

Support to country level decision-making: NITAGS & GNN

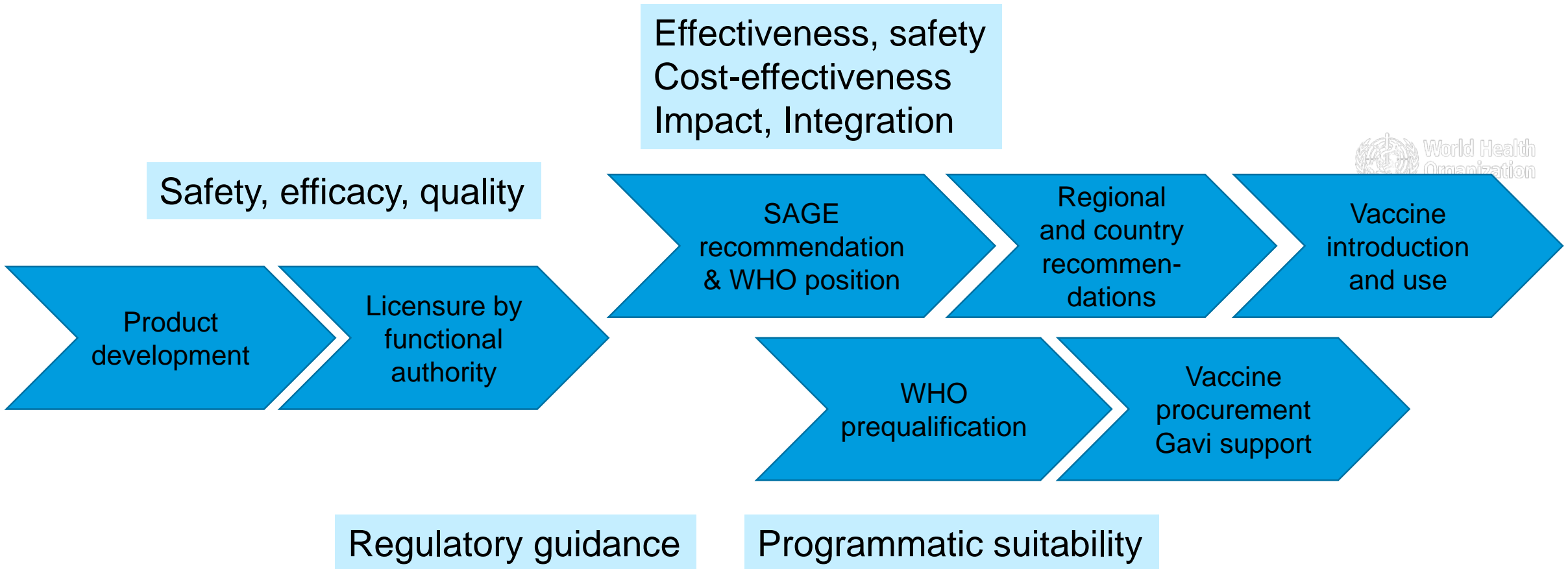


World Health
Organization

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Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals

From vaccine development to use



Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization



- Principal advisory group for vaccines and immunization
- Global normative role
- Reports to Director-General
- 15 Members
- Public call for nominations
- Two plenary meetings/year
- Meetings and standard operational procedures
- Periodic declaration of interests
- Working Groups
- Report and communications

Health topics ▾ News ▾ Countries ▾ Emergencies ▾


Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals

20 April 2018

Summary report for the SAGE meeting of April 2018

Following the conclusion of the SAGE meeting for April 2018, a meeting summary is now available.

— [Meeting summary pdf, 234kb](#)



SAGE news

- [Summary report for the SAGE meeting of April 2018](#)
- [Summary report for the SAGE meeting of October 2017](#)
- [SAGE meeting of April 2017 - conclusions and recommendations](#)

The Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization was established by the Director-General of the World Health Organization in 1999 to provide guidance on the work of WHO. SAGE is the principal advisory group to WHO for vaccines and immunization. It is charged with advising WHO on overall global policies and strategies, ranging from vaccines and technology, research and development, to delivery of immunization and its linkages with other health interventions. SAGE is concerned not just with childhood vaccines and immunization, but all vaccine-preventable diseases.

