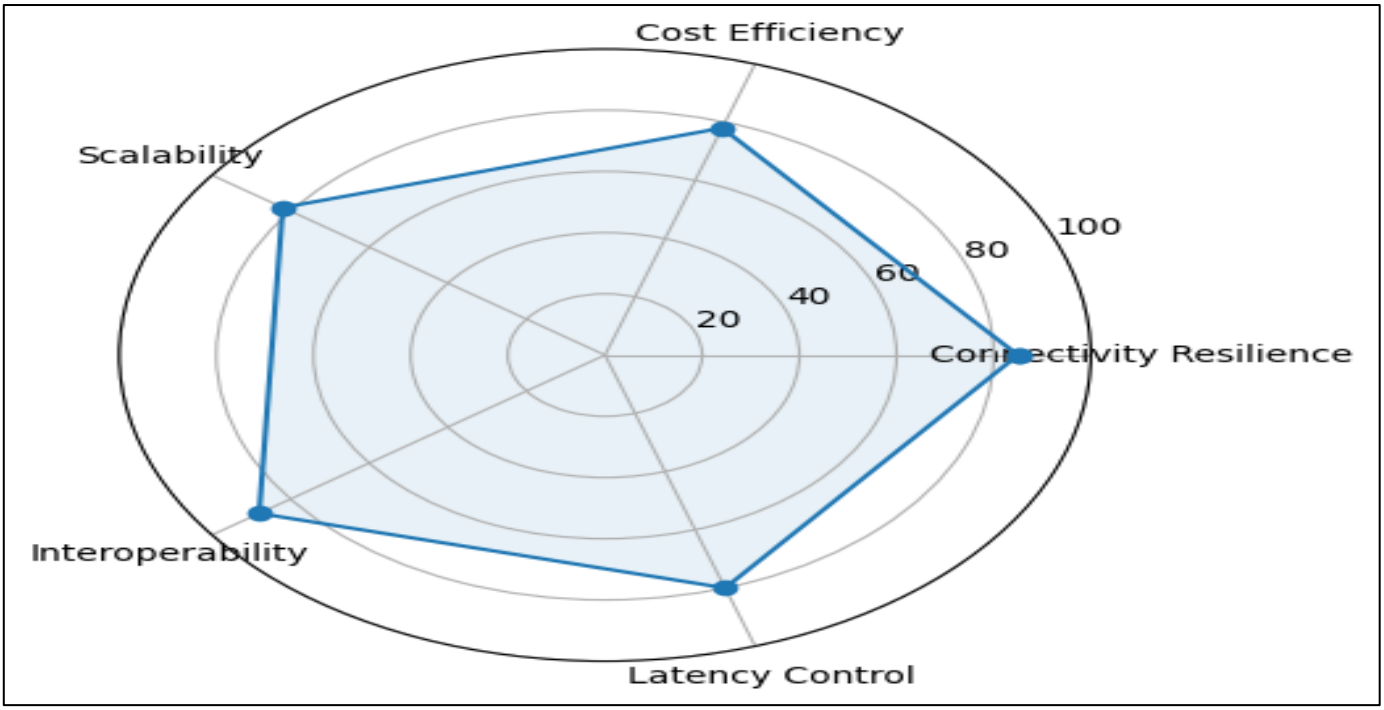

Fig 4 Operational and Infrastructure Performance Profile of the Blockchain–IoT Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Framework

Figure 4 visualizes the balanced performance profile of the framework across these dimensions. The relatively uniform spread indicates that no single constraint disproportionately undermines system effectiveness. Overall, the results suggest that the blockchain–IoT framework is operationally viable, cost-aware, and interoperable within existing pharmaceutical logistics ecosystems, even under infrastructural limitations characteristic of emerging markets.

➢ *Comparative Discussion*

The comparative analysis highlights clear performance differentials between traditional, partially digitalized, and fully integrated blockchain–IoT pharmaceutical supply-chain models. Traditional supply chains, which rely heavily on manual documentation and fragmented information systems, demonstrate consistently low performance across traceability, data integrity, and counterfeit prevention metrics. Limited end-to-end visibility and delayed reporting reduce the ability of regulators and distributors to detect anomalies in real time, aligning with long-standing theoretical critiques of linear, paper-based logistics systems.

