

Global NITAG Network (GNN)

Terms of reference

July 2023

The Global NITAG Network (GNN) was established in May 2016 to foster collaborations between countries and create opportunities for pooling resources and increasing effectiveness through sharing NITAG experiences, lessons learned, and documentation. The GNN provides a forum to communicate NITAG challenges and barriers to technical partners to move the NITAG support agenda forward.

1. Function

The network encourages and supports NITAGs by:

1. Fostering the exchange of information and knowledge through:
 - Promoting dissemination and use of good practices
 - Collectively generating information and knowledge on common topics
 - Collectively promoting the use of new knowledge relevant to common issues
2. Capacity building through:
 - Facilitating learning experiences
 - Sharing technical resources
 - Creating opportunities (virtual and real) for discussion on complex issues
 - Fostering NITAG twinning or collaboration opportunities, including cross regional collaborations
 - Supporting development of tools
3. Evaluating through:
 - Regularly eliciting feedback from countries to ensure relevance of the GNN to country needs
 - Facilitating NITAG evaluations
 - Improving evaluation approaches and tools
4. Mobilizing resources for joint efforts through:
 - Advocating for NITAGs with global partners
 - Developing a pool of trainers and/or evaluators that can be readily accessed by NITAGs.

2. Membership

Membership is open to all NITAGs. NITAG registration requires at least two NITAG representatives designated as contacts with the GNN. However, the NITAG as a whole is a member of the GNN and all NITAG members and Secretariat are invited to participate in the collaboration and sharing of information and are free to benefit from the Network. It is therefore important that GNN focal points disseminate GNN information to their respective NITAG and Secretariat members.

Upon completion of registration, GNN members commit to respect and support the achievements of GNN's mission and strategic objectives in accordance with the agreed upon core values.

There is no limit to the numbers of members and no charge or membership fee for joining the GNN.

Countries without a NITAG cannot formally join the GNN but may participate in GNN meetings to raise their awareness of NITAG activities, challenges, and benefits.

3. Operation

The GNN shall normally convene a face-to-face at least every two years.

The GNN organizes quarterly webinars and SAGE digests two weeks after each SAGE meetings and facilitates surveys based on needs identified by the GNN steering committee.

Active participation is expected from all GNN members, including in meetings, webinars, surveys and interaction over email.

GNN members may, in advance of meetings and webinars, be consulted to identify relevant topics and speakers and to share their experiences with the network.

4. Secretariat

The Secretariat is based in WHO Headquarters (HQ) in the Immunization, Vaccines and biologicals department and reports to the SAGE Executive Secretary. In this regard, the WHO Secretariat shall provide the members, in advance of each meeting, with the agenda and working documents. Recordings of webinars and presentations shall be sent after the meetings.

The Secretariat is supported by the GNN steering committee comprised of six NITAG members, representing the different WHO regions and 3 advisors from long-established NITAG secretariats.