

Guidelines for defining NITAG annual work plan

Audience

NITAG Executive Secretary, NITAG Members
Ministry of Health

Purpose

To make the most economical and effective use of resources, in order to ensure the development of high quality, evidence-informed recommendations

For more details

<http://www.nitag-resource.org/en/training/rapid-briefing.php>

Step 1

Identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of VPD control

1.1 Map the general health context

- Assess progress made in recent years in vaccine preventable disease control and remaining challenges (disease burden trends, vaccine coverage rates...)
- Collect all relevant documents from national and international sources, including multiyear and strategic plans, annual reports, epidemic surveillance data, WHO and UNICEF Joint Reporting Forms, EPI reviews

1.2 Conduct stakeholders mapping: both Individuals and institutions

1.3 Conduct an influence mapping: anti-vaccine lobbies, religious groups...

1.4 Identify challenges in vaccine-preventable disease control

- Analyze in collaboration with MoH, evidence gathered to identify challenges
- Consider classifying challenges identified into categories:
 - Contextual challenges (outbreak of X vaccine-preventable disease, hard-to-reach areas)
 - Organizational challenges (quality and supply of vaccines; quality and availability of data; epidemic outbreak management; performance of surveillance system)
 - Political challenges (low political commitment to immunization targets, lack of a national immunization strategy)
 - Socio-Anthropological challenges

1.5 Identify opportunities to address VPD challenges that were identified

- Consider forming a working group to help on this identification
- Classify opportunities into one of these categories:
 - New quality evidence available
 - New vaccine on market or new vaccine prequalification by WHO
 - WHO position papers, SAGE recommendation, Regional TAG recommendation
 - Price drop of a vaccine making it affordable to the country or new GAVI financial support for introducing a vaccine in the country
 - New scientific publication on a success story in vaccine-preventable disease control in a neighboring / similar countries

Step 2

Topics Priority setting exercise

- Synthesize all information retrieved into potential topics to be considered for inclusion in the annual work plan
- Seek feedback from NITAG Chair and members
- Prioritize topics in consultation with MoH, based on national priorities and other factors including: potential impact, global commitments, public demand and regional environment, feasibility in the short terms, existing delivery capacity, equity, economic affordability and sustainability

Step 3

Finalize annual work plan

- Agree on annual number of meetings and set approximative dates (by NITAG executive secretary and Chair)
- Identify topics that require to set up a specific working group
- Validate final list and dates by seeking feedback from MoH
- Disseminate validated annual work plan to all NITAG members and all working groups when they are set.