

Experience of the South-East Asia Regional network of NITAGs

Establishment, mandate and perspectives

Outline

- + Why and how was the South-East Asia Region Network of NITAGs created?
- + Description of the SEAR Network of NITAGs

Why and how was the network created (1/2)?

- WHO SEARO and SIVAC facilitated during the annual ITAG meeting in June 2015 a side meeting of NITAG Chairs and secretariats
- Participants noted that they have different level of experience but all face challenges and constraints; they also encounter similar problems
- Structured working relationship through a network may provide increased access to regional data, technical capacity building and resources; allow for concerted action for common problems
- WHO SEARO and SIVAC organised a consultative workshop (Colombo, April 7-8 2016) to further discuss the structure and mandate of a SEAR network of NITAGs in light of their needs and expectations (individually and collectively)

Why and how was the network created (2/2)

Outcomes of the Regional Consultation

- ✦ Participation of representatives, including Chairs and Secretariats, of 8 out of the 11 NITAGs of the South-East Asia Region (SEAR): Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia, Maldives, Timor-Leste, Thailand, India and Sri Lanka
- ✦ Identification of individual NITAGs' needs: access to specific areas of expertise; up-to-date information; strengthening of NITAG-specific technical competencies in standardized methodology for developing evidence-based recommendations (literature review and evidence appraisal)
- ✦ Formulation of expectations from a SEAR network of NITAGs:
 - ✦ **Technical support:** external expert assistance for developing evidence-based recommendations;
 - ✦ **Capacity-building:** on methodology for issuing evidence-based recommendations;
 - ✦ **Information-sharing:** access to local data from other NITAGs;
 - ✦ **Experience-sharing:** from NITAG activities, evaluations of recommendations

Description of the SEAR Network of NITAGs (1/5)

Scope

- ✦ sharing experience and data to inform recommendations;
- ✦ sharing technical resources and facilitation in technical assistance in specific immunization-related expertise (i.e., expertise on modeling, economics);
- ✦ supporting NITAG capacity-building;
- ✦ Supporting progress evaluation of NITAGs' effectiveness and functioning Mandate

Description of the SEAR Network of NITAGs (2/5)

Structure/organisation

+ *Membership*

- + The SEAR NITAG Network is a voluntary network comprising the 11 countries represented by their Chairs and Secretariats.

+ *Mechanism for Coordination*

- + The Network will meet once a year.
- + The Chair will be from the host country while the co-chair will be from the next host country.
- + Host countries will be chosen on an annual rotation basis, starting with Sri Lanka and following alphabetical order of country names:
- + . The current Chair will involve the following year's host country in Network coordination.

+ Responsibilities of the chair, secretariat and members

- + efficient networking requires responsiveness, attendance, acknowledgment and mutual support.

Description of the SEAR Network of NITAGs (3/5)

Strategic objectives (2016-2020)

+2016-17:

- +To have operational documents finalized.
- +To initiate Network visibility.
- +To implement one capacity-building activity

+2017-18:

- +To have a functioning Network in place

+2018-20:

- +To draw lessons from Network functioning.
- +To explore opportunities for joining an inter-regional network

Description of the SEAR Network of NITAGs (4/5)

Deliverables:

- Dedicated webpage on the NRC website maintained up-to-date with relevant NITAG-related information, data, and documents, including the Strategic document, standard operating procedures, work plans, and activity reports.
- The Network will also publish an annual newsletter.

Description of the SEAR Network of NITAGs (5/5)

Funding

- Respective governments for individual NITAGs effective participation and contribution to the Network's activities.
- Partners: SIVAC will provide digital space, and jointly with WHO, they will support capacity-building activities and facilitate the logistics of voluntary technical assistance from experts to peers.



Thank you