11ᵗʰ International Conference on Typhoid and other Salmoneloses

PRESENTATION: ON THE ESSENTIALS of Using DATA FOR
                       DECISION MAKING AND ADVOCACY

PRESENTATION: DR. NHAMO A GONAH
                       ZIMBABWE NITAG CHAIRPERSON

WHAT IS A NITAG?

National technical advisory committee made up of **independent experts**, in charge of guiding health authorities and leaders of national immunisation programmes on the definition and implementation of national **vaccination** policies and strategies.

▸ Advisory Committee: final decisions are made by the national authorities

▸ National Technical Committee: national expertise required so global recommendations can be adapted

▸ Independent experts: act on an individual basis, with no external pressure

▸ Vaccination field: in its broadest sense

NITAG COMPOSITION

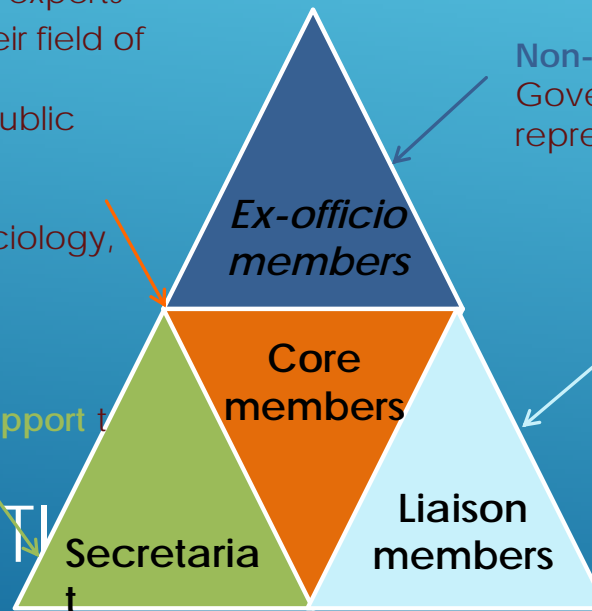Only these members are authorised to vote:

10 to 15 national experts recognised in their field of expertise (paediatrics, epidemiology, public health, health economics, vaccinology, sociology, etc.)

Technical and administrative support t

Non-core members: Government representative

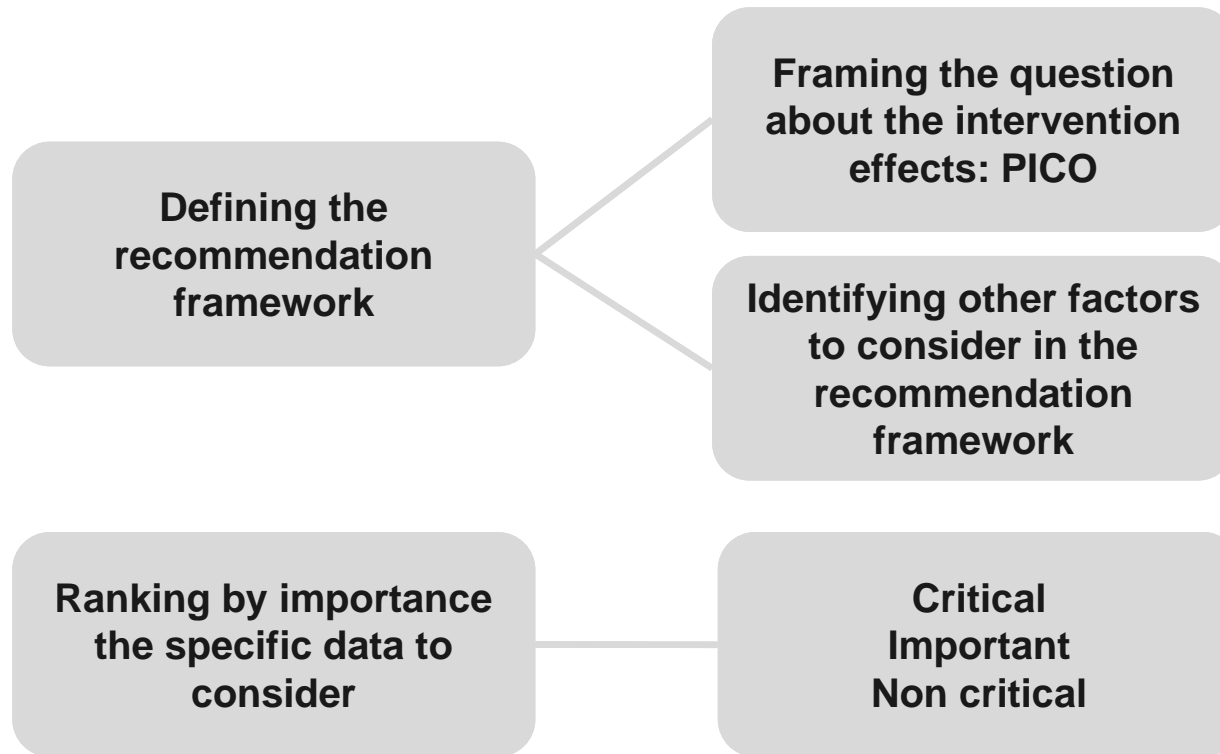Non-core members: Key technical partners (WHO, UNICEF, NGOs, etc.)