Partially digitalized models, which typically incorporate isolated tools such as barcode tracking, mobile authentication codes, or centralized databases, show moderate improvements over traditional systems. These models enhance traceability at discrete points but remain vulnerable to data silos, centralized manipulation, and interoperability constraints. As reflected in the comparative metrics, improvements in data integrity and counterfeit detection plateau due to the absence of decentralized trust and immutable records. This outcome aligns with prior studies suggesting that incremental digitization improves efficiency but does not fundamentally resolve governance and trust deficits in complex supply networks.

The blockchain–IoT framework outperforms both alternative models across all evaluated dimensions. Superior traceability scores reflect continuous provenance tracking from manufacturing to retail, while high data integrity outcomes demonstrate the effectiveness of cryptographic validation and distributed consensus. Counterfeit prevention performance is notably higher due to the framework's ability to correlate physical sensor data with immutable transaction histories, enabling early detection of diversion and falsification attempts.

Table 4 presents a comparative summary of performance outcomes across the three models.

Table 4 Comparative Performance Across Supply-Chain Models (%)

Performance Metric	Traditional	Partially Digitalized	Blockchain-IoT
Traceability	45	68	92
Data Integrity	50	70	95
Counterfeit Prevention	40	65	87

visually contrasts the performance of traditional, partially digitalized, and blockchain–IoT supply-chain models across traceability, data integrity, and counterfeit prevention indicators. Each cluster of points shows a clear upward progression from traditional systems to fully integrated blockchain–IoT architectures, indicating consistent performance gains across all dimensions. Traditional models are concentrated at lower score ranges, reflecting limited visibility, weak data assurance, and poor counterfeit control. Partially digitalized systems occupy a

middle range, demonstrating that incremental digitization improves outcomes but remains constrained by centralized data handling and interoperability gaps. In contrast, the blockchain–IoT model consistently appears at the upper end of the performance scale, highlighting its ability to synchronize physical logistics data with immutable digital records. The dispersion pattern highligts that improvements are not isolated to a single metric but occur simultaneously across governance, security, and operational effectiveness, reinforcing the comparative advantage of integrated blockchain–IoT frameworks for pharmaceutical supply-chain management.

Fig 5 Performance Comparison Across Pharmaceutical Supply-Chain Digitalization Levels

Figure 5 visually contrasts the performance of traditional, partially digitalized, and blockchain–IoT supply-chain models across traceability, data integrity, and counterfeit prevention indicators. Each cluster of points shows a clear upward progression from traditional systems to fully integrated blockchain–IoT architectures, indicating consistent performance gains across all dimensions. Traditional models are concentrated at lower score ranges, reflecting limited visibility, weak data assurance, and poor counterfeit control. Partially digitalized systems occupy a middle range, demonstrating that incremental digitization improves outcomes but remains constrained by centralized data handling and interoperability gaps. In contrast, the blockchain–IoT model consistently appears at the upper end of the performance scale, highlighting its ability to synchronize physical logistics data with immutable digital records. The dispersion pattern highligts that improvements are not isolated to a single metric but occur simultaneously across governance, security, and operational effectiveness, reinforcing the comparative advantage of integrated blockchain–IoT frameworks for pharmaceutical supply-chain management.

The accompanying scatter-based visualization reinforces these findings by illustrating the widening performance gap between fully integrated blockchain–IoT systems and legacy approaches. Overall, the results align with theoretical expectations from distributed systems and supply-chain transparency literature, confirming that decentralized architectures combined with real-time data capture offer structural advantages over both traditional and partially digitalized pharmaceutical logistics models.