Next meeting

The next SAGE meeting will take place in Geneva from the 23-25 October 2018. A draft agenda will be made available nearer the time.

Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals

Vaccines and diseases

Global Vaccine Action Plan

WHO policy recommendations

SAGE

Immunization schedules

Position papers

Advisory committees

National programmes and systems

Monitoring and surveillance

Quality, safety and standards

Research and development

Resource materials

Newsroom

Review of Topics discussed at SAGE Meetings, 2010-2017

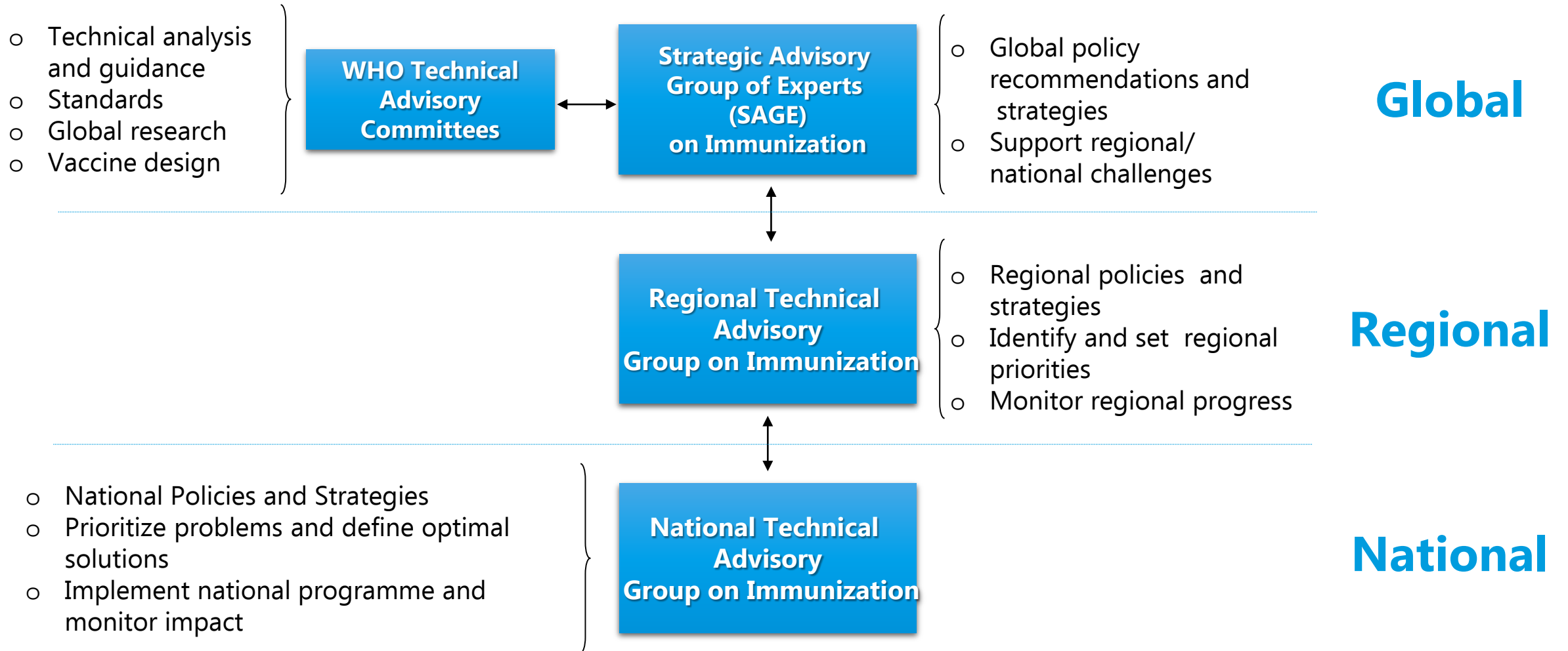


Total # of meetings: 17

Total # of sessions: 169

Topic	# sessions	% of all sessions
Vaccine-specific	68	40%
Reports	54	32%
Programmatic challenges	20	12%
DoV/GVAP	12	7%
Financing	4	2%
Vaccine safety	4	2%
General policy topics	3	2%
SAGE process	2	1%
Surveillance	2	1%