Ex-officio members

Core members

Secretariat

Liaison members
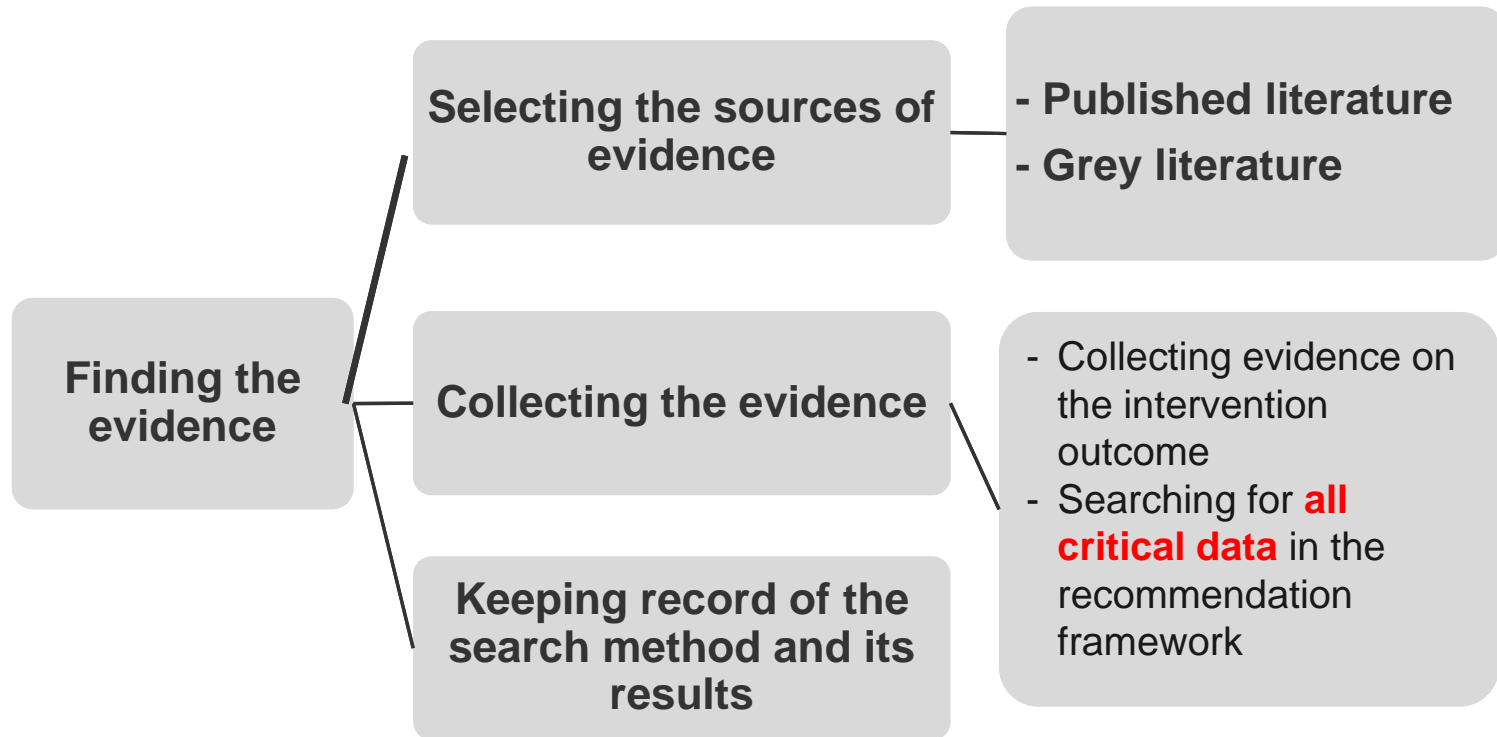
Credible, transparent, and independent decision-making process regarding vaccination	▪ Independent national experts ▪ Use of varied local evidence ▪ Decision-making framework: rigorous and systematic identification and assessment method for all available evidence
Recommendations adapted to suit each country	▪ Consideration of local specificities
Strengthening of national immunisation programmes	▪ Integrated approach to immunisation ▪ Synergy-based decision-making process: NITAGs, ICCs, NRAs (national regulatory authorities), and other ad hoc committees