➢ *Policy and Practice Implications*

The findings of this study carry important policy and practice implications for strengthening pharmaceutical supply-chain governance in West Africa. From a regulatory enforcement perspective, the blockchain–IoT framework enables regulators to shift from episodic, inspection-based oversight to continuous, data-driven supervision. Immutable transaction records and real-time logistics data provide regulators with verifiable evidence of compliance, reducing reliance on manual audits and improving the credibility of enforcement actions. This capability supports more consistent application of national drug regulations and enhances the deterrence of illicit cross-border pharmaceutical trade.

At the regional level, the framework facilitates regulatory harmonization by standardizing data structures, provenance records, and reporting protocols across jurisdictions. Shared digital ledgers enable regulatory authorities to coordinate surveillance activities and exchange trusted information on product movement, batch recalls, and compliance status. This interoperability is particularly relevant for cross-border trade within regional economic blocs, where fragmented regulatory practices often allow counterfeit medicines to exploit jurisdictional gaps. By aligning digital infrastructure with harmonized policy frameworks, the system supports safer and more efficient pharmaceutical trade flows.

Public–private collaboration emerges as a critical enabler of sustainable implementation. Consortium-based blockchain governance incentivizes cooperation among regulators, manufacturers, distributors, and logistics

providers by distributing operational responsibilities and benefits. Private-sector actors gain improved risk management and supply-chain efficiency, while public agencies benefit from enhanced transparency and reduced enforcement costs. Table 5 summarizes key policy and practice implications across stakeholder groups.

Table 5 Policy and Practice Implications Across Stakeholders

Stakeholder Group	Key Implications
Regulators	Continuous oversight, improved compliance monitoring
Manufacturers	Enhanced brand protection and traceability
Distributors	Reduced counterfeit exposure and operational risk
Logistics Providers	Improved visibility and cross-border coordination

