Supporting Developing Countries in establishing evidence-based national vaccination polices and programs: The SIVAC Initiative.

Unraveling and Understanding the roles of different bodies in the vaccines decision making.
Fondation Mérieux, Veyrier du Lac, France
November 26-28, 2012
Overview

• Context
• About NITAGs
• About the SIVAC Initiative
• SIVAC Direct Country Support
• SIVAC Transversal Technical Support
• Challenges
About the NITAGs

• New and complex context for Immunization
  • New vaccines, new compositions, new presentations, and new indications and …Future vaccines
  • Diversity of vaccine providers with lower price
  • GAVI Alliance financial support

• But…
  • Multiple health priorities, limited human resources and logistical capacities
  • Expensive vaccines with limited funds available
  • An expressed need for National adaptation of Global and Regional recommendations to take into consideration local realities
About the NITAGs

• But...

• Immunization and Vaccines outside from EPI: Absence of recommendations for some groups such as persons consulting the private health sector, military personnel, workers, tourists, school children, adolescents...

• Limited mandate of Inter-agency Coordinating Committees (ICCs)
  - Focus on EPI
  - Primarily operational coordination mainly on resources (proposals, annual progress reports, annual work plans…)
  - Some ICCs have technical sub-committees
A global recommendation from WHO, UNICEF, Technical partners


• Numerous successful existing NITAGs
  • USA (ACIP), Canada (NACI), Australia (ATAGI), South Africa (NAGI), UK (JCVI), France (CTV), Brazil, Thailand, China, Sri Lanka…

• WHA 61.15 (2008), “WHA requests the DG to…strengthen national capacity for making evidence-based policy decisions to adopt new vaccines”

• WHO SAGE Recommendations

• Numerous specific WHO Regional Offices recommendations (WHO AFRO TFI, WHO SEARO, WPRO, EMRO, EURO)

• Decade of Vaccines GVAP, WHA May 2012: Resolution 65.17 (Strategic Objective 1)
About the NITAGs

• What is a National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG)?
  • An advisory group, composed of National Experts
  • To guide policy makers and program managers to make evidence-based immunization related policy decisions
  • To provide some technical recommendations for all vaccine preventable diseases to National authorities

• What isn’t its role?
  • This is NOT serving as an implementing, coordinating or regulatory body
  • Only the National authorities are making the final decision.
About the NITAGs
About the NITAGs

• What are the areas covered?
  • Immunization strategies (EPI and outside EPI)
  • Maintaining a high routine immunization coverage
  • Introduction (or not) of new vaccines and immunization technologies
  • Revising schedules, target groups, vaccines
  • Respond to shortage
  • Etc…

= all the topics in the Immunization and Vaccines areas for which MoH needs technical and scientific advices
About the NITAGs

• Why having a national committee?

Ownership

• Ensuring a proper dissemination and implementation
• Ensuring sustainability
• Empower national authorities
• Ensure a comprehensive and integrated approach
• Create a neutral forum
• Ensure the credibility of decision making process
• Help resist pressure form interest groups
About the NITAGs

- **Core Members** ("voting")
  - Representing a broad range of disciplines
  - Senior pediatricians, epidemiologists, public health experts, health economists, vaccinology experts, social scientists etc.
  - Representing their own expertise

- **Non Core members** ("non voting")
  - Representing an institution
  - Taking back recommendations to the institution
  - Ex-officio: MoH different divisions (surveillance, Lab…)
  - Liaison members: Scientific societies, Health professional orders, WHO, UNICEF, NGOs…
About the NITAGs

• **What does “independent expertise” mean?**
  • Experts should provide independent expertise
  • Doesn’t mean independent experts, as most of national experts in LIC and LMIC are paid directly or indirectly by the government

  • All members should declare **conflicts of interest** related to the subject of the meeting,

  • The main goal is **transparency**

  • Off course many experts may have been in contact with interest groups, in this case they will either
    - participate to the meetings but they will not participate to the recommendations
    - Not participate to the meetings
About the NITAGs

- **Executive Secretariat**
  - Institution with scientific staff
  - Linked to MoH

- **Functioning**
  - Decree establishing NITAG
  - Nomination/rotation of members
  - Declaration of interest/ confidentiality agreement
  - Evidence-based recommendations
  - Agenda and items to be discussed
  - Plenary meetings
  - Working groups for specific items
  - Consensus/voting
  - Dissemination and publicity of recommendations
  - Monitoring and evaluation of the NITAG
About the SIVAC Initiative

• The aim is to enhance the use of evidence-based decision making in the development of immunization programs and policies.

• The SIVAC Initiative assists in the establishment or strengthening of functional, sustainable National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (NITAGs) in low and middle-income countries worldwide (except Americas).

• SIVAC provides support in the form of technical and financial support.

• Funded by the B&MGF for 7 years, Implemented by AMP, with sub grantee IVI, in close collaboration with WHO.

