

NITAG establishment history

- NITAG team are nominated on April 3 2023 by FMoH.
- The team consisted of five persons including: Chair person, one Microbiologist, one Pediatrician, one from MoF and One from the Civil Society. Though all were invited to attend our first meeting only two attended since then no chance was available for meeting

Vaccine recommendations made till now.

- The vaccine immunization endorsement made by National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) of Somalia so far was in August 17 2023. This happened when the ICC and NITAG endorsed the introduction of rotavirus vaccine and PCV Vaccines in Somalia, which planned for 2024.

Challenges related to not making recommendations are mainly related access to data, need of training, not having administrative support in scheduling meetings.

- Data challenges:
 - Limited Data Sources: Access to a diverse and comprehensive dataset is crucial for making accurate recommendations.
 - Data Privacy Concerns: Gathering and using user data for recommendations often involves sensitive information.
 - Data Quality Issues: Inaccurate or incomplete data can lead to false recommendations.

Challenges

- Training challenges:
 - Computational Resources: Developing and training recommendation models often requires significant computational resources, including high-performance GPUs and storage capacity.
 - Algorithm Complexity: Implementing and fine-tuning recommendation algorithms, such as collaborative filtering or deep learning models, can be technically challenging and time-consuming.
 - Model Scalability: As the user base grows, scalability becomes a concern.

Challenges

- Lack of administrative support:
 - Resource Allocation: Without support from organizational leadership, it can be difficult to secure the necessary budget.
 - Cross-Functional Collaboration: Building effective recommendation systems often requires collaboration between multiple departments.
 - Change Management: Implementing recommendation systems may require changes to existing processes and workflows.

Challenges

- Scheduling meeting challenges:
 - Coordination: between stakeholders such as (MOH, WHO or UNICEF)
 - Time Constraints: When meeting attendances are in not in same geographical locations and there is very big gap of timing.
 - Remote Work: When all NITAG team members are not in same location it is difficult to gather for the meetings.

How this workshop can help the NITAG team to get training related to NITAG and administrative support.

- The objectives of a workshop and the help for a National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) related to the introduction of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) are:
- **Capacity Building:** Enhance the capacity of NITAG members in understanding the technical aspects of PCV and Rotavirus vaccines, including their safety, efficacy, and cost-effectiveness.

Support to NITAG

- **Evidence Review:** Provide training on systematic evidence review processes, including the assessment of scientific literature and data, to ensure that recommendations are based on the best available evidence.
- **Data Analysis:** Develop the skills necessary for analyzing and interpreting local epidemiological data related to vaccine-preventable diseases, such as pneumonia and rotavirus gastroenteritis.
- **Risk-Benefit Assessment:** Equip NITAG members with the tools and knowledge needed to conduct thorough risk-benefit assessments for the introduction of PCV and Rotavirus vaccines in their country.

Support to NITAG

- **Cost-Effectiveness Analysis:** Train NITAG members in conducting cost-effectiveness analyses to assess the economic implications of vaccine introduction and to prioritize vaccines within limited budgets.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Facilitate discussions on stakeholder engagement and communication strategies to build consensus among healthcare professionals, policymakers, and the public.
- **Ethical Considerations:** Discuss ethical considerations surrounding vaccine introduction, such as equity, access, and informed consent.

Support to NITAG

- **Recommendation Development:** Guide NITAG members in the development of evidence-based recommendations for the introduction of PCV and Rotavirus vaccines, taking into account local epidemiological context.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Define strategies for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of vaccine programs to ensure they meet their intended goals and continue to be effective.
- **Documentation and Reporting:** Provide guidance on documenting and reporting recommendations to relevant authorities and the public in a clear and transparent manner.

Support to NITAG

- **Documentation and Reporting:** Provide guidance on documenting and reporting recommendations to relevant authorities and the public in a clear and transparent manner.
- **Implementation Planning:** Assist in the development of an implementation plan, including vaccine supply chain logistics, training of healthcare workers, and public awareness campaigns.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Equip NITAG members with skills to advocate for their recommendations within the broader healthcare policy framework.

Support to NITAG

- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Establish mechanisms for NITAG members to receive feedback from healthcare professionals, patients, and the public regarding vaccine introduction and performance.
- **Continuing Education:** Emphasize the importance of ongoing education and training to keep NITAG members updated on emerging evidence and vaccine-related issues.