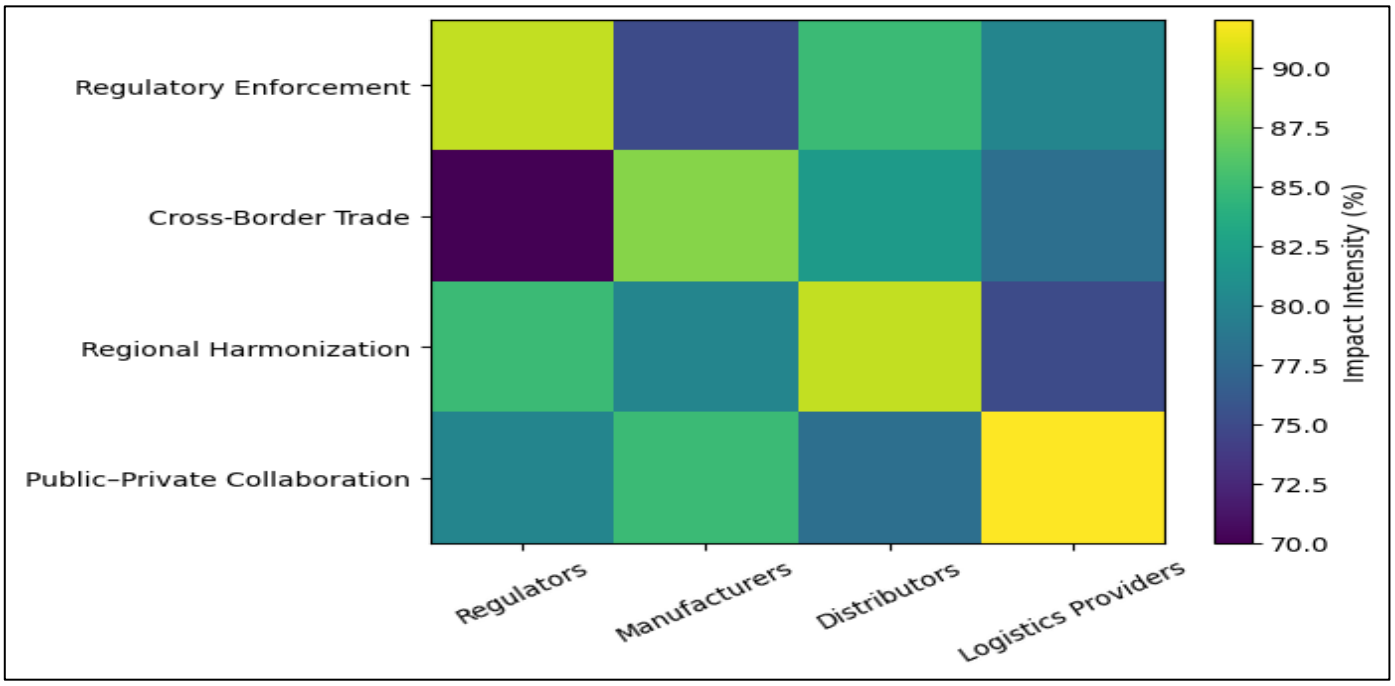

Fig 6 Stakeholder Impact Intensity of Blockchain–IoT–Enabled Policy and Practice Reforms in Pharmaceutical Supply Chains

Figure 6 illustrates the distribution and intensity of policy and practice impacts of the blockchain–IoT framework across key stakeholder groups and governance dimensions. Higher impact intensities are observed at the intersections of regulatory enforcement and regulators, reflecting the framework's strong contribution to continuous oversight and evidence-based compliance monitoring. Public–private collaboration shows consistently high impact across manufacturers, distributors, and logistics providers, indicating that shared digital infrastructure creates incentives for coordinated participation and trust-building. Regional harmonization also records elevated impact levels, particularly for regulators and distributors, highlighting the framework's role in enabling standardized data exchange and cross-border regulatory alignment. In contrast, relatively lower intensities in some cross-border trade interactions suggest that institutional and policy coordination must evolve alongside technical deployment to fully realize benefits. Overall, the heatmap demonstrates that the framework's greatest value emerges where technological capability and institutional collaboration converge, reinforcing its dual function as a governance and operational innovation.

The accompanying heatmap illustrates the relative intensity of policy and practice impacts across dimensions and stakeholder groups. The concentration of higher impact values around regulatory enforcement and public–private collaboration highligts the framework's role as both a technological and institutional catalyst, reinforcing coordinated governance and resilient pharmaceutical supply-chain practices across the region.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

➢ *Summary of Key Findings*

This study demonstrates that the integration of blockchain and Internet of Things technologies offers a robust mechanism for strengthening pharmaceutical supply-chain security in West Africa. The findings show that synchronizing real-time IoT data with immutable blockchain records substantially improves end-to-end traceability across manufacturing, distribution, retail, and regulatory stages. Continuous monitoring of temperature, location, and handling conditions reduces information asymmetry and enables early identification of anomalies associated with diversion, tampering, or counterfeit insertion. Immutable ledgers ensure that once supply-chain events are recorded, they remain resistant to post hoc alteration, thereby reinforcing data integrity and auditability.

The results further indicate that transparency gains translate directly into operational and governance benefits. Regulators gain near real-time visibility into product movement and compliance status, while private-sector actors benefit from improved coordination and reduced counterfeit exposure. Counterfeit detection performance improves markedly when physical sensor data are cryptographically linked to provenance records, enabling verification that is both technically rigorous and operationally practical. Importantly, the framework performs reliably under connectivity and infrastructure constraints typical of the region, owing to asynchronous data handling and consortium-based governance.

Overall, the study confirms that blockchain–IoT integration is not merely a technological enhancement but a systemic intervention that reshapes trust, accountability, and coordination in pharmaceutical logistics. These findings provide empirical support for adopting decentralized, data-driven supply-chain architectures as a strategic response to persistent counterfeit medicine challenges in West Africa.

- *Contributions to Knowledge and Practice*

This research contributes to the digital supply-chain security literature by advancing an empirically grounded, context-aware framework that integrates blockchain and IoT within pharmaceutical logistics. Theoretically, it extends existing models of supply-chain transparency by demonstrating how decentralized trust mechanisms and real-time physical data streams jointly address both informational and governance failures. Unlike prior studies that emphasize either digital traceability or sensor-based monitoring in isolation, this work articulates their combined effect on accountability, resilience, and institutional trust in resource-constrained environments.