• SIVAC Initiative's major activities are:
  • To assist countries in the creation/strengthening of NITAGs.
  • Transversal activities: Technical support and Knowledge sharing.
SIVAC direct country support

• **Supporting Countries to establish a NITAG:**
  - Cote d’Ivoire, NITAG established in Dec 2009
  - Mongolia, NITAG established in Aug 2010
  - Mozambique, NITAG established in Dec 2010
  - Kazakhstan, NITAG established in Apr 2012
  - Kirgyzstan, NITAG established in Apr 2012
  - Senegal, Benin, Ghana

• **Support Countries to strengthen a NITAG:**
  - Nepal
  - Indonesia
  - Vietnam
  - Tunisia
  - Lebanon

• **Support to Countries in West Africa**
  - Ensure sustainable effort to support countries of the region to establish their NITAGs

• Senegal, Benin, Ghana
SIVAC Transversal Technical support

• Technical Guidance
  • Guidelines
    • “How to evaluate NITAGs activities”, “how to issue an evidence-based recommendations in a NITAG”, “how to set up the annual NITAGs agenda”, “How to establish WG”…

• Publications
  • Vaccine supplement “The role of National Advisory Committees in supporting evidence-based decision making for National Immunization Programs” was published in a supplement of the “Vaccine” journal in April 2010 (volume 28, supplement)
  • Mise en place de groupes techniques nationaux consultatifs pour la vaccination : une appropriation du choix et de la décision des priorités par les états, Médecine Tropicale, 2011; 71: 363-366. Authors: Senouci K, and col.
The supplement “The role of National Advisory Committees in supporting evidence-based decision making for National Immunization Programs” was published in a supplement of the “Vaccine” journal in April 2010 (volume 28, supplement).

**Existing NITAGs:** UK, F, USA, RSA, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Honduras, Iran, Oman, Canada, Switzerland, Australia, Korea, China, India

**Free access on**
www.sivacinitiative.org
Assessing NITAGs to identify their needs

- **Assessment of NITAG process indicators included in the WHO-Unicef JRF annual report**
  - Objective is global monitoring of progress and advocacy
  - Self reporting

- **Assessment of NITAGs outcomes and outputs**
  - Objective is self assessment tool for overall effectiveness of a NITAG
  - Can also serve for partners to identify NITAGs needs
  - 17 process, output and outcome indicators
  - Developed in a collaborative effort (SIVAC, WHO, CDC, NITAGs)
  - Tested in 14 countries
  - To be published soon in Scientific Journal
Assessing NITAGs to identify their needs

- Assessment of NITAGs outcomes and outputs

  - **10 process indicators** determine the functionality of a NITAG, based on global recommendations and best practices;

  - **3 output indicators** assess the evidence-based recommendations of the NITAG;

  - **4 outcome indicators** demonstrate the impact of technical recommendations on government policies and strategies.
| PROCESS INDICATORS | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Legislative/administrative basis* | Is there a legislative or administrative basis for the NITAG? |
| Advisory role only | Is the NITAG role technical advisory only? |
| Terms of reference* | Are there formal terms of reference for the NITAG? |
| Membership* | Is there a clearly defined selection process to become a core member and the Chairperson of the NITAG? Are the main areas of expertise recommended by WHO represented by core members? Are there non-core members? Are there rules for the rotation process for core members? |
| NITAG functioning SOPs | Are there clearly defined NITAG functioning SOPs? |
| Independent Chairperson | Is the NITAG Chairperson independent from the MoH and/or the immunization program? |
| Number of meetings* | How many meetings were held in each of the past three years? |
| Agenda and background documents distribution* | Were the agenda and background documents distributed and received at least one week in advance for each of the past three NITAG meetings? |
| Declaration of interests* | Is there a conflict of interest policy in place? Were all core members asked to declare their interests at the beginning of each of the past three years? Were all core members asked to declare their interests at the beginning of the past three NITAG meetings? |
| Official requests for recommendations received and addressed | How many official requests for recommendations has the NITAG received from the MoH and/or the immunization program and how many of them has the NITAG addressed? |
| **OUTPUT INDICATORS** | | |
| Evidence-based methodology for recommendations | How many recommendations were issued by the NITAG? How many of these recommendations made reference to peer-reviewed published material? |
| Country-specific criteria for recommendation | How many recommendations paying attention to country-specific context were issued by the NITAG? |
| Vaccine availability and delivery capacity criteria for recommendations | How many recommendations issued by the NITAG took into account the vaccine availability and delivery capacity at national level? |
| **OUTCOME INDICATORS** | | |
| MoH decisions made in consultation with the NITAG | How many MoH immunization-related decisions were made in consultation with the NITAG? |
| Recommendations accepted by the MoH | How many recommendations issued by the NITAG were accepted by the MoH? How many recommendations issued by the NITAG were not accepted by the MoH? |
| Recommendations which were not adopted by scientific or professional organizations | How many recommendations issued by the NITAG were not adopted by scientific and professional organizations? |
| Recommendations implemented in the country | How many recommendations were implemented in the country? How many recommendations were not implemented in the country? |
SIVAC Transversal Technical support

• Partnership for Country Direct technical support
  • Partnership: WHO, CDC, AMP, IVI, Existing NITAGs (US ACIP, Australia ATAGI, NZ (ITWG), German STIKO, French CTV…)
  • NITAG twinning, joint support to countries a NITAG

