

**A practical tool for countries: the updated WHO document entitled**

***“Principles and Considerations for Adding a Vaccine to a National Immunization Programme”***

**SAGE**

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**Susan Wang**



# Background

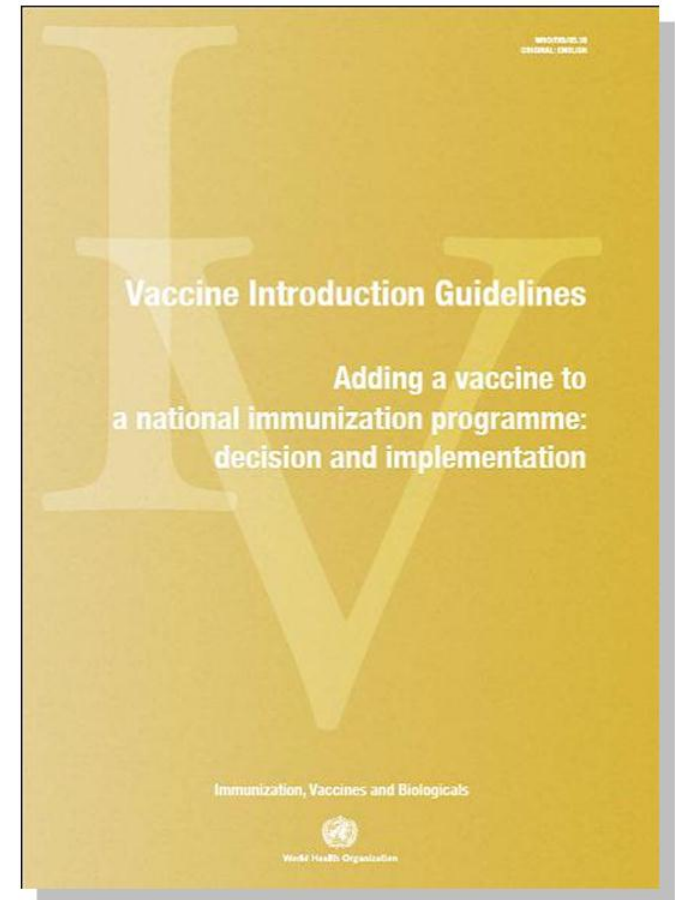
- In April 2010, SAGE recommended that
  - the working group produce WHO guidance or a tool to assist decision-makers and EPI managers with vaccine introduction that will result in positive rather than negative effects on the immunization and health systems;
  - to ensure ready adoption, the tool be aligned with existing guidelines on introducing new vaccines.



# Development

During the 2011 Global NUVI meeting, national EPI managers and WHO regional immunization focal points were asked their views about WHO guidance or tools:

- Agreed that a tool would be useful for situational analysis, planning, and implementation.
- Suggested tool be part of the next edition of the *WHO Vaccine Introduction Guidelines* – instead of a separate document – to increase the likelihood of its use.
- Suggested that supportive training be provided with the tool.





# Working Group Decisions

- Guidance about impact of a vaccine introduction is added to appropriate sections based on:
  - Findings from the 5 different studies
  - The WHO Health Systems Building Blocks
  - *Principles for adding a vaccine to a national immunization programme while strengthening the immunization and health systems*
- Structure remains the same as in 2005 document with chapters on:
  - Deciding on the introduction of a vaccine
  - Planning and managing the introduction
  - Monitoring and evaluation



# Additions and changes to address “impact issues” – chapters 1 & 2

- Chapter 1 (Introduction and Background):
  - Now includes the *Principles*
- Chapter 2 (Deciding on the introduction):
  - Section on consideration of Programmatic strength (2.3.3) **expanded to a larger section on Immunization and Health Systems**, to include:
    - Strength of the immunization programme and health system
    - The decision-making process (more about NITAGs and HSCCs)





# Additions and changes to address “impact issues” – chapter 2

- Chapter 2: 2005 checklist to “Assess readiness of a national immunization program to add a new vaccine” was expanded to examine readiness of the health system – not just the immunization programme. Now has 7 sections:
  1. A strong decision-making and accountability process that is transparent, coordinated and integrated with the overall health sector (**NEW**)
  2. A well-performing or improving immunization programme to obtain full benefit from existing vaccines (**NEW**)
  3. A sufficient or expanding, well-trained and motivated health workforce (**NEW**)



# Additions and changes to address “impact issues” – chapter 2

- Chapter 2 changes (*continued*)
  4. Functional vaccine management, cold chain and logistics systems
  5. Safe immunization practices and monitoring and management of adverse events
  6. High-quality disease surveillance and immunization coverage monitoring
  7. A financially sustainable programme





# Additions and changes to address “impact issues” – chapter 3

- Chapter 3 (Planning and managing the introduction):
  - Several lists of questions added in different sections to prompt consideration of the broader impact on immunization and health systems and to find opportunities to make improvements while introducing a vaccine, e.g.:
    - Questions to ask when planning vaccine introduction to ensure broad engagement with key stakeholders and coordination with other health programmes;
    - Items to assess regarding logistics and cold chain management when planning the introduction
    - Questions to ask when planning training for the introduction of a new vaccine





# Additions and changes to address “impact issues” – chapter 3

- In the planning section (3.1): added a discussion and box about possible costs (including “hidden costs”) of a vaccine introduction that research has shown countries often don’t anticipate or under-estimate
- New section added on “*Using the opportunity of a new vaccine introduction to implement integrated approaches towards disease control and to increase access to other immunizations and health interventions*” (3.2.7)



# Additions and changes to address “impact issues” – chapter 5

- This **new chapter (5) was added**: “*Maximizing the opportunity of a new vaccine introduction to strengthen the overall immunization programme and health system*” with
  - Country examples of how vaccine introduction was used to strengthen different aspects of immunization and health systems
  - List of possible ways countries can strengthen immunization and health systems when introducing a new vaccine, e.g., by increasing coverage and timeliness of all vaccinations





# Request to SAGE

- SAGE is asked to review and endorse the “*Principles for adding a vaccine to a national immunization programme while strengthening the immunization and health systems*”
- SAGE is asked to provide comments on the relevant sections (pertaining to impact on immunization and health systems) of the updated WHO document.
  - Note: Other sections of the document are being updated by WHO IVB and the entire document will undergo the usual WHO review and clearance process prior to completion.





# Principles for Adding a Vaccine

1. A strong decision-making, planning, and prioritization process with accountable governance that is coordinated and integrated within the health system.
2. A well-performing or improving immunization program to obtain full benefit from existing vaccines, including:
  - A well-trained and motivated health workforce
  - Functional cold storage, logistics and vaccine management systems
  - Safe immunization practices and monitoring of adverse events
  - High-quality disease surveillance and immunization coverage monitoring
  - Resource and performance accountability

# Principles for Adding a Vaccine

3. Maximizing opportunities to deliver vaccines as integral components of comprehensive health promotion and disease prevention and control efforts so that vaccines are delivered as part of a package of effective, feasible, and affordable interventions based on national contexts.
4. Sufficient allocation of human and financial resources to introduce the new vaccine and sustain its use without diverting from other programmes and services.
5. A guaranteed appropriate and sufficient vaccine supply.