

Kenya's experience in Influenza Vaccination Policy Development

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Influenza Vaccination Policy CoAg

- In Sep 2013, the Kenya MoH and CDC entered a 3-year cooperative agreement (CoAg) for the development of an influenza vaccination policy
- Objectives of the CoAg were to:
 - Form NITAG to identify data gaps and policy structures needed to introduce an influenza vaccination program in Kenya
 - Implement the first influenza vaccination program in Kenya
 - Evaluate the influenza vaccination implementation progress

Formation of Kenyan NITAG

- The Kenya National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (KENITAG) was formed in 2014
 - Officially inaugurated by the Cabinet Secretary of Health in April 2015
- KENITAG composed of full-rights and liaison members, and a Secretariat
 - Appointments by the Director of Medical/Health Services
 - A full member has voting rights and serve a term of three years, renewable

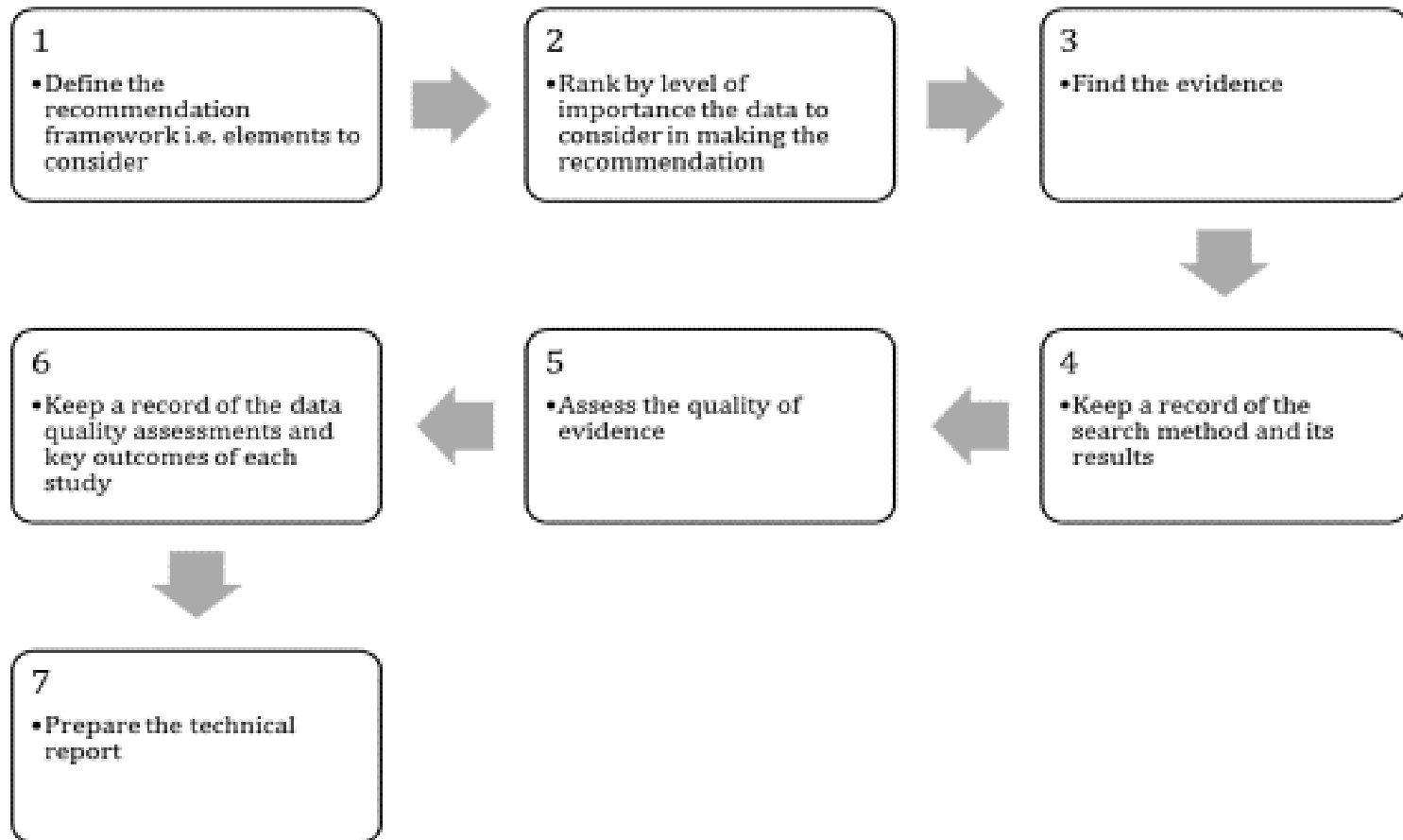
Policy development process

- In Sep 2014, the Unit of Vaccines and Immunization Services (UVIS) at the MOH requested a KENITAG recommendation on *“the relevance of introducing influenza vaccination in public health services in Kenya as well as on the appropriate strategy for public health impact”*
- KENITAG established an influenza technical working group (TWG)
 - to review data on influenza vaccine and disease (with a focus on disease burden in Kenya)

Policy development process

- Following the training and guidance provided by SIVAC to members of KENITAG, the TWG developed a framework to address the influenza vaccination question

Data review process



Data review process

- Priority was given to Kenya specific studies
 - Then African studies were identified
 - Then systematic reviews of published literature
- Study quality was assessed using the Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) tool
- Only studies with CASP scores $\geq 50\%$ of the total score were included in the technical report

KENITAG recommendation

- In May 2016, the Kenya NITAG recommended influenza vaccination targeting children aged 6-23 months
- Caveat:
 - Pilot vaccination in targeted areas (e.g., counties where surveillance for influenza is already set up)
 - Vaccine demonstration project to generate additional data to inform program implementation (e.g., vaccine delivery strategies, vaccine uptake)

Time-lines for review & recommendation

Time	Action
Sep 2014	Establishment of TWG
Feb 2015	Appointment of TWG members, & 1 st meeting held
Mar '15 – Feb '16	5 TWG meetings held
Jan 2016	Additional team of consultants engaged for 2 week workshop to conduct literature search
Mar 2016	Consultants-epidemiologists engaged for 1 week workshop to develop draft technical report
May 2016	TWG meeting held to finalise technical report

Challenges in policy dev. process

- Access to CoAg funds limited by
 - Delays in opening the CoAg account
 - Changes in leadership at the MOH, and business officials
- Other challenges included:
 - The Ebola outbreak in 2014
 - Slow pace taken by KENITAG to issue recommendation given its inexperience

Challenges in data review process

- Lack of reliable internet access
- Limited access to published papers - pay to view/access
- Competing priorities for secretariat members
- Challenges with finding resources to convene meetings

Challenges in data review process

- Data review methodology was new and required time to learn and apply
- No local data on social and economic impact of influenza in Kenya

Lessons learnt

- A multidisciplinary team is essential to address the recommendation framework
- The technical assistance from partners was very important
 - CDC provided funding, and support to access published articles that were not easily available
 - SIVAV provided the training for the data review process
 - Consider to seek technical input from other partners/experts in the field

Lessons learnt

- The volume of work that was given required team work
 - Countries could consider sharing data
 - Neighboring countries could utilize data summarized by those that have undergone this review process

Thank you!