

Senegal NITAG : The « Comité Consultatif pour la Vaccination au Sénégal- CCVS »

The Senegal NITAG was created through the ministerial decree 009638/MSAS/DGS/DP on 28 August 2013. The decree states the CCVS structure, responsibilities and functioning.

At inception, the CCVS undertook the following activities with technical and financial support from the Health Policy and Institutional Development unit of the Agence de Médecine Préventive unit (AMP-HPID))and the West African Health Organization (WAHO):

- First orientation workshop on NITAG's roles, responsibilities and mode of operations held on 19 September 2013
- Secretariat training workshop, on the development of evidence-based recommendation methodologies, which was a sub-regional secretariat training workshop attended also by Benin and Côte d'Ivoire, on 24 -26 September 2013
- Core members orientation workshop on the development of evidence-based recommendation methodologies, on 30 October 2013
- Official launch of the CCVS officiated by the Ministry of Health (MoH) General Secretary, on 31 October 2013

As a result, at the start of their activities, CCVS members were oriented on the NITAG's method of working, have developed and endorsed their internal procedures manual, have defined priorities activities and developed their first work plan (2013-2014) in consultation with the MoH.

Functioning: Since its establishment the CCVS held 8 ordinary meetings out the 9 scheduled (the CCVS internal procedures indicate quarterly meetings should be organized) and held 2 extraordinary meetings on 17 February 2014 to deliberate on inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) introduction, and on 13 May 2016 to validate the switch from trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV) to the bivalent OPV (bOPV). The secretariat carried out the technical and logistical preparation of the meetings as indicated in the CCVS internal document. Moreover, meetings reports were prepared, disseminated to members and archived by the secretariat.

Over the period 2013-2016 the CCVs issued recommendations on the following topics:

- IPV introduction: schedule and timelines for introduction
- Hep B birth dose
- Seasonal Influenza vaccination

For all recommendations submitted, the CCVS received a response from the MoH. Recommendations on IPV and HepB birth dose have been implemented by the MoH

The 2016-2017 workplan includes the following topics:

- Men A vaccination introduction in the routine vaccination programme
- CCVS contribution towards 2014-2020 EPI National Strategic plan objectives

CCVS undertook also a number of capacity building and networking activities:

- Participation in the Benin NITAG meeting to share experience on the development of the IPV recommendation (26-28 February 2014)

- Study visit to the France NITAG (24-26 September 2014)
- Training on literature search, critical appraisal and scientific communication, Tunis (13-15 April 2015)
- Participation in the Burkina Faso NITAG orientation workshop to share experience on CCVS functioning, 27-29 April 2015
- Participation in the annual West African NITAG secretariats meetings, Abidjan 13-14 October 2015
- CCVS Chair participation in the SAGE meeting, Geneva, 12-14 April 2016
- CCVS Chair participation in the 1st NITAG Global Network meeting, Annecy, 11-12 May 2016
- Participation in a multi-country (Senegal, Benin, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso) training workshop on the use of economic evaluations in immunization evidence-informed recommendations, Abidjan, 29-30 March 2016