WHO Immunization Policy Advisory Framework



Global Vaccine Action Plan



Indicator SO 1.2: presence of an independent technical advisory group that meet defined criteria

Target: Functional NITAGs in all Member States by 2020

Definition of Indicator: a NITAG is considered functional when it meets all six process indicators.

1. Legislative or administrative basis for the advisory group.
2. Formal written terms of reference.
3. At least five different areas of expertise represented among core members.
4. At least one meeting per year.
5. Circulation of the agenda and background documents at least one week prior to meetings.
6. Mandatory disclosure of any conflict of interest.

Recognizing the importance of NITAG support



GVAP midterm review (2016)

- Good progress but **additional efforts** are needed to achieve GVAP 2020 target on NITAGs;

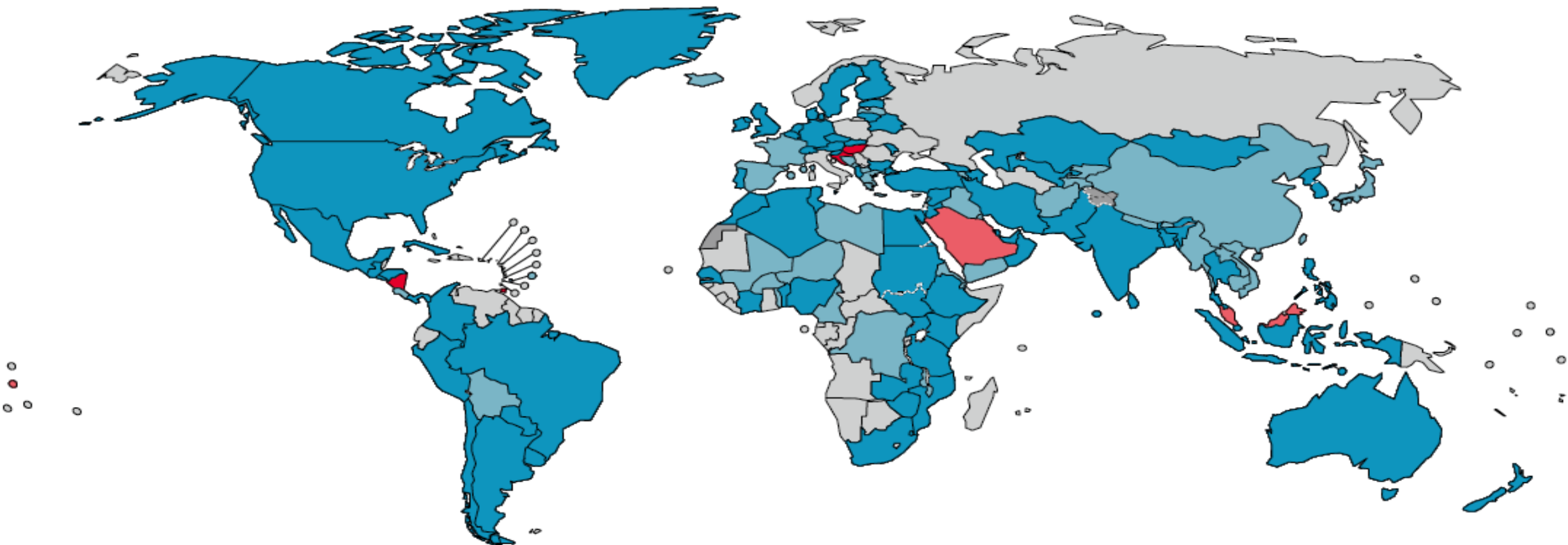
70th World Health Assembly (2017)

- Urges **Member States** to demonstrate stronger leadership and governance of national immunization programmes by **strengthening national processes** and advisory bodies for independent, evidence-based, transparent advice including on vaccine safety and effectiveness;
- Requests the **Director General** to support Member States in strengthening NITAG to inform national decisions based on national context and evidence to achieve national immunization goals;

71st World Health Assembly (2018)

- NITAGs, while supporting decision-making, can contribute significantly to building in-country **ownership and credibility** for immunization programmes.

