

# IMMUNIZATION COSTING ACTION NETWORK (ICAN) – PROJECT OVERVIEW

*The ICAN is working to build country capacity around the generation and use of cost evidence for sustainable and predictable financing for immunization.*

## INTRODUCTION

As more low- and middle-income countries transition to self-financed immunization programs, country governments need accurate and reliable cost information to ensure they mobilize adequate resources to meet coverage goals, address challenges of health equity, effectively manage the introduction of new vaccines, and achieve efficiencies. However, cost data is often of variable quality and is difficult to access and use by policymakers, program planners, and other global and country-level stakeholders. Our goal is to help planners and decision-makers access, understand, and use evidence on the cost of delivering vaccines.

## THE IMMUNIZATION COSTING ACTION NETWORK (ICAN)

ThinkWell and John Snow Inc. (JSI) are supporting the Immunization Costing Action Network (ICAN), a network working to increase the visibility, availability, understanding, and use of immunization delivery cost information. **The ICAN is building country capacity around the generation of cost information that has program and policy relevance.** The ICAN is also working with countries to improve interpretation and translation of cost information so that it is used in country decision-making processes and informs routine planning and budgeting. The ICAN believes that immunization managers and policymakers, equipped with relevant and user-friendly cost information, will be empowered in fundraising and advocacy efforts and will make better resource allocation decisions, ultimately improving the efficiency and equity of immunization programs.

## GLOBAL RESEARCH AND ANALYTICS

ThinkWell completed a systematic review of over **15,000 articles and reports presenting immunization delivery cost data for a variety of vaccines, delivery strategies, and low-and-middle income settings.** The purpose of the review was to answer the question: “What are the unit costs of vaccine delivery across different low-and-middle income countries and through a variety of delivery strategies?” To make the data accessible and easy to understand, ThinkWell developed the Immunization Delivery Cost Catalogue (IDCC) and methodology note, analytic report, and how-to user guides.

## COUNTRY RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE TO PRACTICE & POLICY

The ICAN is comprised of four member countries – India, Indonesia, Tanzania, and Vietnam – with country teams that include health economics researchers and immunization managers and planners from Ministries of Health. **The country teams are conducting costing studies that explore the cost of delivering vaccines through different delivery strategies to diverse geographies and to distinct target populations.** ThinkWell and JSI are facilitating the ICAN to encourage knowledge sharing and co-production of effective strategies for generation of cost evidence and its use in decision-making processes and for routine policy and planning.

