NITAG PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

The SIVAC tool for evaluating NITAGs
Outline

- Rationale for NITAG evaluations
- Evaluating NITAGs
  - Previous advances
  - Lessons learned
- Content of the current evaluation tool
- Implementation of the evaluation
Evaluations improve organizational effectiveness
- Show achievements
- Formalize challenges
- Orient process reviews
- Identify improvement tracks

NITAGs are organizations in national immunization decision-making systems
- Evaluations will help improve their capacity to fulfill their mission
Evaluating NITAGs – Previous advances and lessons learned

What countries and partners have done and what they learned from it
6 basic indicators to assess NITAGs

- Describes functioning
- Collected now through WHO/Unicef JRF (2010)
- Used to monitor GVAP Strategic Objective 1

17 indicators to assess NITAG resources, processes, outputs and results

- Identifies achievements and bottlenecks in NITAG activities and effects
Lessons learned

- Regular functioning does not ensure effectiveness
  - Provide concise information for the global level
  - Need to push further and develop more comprehensive assessments

- Understanding national immunization decision-making processes is important for getting meaningful evaluations

- NITAGs may lack capacity to implement in-depth evaluations
  - Operational guidance could be needed
Current evaluation tool

Features under analysis for each dimension of performance
What does “NITAG performance” stand for?

a) NITAG capacity to function regularly and issue recommendations in a timely manner

b) NITAG capacity to use the best available evidence and produce relevant recommendations in a given national context

c) NITAG capacity to influence immunization policy decisions

NITAG performance is a combination and balance of the three elements
NITAG performance in the evaluation tool

Evaluation questions

- Do the NITAG’s structure and operations foster the timely generation of recommendations?
- Has the NITAG developed, formalized and implemented appropriate processes to ensure quality recommendations?
- Is the NITAG fully integrated into the decision-making system?
Dimension 1: Functioning

**FUNCTIONING**

- **Structural viability**
  - Administrative basis
  - Material resources

- **Operational capacity**
  - SOPs
  - HR
  - Independence
  - Operations
  - Compliance with rules

- **Productivity**
  - Topics addressed
  - Recommendations
  - Responsiveness
Evaluation of NITAG performance

Dimension: Quality

- **HR capacity**
  - HR skills and training opportunities
  - Working groups and external expertise
  - Access to data

- **Analytical process**
  - Data selection (type and method)
  - Analysis of evidence
  - Discussion within NITAG

- **Quality of outputs**
  - Structure of the recommendation notes
Dimension: Integration

- **Transparency**
  - Governing policies
  - Participation of external stakeholders in NITAG’s activities

- **Interactions**
  - Communication and dissemination strategies
  - Collaborations and antagonisms

- **Acknowledgement**
  - Integration into national immunization decision-making system
  - Recognition of NITAG’s added-value to decision-making
Implementation of the evaluation

Preparation, Data sources, resources
Planning your NITAG evaluation

- Get the evaluation tool
  - Available in 4 languages on: http://nitag-resource.org

- Define your specific objectives
  - The evaluation tool is simply the initial framework

- Get national stakeholders’ buy-in
  - MoH and NITAG shall agree upon the utilization of results

- Identify the relevant resources
What are the evaluation tools and resources?

- **Resources made available by the NITAG**
  - Allocation of specific resources (consultant or Secretariat staff) for:
    - Preparation of the evaluation mandate and operations
    - Data collection
    - Writing or revising the evaluation report

- **Resources made available by SIVAC and partners**
  - Evaluation tool for data collection and template report (on the NRC)
  - Technical assistance (depending on SIVAC scope)
Two types of data collected

**Formal (written) data**
- General information about the national immunization policy
- Information on the NITAG
  - Administrative documents
  - WP, meeting agendas and reports
  - Processes for making recommendations and for liaising with the MoH/other stakeholders
- Recommendations and background documents
- Communication strategies and sample media

**Interviews of NITAG stakeholders**
- Perceptions and opinions on the NITAG and its achievements
  - NITAG Secretariat (Chair, Executive Secretary, others)
  - NITAG core members
  - MoH immunization programs
  - Others (adapt to context)
    - Professional associations
    - Academia
    - Patient associations
WHAT’S NEXT?

Thank You!
balves@aamp.org