Fig. 4.1: National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (NITAGs) in 2016



- 83 countries meeting the six NITAG criteria
- 122 countries having a NITAG with administrative or legislative basis
- 122 countries reporting the existence of a NITAG with terms of reference
- 129 countries reporting the existence of a NITAG
- No NITAG/Not available
- Not applicable

2017 WHO secretariat assessment report

Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Reporting Form database.

Building up capacities at global, regional and country levels



Global

- Global resources:
 - NITAG Resource Centre
 - Guidelines and training materials
- Networking & collaboration
 - Global NITAG Network (GNN)
 - Peer learning, and exchanges with SAGE
- Support to Regional Offices
 - Support to regional networks
 - SAGE-RITAG interactions
- Funding

Regional

- Support regional NITAG networks
- Invite NITAGs to RTAG meetings
- Sub-regional trainings for NITAG strengthening
- Sub-regional collaboration between small countries
- Regional competencies and centres of excellence

Country

- Ad hoc support to NITAG establishment and strengthening
- Share workplans, recommendations and best practices
- Peer to peer exchanges to build capacity
- NITAG Evaluation

NITAG Resource Centre (NRC)



Main objective : to be the one-stop-shop for all NITAG related information

- Launched in 2015, managed and run by WHO HQ with the support of a network of focal points
- Centralized access to NITAG recommendations from around the world
- Systematic reviews, scientific publications, technical reports
- Updates from partners and upcoming immunization events

Target audience:

- NITAG members looking at specific topics and wanting to see the decisions of other countries
- Partners involved in NITAG support: all training material are available

Next steps:

- Expand content, assure quality, increase functionality

<http://www.nitag-resource.org/>



The Global NITAG Network (GNN)

Open to all NITAGs



The GNN vision, mission and objectives



VISION: Each country, using the best practices and data available, makes sound, evidence-based recommendations on immunization that are most appropriate for their context in order to facilitate their adoption and implementation.

MISSION: To enhance the ability of NITAGs to efficiently make evidence-informed recommendations on immunization through global collaboration and cooperation with input from regional networks.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To provide a global platform to enable NITAGs to efficiently share and access knowledge, technical reviews, data, lessons learned, trends and innovations.
2. To liaise with regional NITAG networks to flag needs, develop relevant tools to address needs, and identify, evaluate, and document best practice and innovation. GNN does not replace regional networks.
3. To help develop standards for processes to ensure evidence-based decision making and evaluate NITAGs
4. To facilitate evaluations and capacity building of NITAGs.
5. To advocate for NITAGs.

3rd GNN meeting

Ottawa, 6-7 December 2018

- Based on 2017 survey, two discussion technical items identified:
 1. Off label recommendations of vaccination
 2. Legal context for implementation of NITAG recommendations
- Conflict of interest: experiences, lessons learned and best practices
- NITAG evaluation : feedback from countries
- NITAG agenda priority setting
- Side session for long-established NITAGs and recently established NITAGs

Key messages

- Immunization is **leading** in the field of evidence-based decision-making in public health
- Global normative guidance is only as good as it shows **impact at country level**
- Global – Regional - Country level **collaboration** is therefore essential for vaccine decision-making
- NITAG's have been identified as a centrepiece to advance the immunization agenda, and there is overall **good progress**
- Country level evidence based decision making in **increasingly important** as vaccine policy choices increase
- Allocation of **scarce resources** will face increased scrutiny in countries graduating from Gavi subsidies, and evidence-based decision-making will increase **sustainability** and **ownership**
- Partner **technical support** and predictable **financial support** will be essential to successfully drive establishment and fostering of NITAGs

Many thanks

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WHO's immunization partners