Ethiopia’s National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN) – some basic principles

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ETHIOPIA HAS SEEN FAST REDUCTIONS IN STUNTING RATES SINCE 2000
BUT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE TO REACH THE NNP -2 GOALS

- Encouraging trends, but more needs to be done
- Very high political engagement to respond to malnutrition
- The response engages all the sectors through the National Nutrition Programme (NNP-2)
- NNP 2 highlights the importance of accountability of all sectors and evidence based decision making
- EPHI is mandated to lead the monitoring, evaluation and operational research of the NNP
- The NIPN responds to these NNP priorities
THROUGH NIPN, THE EU SUPPORTS COUNTRIES WHO EMBRACED THE SUN MOVEMENT

- A global initiative to support the SUN movement, launched by the European Union and co-funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom.
- Currently operational in 10 countries.
- The principle: global approaches and tools adapted to national needs and contexts.

NIPN aims to strengthen capacity to analyze data to track progress, inform policies and improve programmes for better nutrition.
WHAT IS A NATIONAL INFORMATION PLATFORM FOR NUTRITION

The initiative supports countries to better design evidence-based policies and program by:

- Setting up a multisectoral nutrition information platform
- Making better use of existing data coming from different sectors
- Building capacity of a wide set of multisectoral national stakeholders to manage and analyze these data
- Translate research findings into policy and programmatic recommendations
- Promote outreach of these findings
IN ETHIOPIA, NIPN WILL SUPPORT REACHING THE NNP GOALS

NIPN will allow to maximize the analysis and interpretation of existing information and data on nutrition. Ultimately, this will allow to:

- Improve understanding of the factors that drive nutrition trends
- Identify gaps in information that need to be filled
- Identify problems with the consistency and quality of nutrition related data
- Assess which interventions best address these drivers
- Contribute to monitoring progress of national nutrition programs and plans
- Answer questions posed by policy makers based on the government's priorities

Ethiopia 1.2% per year

\[ y = -1.2036x + 2464.3 \]
National stakeholders and policy makers

Nutrition policies and programmes design and monitoring

NIPN advisory committee
Formulation of questions for analysis and dissemination of results

NIPN staff
Data quality assessment, data management and analysis
National stakeholders and policy makers
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Questions based on governments’ priorities

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Input data
From routine and ad-hoc surveys, programme monitoring, resource tracking

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Analysis
of the nutrition specific/sensitive drivers of changes in malnutrition over time and space

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Findings
develop plausible evidence of the effectiveness of interventions

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Findings
develop plausible evidence of the effectiveness of interventions

Analysis
of the nutrition specific/sensitive drivers of changes in malnutrition over time and space

Questions
based on governments’ priorities

Outputs
Inform policy makers and improve programmes

Input data
From routine and ad-hoc surveys, programme monitoring, resource tracking

NIPN staff
Data quality assessment, data management and analysis
GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF NIPN IN ETHIOPIA

- **Country ownership;** embedded within national NNP structures
- **Makes the best use of current information systems & existing coordination mechanisms**
- **Responds to needs of the NNP;** Enhances multi-sectoral efforts: supports national policies and multi-sectoral plans for better nutrition
- **Strengthens capacity and supports the skills, means and analytical methods**
- **Complements or is synergistic with other initiatives** (such as the UNISE or EPHI’s National Data Management Center)
- **Moving from a project towards a system approach**
NIPN TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL SKILLS NEEDED

NIPN Advisory Committee

Convenes meeting of the NIPN Advisory Committee; promotes the outputs of the NIPN to line ministries; acts as liaison to national coordinating group for nutrition and agencies

Senior Policy Advisor

Project director

Technical Advisor

Project Coordinator

With strong skills in statistical analysis of data in health and nutrition, ability to write reports, and skills in training and capacity building.

To lead and manage the NIPN team with line management responsibility for the NIPN staff and an understanding of data analysis.

Data

- Computer & data manager
- Data technicians

Analysis

- Statisticians
- Epidemiologists

Interpretation

- Nutritionists
- Agriculturalists
- WASH
- Social protection

Reporting

- Communications expert
- Editor

Support

- Finance manager
- Human resources
- Secretarial support
THE NIPN PROJECT WORKS TOWARDS ESTABLISHING A NUTRITION INFORMATION SYSTEM.

The three major expected outcomes of the project:

- EPHI and sectoral ministries and partners contributing to the NNP-II have the capacity to operate and maintain the National Information Platform for Nutrition
- Ethiopia tracks progress in meeting the objectives of the NNP and in monitoring nutrition investments
- The NNCB and sectoral decision makers in nutrition have a better understanding and are making better use of evidence generated
WHO IS INVOLVED IN NIPN?

1. **Hosted** by EPHI / the FSNRD of EPHI, but working with many sectors and universities

2. **Guided** by NNP M&E and OR SC and a high level advisory committee

3. **Working with all NNP partners:** Multisectoral and multilevel engagement

4. **Supported by**
   - The International Food Policy Research Institute (**IFPRI**)  
   - A Global Support Facility (**GSF**)
NIPN WILL PROMOTE MULTISECTOR INVOLVEMENT FOR NUTRITION

- NIPN will trigger long term involvement and interest of all stakeholders

- NIPN will pro-actively reach out to sectors currently less involved in the nutrition research agenda

- The multisectoral stakeholders will be guided on data quality issues and how to improve future data collection for nutrition monitoring
NIPN WILL APPLY A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH (1)

1. Institutional/operational: NIPN functions within the existing NNP governance setup
   - Is guided by the NNP M&E and OR SC and AC
   - Embedded in EPHI, will work in collaboration with all relevant directorates at EPHI including with the EPHI National Data Management Center for Health

2. Technical: Focus on feasibility rather than technical complicated processes
   - User-friendly tools and operational guidelines
   - Intensive outreach campaigns
   - A learning by doing approach will be applied
   - NIPN research will be demand driven
NIPN WILL APPLY A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH (2)

3. Focus on long term capacity building
   - IFPRI support includes a focus on creating long-term capacities for improved nutrition analysis, policy and communication
   - Partnerships with local academic institutions will be established.
   - The multisectoral stakeholders will be guided on how to improve quality of data for improved nutrition monitoring

4. Intensive involvement of all the sectors
   - Through various collaborative actions, it is expected that NIPN will be owned by all of the NNP stakeholders.
Thank You!