Seminar presentation

The immunization landscape today is more complex than ever, with the introduction of new vaccines, increasing costs and competing health priorities leading to complicated immunization decision making.

A central requirement of the Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP), endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 2012, is the strengthening of national capacity to formulate evidence-based immunization policies through mechanisms such as National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (NITAGs). NITAGs play a pivotal role in adapting global evidence and recommendations to local contexts and empower governments to formulate policies free from external pressure.

The Health Policy and Institutional Development Center (HPID Center) of the Agence de Médecin Preventive (AMP), is a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for evidence-informed immunization policymaking. It has established a project (the SIVAC Initiative) to support the development of sustainable NITAGs in low- and middle-income countries.

About Dr Alex Adjagba

Dr Alex Adjagba, a physician and health economist, is the Director of the HPID Center, based in Paris, France. He previously worked at the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative in Geneva on health economics and policy decision-making issues. He has also worked in consulting firms on economic evaluations of health services and at the Benin National Control Program against tuberculosis. Alex earned his MD from the University of Cotonou (Benin) and holds a master’s degree in Health Policy, Planning, and Financing from the London School of Economics and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the London School of Economics and Political Sciences as well as an advanced vaccinology diploma from the University of Geneva (Switzerland).

About Laura Davison

Laura Davison works with the HPID Center and the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office on strengthening evidence-based decision making throughout the region. She has previously worked as a consultant with WHO on health policy, planning and evaluation in immunization, maternal and child health and noncommunicable diseases. She has contributed to immunization program reviews, developed new vaccine introduction plans and drafted Papua New Guinea’s (PNG) National Cancer Control Policy. In 2011-2012 Laura was an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development in PNG, managing programme development and the strategic direction for the PNG Cancer Relief Society. She holds a Masters in International Health from Monash University and a B Arts/B Commerce from ANU.