

IMMUNIZATION COSTING ACTION NETWORK (ICAN) – STANDARDIZING CAMPAIGN COSTING

ICAN is developing methodological guidance and a costing tool to improve evidence generation on what it costs to conduct an immunization campaign, to ultimately lead to more accurate financial planning and successful campaigns.

OVERVIEW

Immunization campaigns are increasingly used to improve coverage and decrease morbidity and mortality from vaccine-preventable diseases. Underfunded campaigns can result in low impact and thus are an inefficient use of resources. Accurate financial planning is required to ensure that campaigns achieve coverage targets, but evidence of what it costs to conduct campaigns is limited, somewhat outdated, and varies greatly. The extent to which cost variation is driven by differences in costing study methodologies or campaign operations is not clear. To address this issue, the Immunization Costing Action Network (ICAN) is developing a standardized methodology accompanied by a costing tool, which will be tested and refined during 3 immunization campaigns in 2019-2020, with dissemination of the guidance and tool in 2020.

STANDARDIZED METHODOLOGY & COSTING TOOL

ThinkWell is supporting ICAN by developing an off-the-shelf methodology to retrospectively, simultaneously or prospectively estimate the financial and economic cost of different types of campaigns for a variety of vaccines. The methodology will address variation in campaign delivery strategies, their degree of pre-planning, and their use of different types of healthcare workers. ThinkWell is also developing a customizable Excel-based costing tool to serve as a companion to the methodology. The tool will allow the user to generate summary overviews to be used for various planning and reporting purposes and to identify the main cost drivers of the costed campaign. The methodology and tool will make it easier to generate evidence on what it costs to conduct a campaign, and ultimately to improve countries' financial planning processes, as well as donor policies on supporting campaigns.

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

ICAN will conduct 3 campaign costing studies in various settings to test and refine the methodology and costing tool, capturing different scenarios for their future application. Throughout the development of the methodology and tool, ThinkWell will consult with representatives of EPI and MoH in the respective countries. An advisory group comprised of technical experts in campaign costing and campaign implementation will support the development of the methodology and the tool. An agency stakeholder group comprised of vaccine constituent representatives and financing and policy experts will be consulted throughout the development process.

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