• Regional support in collaboration with WHO
  • Kathmandu (Oct 2009), Bali (May 2010), Minsk (Sept 2010), Jakarta (Oct 2010), Seoul (Nov 2010), Ouagadougou (Feb 2011) Almaty (Apr 2011), Sharm El Sheikh (Oct 2011), Hammamet (Jun 2012)

• Strengthening NITAGs members and secretariat capacities
  • participation to ADVAC, IVI Vaccinology course, Regional TAG meetings…

• Enhancing exchanges between NITAGs
  • Management of the NITAG Resource Center and trainings

• Advocacy for NITAGs
Knowledge sharing:
NITAG Resource Center

NITAG Dashboard

The Observatory provides updates on NITAG activities and recommendations as well as general information on immunization in various countries.

Use the map below to view the detailed description of a NITAG within a country. You will have access to various documents describing the NITAG (link to the website, legal documents, recommendations etc.) as well as news regarding the NITAG.
Document search

The Digital Library provides access to documentation and tools designed to facilitate evidence-based decision making for immunization policies and programs.

Country: Choose

Topic:
- Epidemiology
- Health economics
- Health policy
- Logistics & Programmatic
- Other

Document language:
- English
- French
- Arabic
- Chinese
- German

Source(s):
- N/A
- American Red Cross
- AMP - Agence de Médecine F
- Annals of Internal Medicine
- BEH - Bulletin épidémiologique

Type of document:
- Data & Statistics
- Fact sheet
- Guideline
- NITAG Functioning
- NITAG Legal document

Year of publication: Choose

Author:

Full Text search

Keywords:
- cholera
- cost
- decision making
- diphtheria
disease burden

Submit  Reset

* = Hold down the Ctrl key for a multiple selection
NITAG Resource Center - Digital Library
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original title</th>
<th>Translated title</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Document language</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relationship between the Experts Advisory Committee on Immunization Program (EACIP), the Ministry of Health (MOH), the National Immunization Program (NIP) and the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CCDC)</td>
<td>Relationship between the Experts Advisory Committee on Immunization Program (EACIP), the Ministry of Health (MOH), the National Immunization Program (NIP) and the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CCDC)</td>
<td>Health policy</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>China</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The role of the China Experts Advisory Committee on Immunization Program</td>
<td>The role of the China Experts Advisory Committee on Immunization Program</td>
<td>Health policy</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>China</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The role of the China Experts Advisory Committee on Immunization Program

Jingshan Zheng, Yuqing Zhou, Huaqing Wang, Xiaofeng Liang*

National Immunization Program Department, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, No. 27, Nanwei Road, Xuanwu District, Beijing 100050, China

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:
Advisory committee
Immunization
Decision-making
Evidence
China

ABSTRACT

The Experts Advisory Committee on Immunization Program (EACIP) of China was founded in 1982, and currently consists of 33 experts in immunization and related fields, selected by the Ministry of Health, to provide advice and guidance on the control of vaccine-preventable diseases. The main tasks of the EACIP are to advise on the national immunization schedule, to participate in the drafting and review of technical documents, and to participate in field supervision and staff training. In 2007, the EACIP used evidence-based methods to formulate a revised national immunization schedule. The EACIP has played and is playing an increasingly important role in guiding immunization policy in China.

© 2010 Published by Elsevier Ltd.
Knowledge sharing: NITAG newcomers briefing

The briefing is a fictional story that tells how the country of Lomapa has implemented, organized its NITAG and set up its first meeting. It is presented as a dialogue taking place between several characters.

Place: Ministry of Health (MoH)
Person: NITAG Chairman, NITAG Executive Secretary, and the Director of Immunization and Infectious Diseases (ID) at the MoH.
Date: 12th March
Knowledge sharing: Introduction to Health Economic Evaluations for NITAG members

The "Introduction to Health Economic Evaluations for NITAG members" briefing provides NITAG members with a basic background on health economic evaluation applied to immunization.
Challenges for a NITAG

- “Independent expertise"
  - From Manufacturers
  - From MoH
  - But also from AMP, WHO, Unicef, Gates, …

- Transparency of the process

- Quality of the recommendations
  - evidence-based (methodology, GRADE)
  - Not experts opinions
  - Data available?

- Human resources
  - Experts availability (persons and time)
  - NITAG executive secretariat (usually at MoH, EPI…)
Challenges for a NITAG

• Recognition from the MoH
  • endorsement of the recommendations…in regards of financial and political context

• Recognition from the global Immunization community (WHO, Unicef, NGOs, Funders…) to allow Countries to discuss instead of having decisions imposed (e.g. ownership regarding decisions on new vaccines)
Websites and Contacts

NITAG Resource Center
http://www.nitag-resource.org/

SIVAC Initiative
http://www.sivacinitiative.org/

AMP
http://www.aamp.org

IVI
http://www.ivi.org

Contact us:

Dr Alex Adjagba, Acting Director SIVAC Initiative
aadjagba@aamp.org