



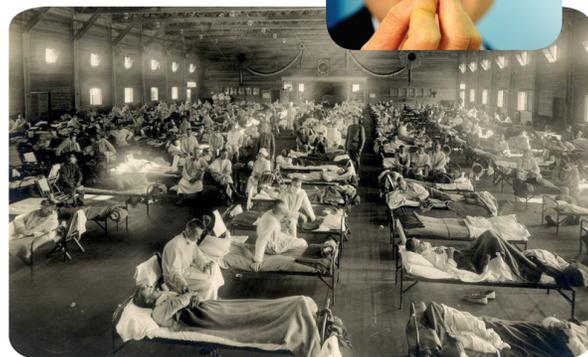
## 2018 END OF YEAR REPORT



SINCE 2012, PIVI HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT *in promoting pandemic/ epidemic preparedness through seasonal influenza vaccine program capacity building, providing more than 3.5 million doses of influenza vaccine and/or technical assistance to Ministries of Health in Albania, Armenia, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Uganda and Vietnam. In 2019 PIVI will begin providing technical assistance to Ministries of Health in Bhutan, Macedonia, Tajikistan and Tunisia.*

### LOOKING BACK – AND LOOKING AHEAD

2018 marked the centennial of the worst influenza pandemic in human history. It is estimated that the pandemic killed 50 to 100 million people worldwide.



An emergency hospital at Camp Funston, Kansas during the 1918 pandemic.

**"It killed more people than any war, any pandemic, the Black Death, AIDS, you can pick your terrible event."** —David Morens, scientist at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health <sup>1</sup>

A quick Google search returned 216,000 results with the keywords "Centennial of 2018 pandemic." Suffice it to say, there have been hundreds of articles, meetings and symposia focused on just what we can do to respond to another pandemic. Because the question is not if – it is when, and how serious it will be. On this, the experts agree. When asked what keeps them up at night, the response from leaders like Bill Gates and Dr. Robert Redfield, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the same: pandemic influenza.

While the stakes are likely much higher during a pandemic, pandemic influenza is not the only type of influenza. Seasonal influenza is also dangerous. In 2017-2018 – approximately 80,000 people died of seasonal influenza in the US alone, and updated estimates indicate that seasonal influenza viruses kill 290,000-650,000 people each year worldwide, counting only those deaths from influenza-associated respiratory diseases – a fraction of total influenza cases.

The work of the **Partnership for Influenza Vaccine Introduction (PIVI)** is critical to protecting people from the health and economic impacts of seasonal influenza today, while building and strengthening vaccine delivery systems crucial for responding to pandemic and other epidemic threats in the future.

*“Since becoming a PIVI partner in 2016, it has been an enormous support for health officials, as they have been able to vaccinate those people who need it. It has really benefited our entire country.”*

*— Dr. D. Nyamkhuu,  
General Director of the  
National Influenza Center,  
National Center for  
Communicable Diseases,  
Mongolia*

*“Healthcare workers are very important in terms of influenza vaccination (and other vaccine programs) because they do not protect just themselves but they protect their patients and they protect their families. So they are a very important key risk group.”*

*— Dr. Silvia Bino,  
Head of the Control of  
Infectious Diseases and  
Immunization Department,  
Albania Institute of  
Public Health*

## PREPARING FOR THE NEXT PANDEMIC THROUGH COMBATTING SEASONAL INFLUENZA EACH YEAR

Preparing for and responding to a pandemic simultaneously is nearly impossible, yet that is the complicated reality for many countries today. But a solution exists. Introducing seasonal influenza vaccination programs allow countries to develop and practice the exact skills and systems that they will use to deliver pandemic vaccine when needed. These programs not only keep countries healthier from seasonal influenza, they also improve their readiness to respond to pandemics and epidemics. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends creating seasonal influenza vaccination programs as a key component of pandemic preparedness, and PIVI has been a leader in this work.



### Additional Work in the Field:

- WHO is finalizing a new influenza strategic plan that will advocate for growing seasonal vaccine programs as a pandemic response tool. WHO also is creating tools for planning and evaluation of health worker vaccination programs.
- The Gavi Board recently approved the development of a “learning agenda” for influenza. The work funded would include activities to assess the feasibility and impact of routine influenza immunization of health workers to support epidemic and pandemic influenza preparedness.
- PIVI has begun work to establish a global coalition to promote pandemic and epidemic preparedness through expansion of influenza vaccination programs. The first meeting takes place in March 2019 with key decision-makers and leaders – with the goal of assessing and aligning work, and creating a recommendation for strengthening seasonal influenza vaccination programs, as a means of pandemic preparedness, around the world.