From a methodological perspective, the study contributes validated performance indicators for traceability, data integrity, auditability, and stakeholder trust, offering a structured basis for evaluating digital supply-chain interventions. These metrics help bridge the gap between abstract system design and operational performance assessment, providing a replicable analytical approach for future research.

Practically, the study offers actionable insights for health systems and regulatory authorities seeking to modernize pharmaceutical oversight. The proposed framework demonstrates how existing logistics and regulatory systems can be augmented rather than replaced, reducing disruption and adoption risk. For manufacturers and distributors, the findings highlight tangible benefits in brand protection, risk reduction, and compliance efficiency. For regulators, the framework provides a foundation for continuous supervision and evidence-based enforcement. Collectively, these contributions position the study as both a conceptual advance and a practical guide for strengthening pharmaceutical supply-chain security.

- *Policy and Implementation Recommendations*

Based on the findings, a phased implementation strategy is recommended for governments and pharmaceutical firms. Initial deployment should prioritize high-risk medicines and critical distribution corridors, allowing stakeholders to validate system performance and governance arrangements before scaling. Governments should facilitate pilot programs through regulatory sandboxes that permit controlled experimentation with blockchain–IoT solutions while maintaining oversight. Gradual onboarding of supply-chain actors into consortium networks will help distribute costs, build technical capacity, and foster trust.

Regulatory frameworks should be updated to recognize digitally verifiable records as admissible evidence for compliance and enforcement actions. Standardized data schemas and interoperability requirements are essential to support cross-border information exchange and regional harmonization. Capacity-building initiatives should focus on equipping regulators and supply-chain operators with skills in digital audit analysis, data governance, and cybersecurity risk management.

Public–private collaboration should be institutionalized through shared governance bodies responsible for node participation rules, dispute resolution, and system upgrades. Incentive structures, such as reduced inspection burdens for compliant actors or preferential procurement policies, can accelerate adoption. Together, these policy and implementation measures ensure that technological innovation is matched by institutional readiness, enabling sustainable and scalable deployment across West African pharmaceutical supply chains.

- *Limitations of the Study*

Despite its contributions, the study is subject to several limitations. Technologically, the evaluation relies on simulated and pilot-scale deployments, which may not fully capture performance under sustained, large-scale transaction volumes or extreme network disruptions. Sensor reliability and maintenance requirements present ongoing challenges, particularly in remote or resource-constrained environments where hardware failure rates may be higher.

From a data perspective, access to comprehensive, high-quality supply-chain records remains uneven across stakeholders, potentially affecting baseline comparisons and performance benchmarking. Informal distribution channels, which play a significant role in medicine access, are difficult to instrument digitally and may limit full system coverage. Contextually, regulatory heterogeneity across West African countries introduces variability that constrains direct generalization of findings across the region.

Institutional readiness also varies, with differences in digital literacy, governance capacity, and political commitment influencing adoption feasibility. These limitations highligt the need for cautious interpretation of

results and highlight the importance of incremental deployment strategies tailored to local conditions.

- *Directions for Future Research*

Future research should prioritize large-scale empirical pilots across multiple West African countries to validate the framework under diverse regulatory, infrastructural, and market conditions. Comparative studies examining cross-border deployments would provide deeper insight into regional harmonization and interoperability challenges. Longitudinal analyses are also needed to assess system durability, cost–benefit dynamics, and behavioral responses over extended operational periods.

Integration with artificial intelligence–based analytics represents a promising avenue for enhancing predictive capabilities. Machine-learning models applied to blockchain–IoT data streams could enable early detection of anomalous distribution patterns, predictive risk scoring, and adaptive compliance monitoring. Future studies should explore how such analytics can be embedded within regulatory workflows without compromising transparency or accountability.

Additional research is warranted on governance models, incentive mechanisms, and ethical safeguards to ensure equitable participation and data protection. Expanding the framework to incorporate informal market dynamics and community-level verification mechanisms would further enhance its relevance. Collectively, these directions will deepen understanding of how advanced digital infrastructures can sustainably secure pharmaceutical supply chains in complex, evolving environments.

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