



ESTABLISHMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF NITAG IN IVORY COAST: SUCCESS AND CHALLENGES



Outline



- **Establishment of NITAG in Ivory Coast**
- **Strengthening of NITAG**
- **Success**
- **Challenges**
- **Feedback on International Network of NITAG**
- **Activities conducted since May 2016**
- **Main findings of 2014 evaluation**



Establishment of NITAG in Ivory Coast



- National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) has been established in Ivory Coast in **December 2009** thanks to « SIVAC » Initiative
- **Political will** contributed to the creation of the NITAG in Ivory Coast. This political will is characterized by the ministerial decree of creation and appointment of NITAG members



Establishment of NITAG in Ivory Coast



- The NITAG has a **Descriptive Project (operating procedure)** that defines its terms of reference and **Rules of Procedure** that specifies its operation
- **Ordinary meeting** takes place **once a quarter** and extraordinary meeting is held if needed
- The NITAG in Ivory Coast includes:
 - Expert members (17)
 - Ex-officio members (09)
 - Liaison members (03)
 - Technical and scientific secretariat



STRENGTHENING OF NITAG



From January 2010 to March 2016, **AMP** provided support to the NITAG in Ivory Coast:

- **Material assistance** to the secretariat
- **Financial assistance** for meetings organization
- **Capacity building** of NITAG's members

(Workshop on Method of developing evidence based recommendation, 27-29 January 2015;

Workshop on The use of economic data to support decision-making related to immunization, 29-30

March 2016)



SUCCESS



Development of recommendations and notice for the Minister of Health

- Recommendation for improving Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) performances (2011)
- Recommendation for immunization against *Human Papillomavirus* (2016)
- Recommendation on the introduction of an additional dose of vaccine against viral hepatitis B at birth in the EPI (2016)
- Notice on age restriction of rotavirus vaccine in the EPI (2016)
- Recommendation on the introduction of MenAfrivac vaccine into the EPI (under development)



SUCCESS



Scientific productions

- Establishment of a National Immunization Technical Advisory Group in Cote d'Ivoire: Process and lessons learned. *Vaccine* 30 (2012) 2588–2593
- Process for developing a recommendation : case of vaccination against hepatitis B at birth by the NITAG in Ivory Coast (Publication in process, *La Société Française de Santé Publique*, 2017)
- Immunization outside the Expanded Program on Immunization in Abidjan city, Cote d'Ivoire (Publication in process , *Austin journal of vaccine and immunotherapeutics*)



CHALLENGES



- Availability of some Members (to attend meetings)
- Financial assistance (for NITAG meeting organization, working groups meetings, and conducting studies to have local data)



Feedback on International Network of NITAG



- From 11-12 May 2016, the President and the Secretary of Ivory Coast NITAG attended the International meeting of NITAG in France
- The two main points of this meeting were:
 - The establishment of an international network of NITAG
 - Evaluation of NITAG(External independent evaluation of Ivory Coast NITAG conducted in 2014)



Activities conducted since May 2016



- Ordinary meeting on July 28, 2016
- Ordinary meeting on October 6, 2016
- Ordinary meeting on March 16, 2017
- Participation in the ceremony of the official launch of rotavirus vaccine introduction in the EPI on March 16, 2017
- Participation in the ceremony of the official launch of polio NIDs on March 25, 2017



Main findings of 2014 evaluation



- The establishment of the NITAG in Ivory Coast is in line with the global recommendations and the national immunization policy
- Funding of NITAG in Cote d'Ivoire is mainly external which raises the problem of sustainability

Members of Ivory Coast NITAG



With AMP trainer (on the front line, 4th position from left to right)

THANK YOU