*While about half of Mongolia's population lives in Ulaanbaatar, around a third are nomadic herders, moving their yurts (or gers) from place to place. Here a health worker takes PIVI-secured influenza vaccine out to reach remote, herding families.*



## PIVI'S YEAR IN REVIEW

2018 was a year of growth for PIVI, as new countries joined the partnership and existing partner countries moved toward achieving stable influenza vaccine programs. Through our partnerships with manufacturers including Hualan Bio, Seqirus and Green Cross – and a negotiated partnership with UNICEF – PIVI donated 513,690 doses of influenza vaccine to partner countries including Albania, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Moldova and Mongolia. In addition, countries receiving PIVI-donated vaccine purchased a combined 394,571 doses using their own national funds – an approximate 25% increase over last year. We added the countries of Bhutan, Cote d'Ivoire, Macedonia, Tajikistan and Tunisia and look forward to helping support their unique needs as they build and strengthen their seasonal influenza vaccination programs.

Led by CDC, PIVI collaborated with countries and WHO Regional Offices on several projects over the past year, providing technical assistance to national seasonal influenza vaccination programs, and supporting the strengthening of immunization infrastructure, capacity and vaccine delivery systems to prepare for future influenza pandemics.

### KEY AREAS OF IMPACT

Vaccinating health workers protects them, reduces the risk of transmission to patients, and ensures that they remain healthy enough to go to work, protecting the health care system. PIVI has increased our work in this area, including partnering on Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions (KAP) surveys for health workers in Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Kenya and Uganda. Last year, six partner countries included health workers as a priority risk group, making sure they were among the first vaccinated, and protected. We've also partnered with several WHO Regional offices to develop training materials for health workers, as well as with WHO to pilot their FluTool to assess the cost of influenza vaccination programs for health workers.



Other key work included supporting targeted in-country communication campaigns in Mongolia, analyses of Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI) in targeted risk groups, and continued work to strengthen National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (NITAGs). In support of country NITAGs, PIVI developed technical dossiers, tailored for different regions, for seasonal influenza vaccination to support partner countries.



### COLLABORATING TO REFINE AND MOVE PIVI'S WORK AHEAD

PIVI held its *2nd Annual CDC and Partnership for Influenza Vaccine Introduction Partners' Meeting* in Bangkok, Thailand in February. Bringing together over 70 attendees from 22 countries, the meeting provided a time to review and discuss ongoing collaborations to introduce or expand influenza vaccination programs globally, and to make plans for strengthening and expanding the work in the coming year. Participants represented The Task Force for Global Health, CDC, Ministries of Health, WHO, vaccine manufacturers, and non-governmental health organizations.

In October, the PIVI Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) was convened for the first time. Made up of leaders from the public and private sectors representing global public health, vaccines, immunization programs and biosecurity, the PIVI SAG will help refine our strategic direction. The SAG will support PIVI with guidance on objectives, input on critical program decisions, as well as rooting PIVI's work in best practices to ensure that PIVI complements others' work in the areas of pandemic preparedness and influenza program creation, implementation and strengthening.

## LOOKING AHEAD

2019 promises to be an important year for PIVI, as we add additional partner countries and grow our technical support portfolio. Currently, eight technical assistance projects are being funded, with two more under review for execution in 2019. Some examples of current/ planned work include:

- **Kyrgyzstan:** KAP survey of Health Workers, Pregnant Women and Chronic Disease patients
- **Moldova:** Trainings for Health Workers on post-vaccination complications
- **Tunisia:** KAP survey of high risk groups
- **Albania:** Roundtables on communication about influenza and how to improve the influenza vaccination registry
- **Macedonia:** Development of communication materials focused on increasing coverage in people over 65, and other risk groups
- **SECID (Southeast European Center for Surveillance and Control of Infectious Diseases):** Offering a regional NITAG training to 11 countries in the SECID network

PIVI will continue growing connections with industry partners, including emerging suppliers of vaccines in the next year, to help meet the growing demand for influenza vaccines. Expanding and strengthening partnerships with manufacturers and other suppliers and shippers, will help ensure the Partnership can match countries with the best and most affordable

vaccine products, helping to assure program sustainability going forward.

At the core of our work – PIVI will continue to strengthen influenza vaccination programs in partner countries. PIVI will support targeted partner countries with technical support to grow and evaluate their current programs, making their investments in influenza vaccination more impactful and efficient.



**OUR GOAL FOR 2019 is to support partner country progress towards sustainability, making a lasting impact on the health of their populations, and on their ability to respond to the next pandemic. We plan to continue to engage additional**

**countries, apply what we have learned and expand the impact of the program with the long-term goal of partnering with 30 countries by 2030.**

<sup>1</sup> *Klass, Perri MD, "A Centennial of Death: The Great Influenza Pandemic of 1918," The New York Times October 22, 2018, Family Section*

## | OUR MISSION |

**Reduce the global disease burden from influenza, and improve the ability to respond to pandemics and other epidemic threats. We will achieve this through the development of sustainable, routine, seasonal influenza vaccination programs in low- and middle-income countries.**

For information, visit [www.pivipartners.org](http://www.pivipartners.org)  
or send an email to [pivi@taskforce.org](mailto:pivi@taskforce.org)

