

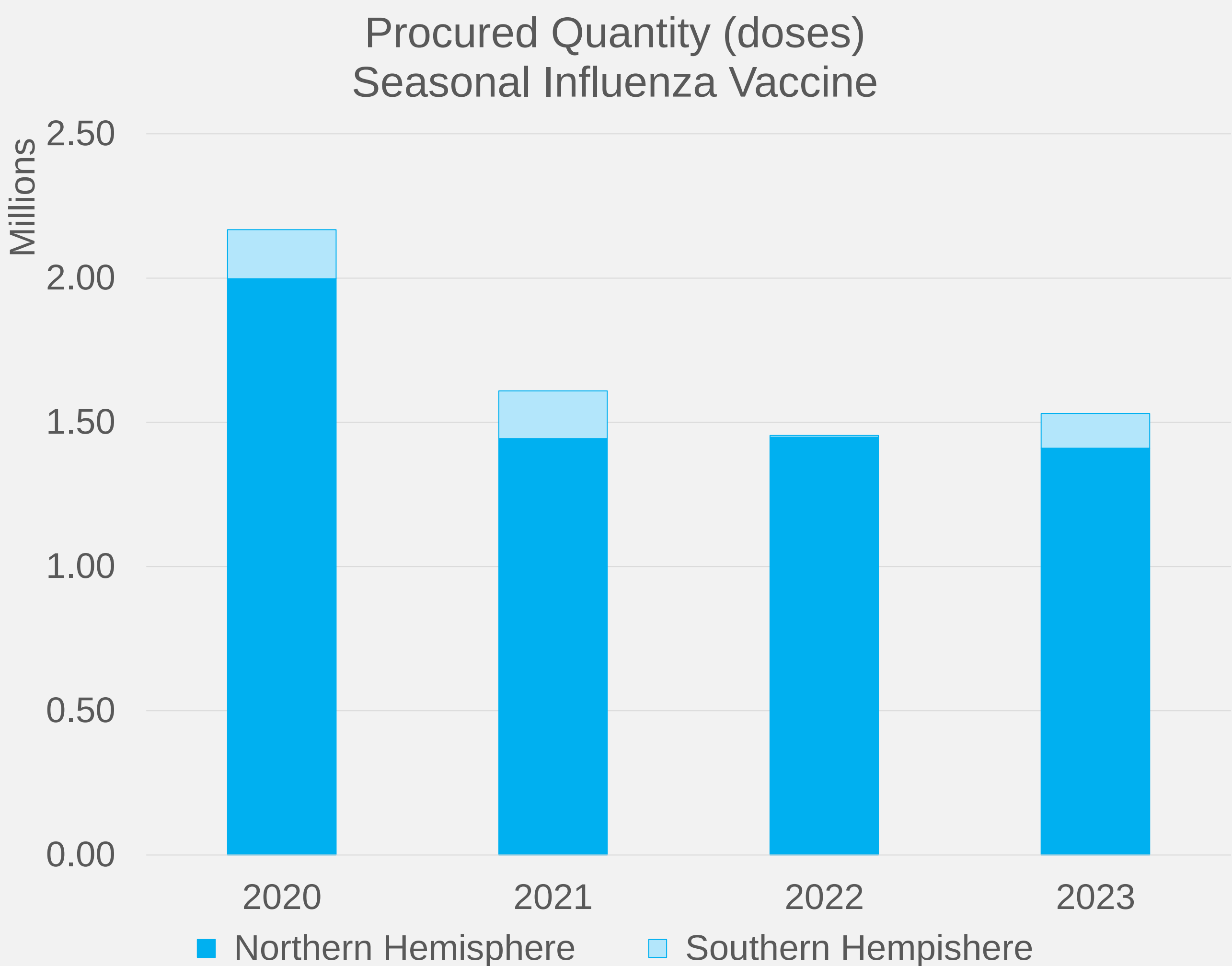
CONTEXT

- UNICEF procures seasonal influenza vaccine on behalf of 13-14 countries and the procured volume on an annual basis was 1.4 million doses during 2022 and 2023.
- UNICEF has recently changed procurement approach due to the increased volume required by countries procuring through UNICEF. UNICEF is tendering in advance and is issuing purchase orders 6-7 months in advance of vaccine delivery from manufacturers for Northern Hemisphere influenza vaccine.
- A subset of the countries that procure seasonal influenza vaccines through UNICEF receive funding support from the Partnership for Influenza Vaccine Introduction (PIVI) under the Task Force for Global Health.
- There are 9 manufacturers of WHO pre-qualified influenza vaccines, widely dispersed across the globe.



SUPPLY & DEMAND

- Demand through UNICEF is relatively low, as most countries procuring vaccines through UNICEF do not implement seasonal influenza immunization programmes. In the last four years, demand has increased to 1.4 – 2 million doses annually, primarily for the Northern Hemisphere formulation.
- PIVI supports countries’ introduction of seasonal influenza vaccines for a maximum of three years. Attention will be on whether countries will continue their influenza immunization programmes and sustain the demand for vaccines.
- Although only a limited number of manufacturers of WHO pre-qualified seasonal influenza vaccine offers availability to UNICEF, countries’ forecasted demand has been satisfied.
- UNICEF urges manufacturers of WHO pre-qualified vaccines to make these available for supply.



ISSUES & CHALLENGES

- Although there are 9 manufacturers of WHO pre-qualified seasonal influenza vaccines, only few suppliers make vaccines available for supply through UNICEF.
- Accuracy of demand forecasting from countries procuring through UNICEF is challenged by lack of funding and disease burden data. Demand forecasts from countries that receives financial support from PIVI has improved.
- UNICEF demand forecasting to manufacturers can accurately be provided only for the following influenza season.
- Due to the poor demand planning from some countries, late requests may be left unfulfilled every year.

LOOKING AHEAD

- UNICEF continues to support countries to improve their forecasting beyond the next influenza season.
- Manufacturers are urged to offer supply of seasonal influenza vaccines against upcoming UNICEF tenders.
- UNICEF to continuously assess if the accuracy of countries’ multi-year forecasts can support multi-year tenders, as is the case for all other vaccine procurement conducted by UNICEF.
- UNICEF to float tenders for 2024 Southern Hemisphere Influenza Vaccine during October 2023 and for 2024/25 Northern Hemisphere Influenza Vaccine during November 2023.