WHAT IS THE NITAG ADDED VALUE ?

Defining the recommendation framework

Framing the question about the intervention effects: PICO

Identifying other factors to consider in the recommendation framework

Ranking by importance the specific data to consider

Critical
Important
Non critical

Finding the evidence

Selecting the sources of evidence
- Published literature
- Grey literature

Collecting the evidence
- Collecting evidence on the intervention outcome
- Searching for **all critical data** in the recommendation framework

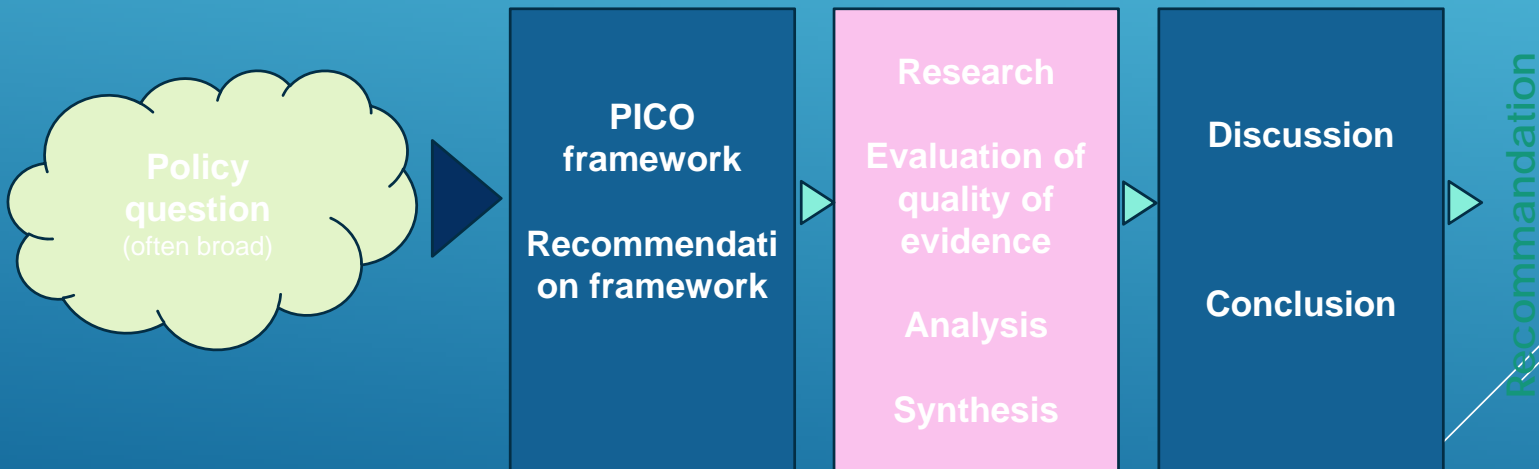**Keeping record of the search method and its results**

From question to recommendation note

NITAG received a question (by MoH, NITAG member, other)

NITAG defines the framework for the recommendation

A Working Group and/or the Secretariat informs the question with evidence

NITAG meets and decides based on findings

Policy question
(often broad)

PICO framework

Recommendation framework

Research

Evaluation of quality of evidence

Analysis

Synthesis

Discussion

Conclusion

Recommandation

Evidence-based recommendation

+ Generated from a process that is:
- **+** Systematic
- **+** Credible
- **+** Transparent

+ Process of:
1. Selecting the evidence
2. Reviewing the evidence
3. Synthesising the evidence to support recommendation

Quality of the recommendation lies on:
- Quality of **evidence**
- Comprehensive **relevant elements** for the basis of the recommendation
- **Transparency** about the ground for decision