4th capacity building webinar on «policy questions»

NIPN Country Teams: Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Laos & Uganda
C4N/NIPN support team

Wednesday 26th August 2020
A few rules of order

• Turn OFF your microphone and camera
• Please ask questions using the chat box
• Identify yourself when speaking or sending a chat message
• The webinar is being recorded
# Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9h30 - 9h40</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Agenda/objectives of the webinar</td>
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<tr>
<td>9h40 - 10h00</td>
<td>Ethiopia case study</td>
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<td>10h00 - 10h25</td>
<td>Country individual experience :</td>
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<td>- Laos (7 min)</td>
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<td>- Uganda (7 min)</td>
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<td>- Bangladesh (7 min)</td>
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<td>10h25 - 10h50</td>
<td>Discussion - country exchange</td>
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<td>10h50 - 11h00</td>
<td>Conclusion &amp; potential next steps</td>
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Objectives

• Sharing experience on the process of policy questions and its outcomes

• Discussing what are the next steps, identifying current bottlenecks and exchanging on possible solutions
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ETHIOPIA EXPERIENCE

Meron Girma

- Wednesday 26th August 2020
Steps & criteria to formulate questions

STEP 1. Identify nutrition policy demand and initial questions
⇒ Ensure alignment with the national decision-making priorities and calendar

STEP 2. Formulate policy relevant questions
⇒ Ensure policy relevance

STEP 3. Refine questions to be answered with available data and capacity
⇒ Ensure technical feasibility

STEP 4. Finalise and validate questions
⇒ Prioritize questions that meet all previous criteria
1. Identification of key timelines for policy and programmatic decision making.

2. Extensive review of documents: Policy, strategy, plan and program documents, research, impact evaluations

3. Multisectoral key informant interviews.

→ This led to the identification of initial questions

Questions were subsequently
- Grouped by theme
- Reviewed as part of the impact pathway
- Screened for feasibility (existing data)
- Prioritized based on information need
STEP 2. Formulate policy relevant questions

→ Ensure policy relevance

Multi-sectoral Stakeholders consultative workshop

Stakeholders prioritized questions on;
- Relevance
- Actionable recommendations
- Provided any other comments or feedback

Selected 12 questions
NIPN team further reviewed the questions to be answered with available data.

Utilizing results of data mapping and quick review of existing evidence.

Advisory Committee validated 2 questions for analysis in this cycle.
Lessons learned: What worked

• Transparency of question selection process helped create consensus on the importance of selected questions
  – Objective question selection criteria
  – Involvement of other senior members of EPHI which are not part NIPN team
  – Documentation of question identification process

• Supplementing document review with key informant interview in step 1.

• Engaging the stakeholders in the prioritization of questions in step 2.
Lessons learned: Challenges

• **Limited understanding of question identification process at the start**: lack of detailed guidelines

• **Lengthy question identification process**: March 2019 to January 2020
  - Scope of our document review was wide
  - Staff turnover
  - This affected timeliness of some questions

• **Managing expectation of stakeholders**: most question raised were beyond the scope of NIPN (secondary data)

• **The term “policy relevant questions” was confusing**: only policy focused and not pertaining to programs
Next steps after question identification

We are analyzing data to answer the 2 questions selected.

Progress in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) practices and association with changes in child diarrhea and stunting in Ethiopia

Trends and drivers of overweight, obesity, diabetes and hypertension among adult men and women in Ethiopia

We received 7 questions form the Ministry of Health to inform the finalization of the new Food and Nutrition Strategy. This delayed the completion of the first cycle.
Next steps: Second question formulation cycle

• We initiated the question identification step during the quarterly National Nutrition Program, Monitoring Evaluation and Research Steering Committee (MER-SC) meeting.

→ identification of initial questions this way will reduce time needed to formulate questions.

• Questions identified in step 1 of the second cycle will be combined with remaining questions from cycle 1 for prioritization.
Thank you !!!
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Uganda experience

Patrick Nganzi

Wednesday 26th August 2020
Objectives

• To engage relevant sectors to formulate policy questions to inform analysis
• To facilitate a common understanding of what questions can be answered within NIPN in Uganda
• To develop the capacity of sectoral government counterparts with regard to policy question formulation
• To achieve consensus on a set of policy-relevant question
Uganda NIPN Experience

We conducted a sector workshop with 2 goals:

1. Introduce and orient sectors on the NIPN project, model, approach and ToC
2. Engage sectors to generate nutrition policy relevant questions

The following sectors & agencies attended: Agriculture, Health, Education, Gender, Trade, Finance, the Planning Authority, OPM, Unicef, UBOS
Workshop Process

1. Presented the nutrition situation in the country, highlighting key nutrition outcome indicator status and what sectors are doing
2. Presented the draft UNAP-II & a draft Nutrition dashboard
3. Presented NIPN Project model, approaches, structures and ways working linking to UNAP-II
4. Introduced the concept and practice of nutrition relevant policy questions & development-process, models, criteria etc
• Participants formed sector groups and
• Mapped the different policies in their sectors, and the stage each policy is at,
• Identified key nutrition relevant policy gaps and issues in relation to the nutrition situation in the country
• Generated sector specific-nutrition relevant questions that needed further analysis or answers by NIPN data analysis unit
• After group work, there was plenary presentations, discussions, input and consensus building on the potential questions.
• A list of 19 questions were generated.
• Small team worked to refine the questions using the criteria we had gotten from GSF
Challenges

The questions were too many-so we had to decide on the themes to focus on only:

– Stunting
– Aneamia
– IYFP-Dietery diversity and Meal Frequency

In Uganda all policy questions, analysis and knowledge products etc fall under those themes.

Due to Covid 19-we are consulting sectors on policy questions on Aneamia, IYFP-Dietery diversity and Meal Frequency
Thank you
4th Capacity building webinar on « policy questions »

Lao PDR Country Experience

• Prosper Dakurah
• Wednesday 26th August 2020
Used dissemination of report on ‘Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis on Stunting’ as entry point.

✓ Audience: Government, Development Partners and Media

✓ Where: National and sub national levels
Joint meeting of Data and Policy Analysis Units with TAs
Reviewed all questions and grouped them using the impact pathway
Synthesized questions by grouping similar ones
Arrived at a set of questions that are plausible based on available data
Technical support from GSF

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Questions from dissemination</th>
<th>Synthesized Questions</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>Financial:<strong>Financing nutrition in Lao PDR; trend and distribution</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Focus on public financing and development aid)**</td>
<td>The National Nutrition Committee Secretariat undertakes an annual financial tracking on nutrition in the country. This could be a good entry point for an analysis over the years</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>What is the trend of financial investment in nutrition over the years and allocation to provinces</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>How much of government funding goes into nutrition?</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>How has financial investments in nutrition (government and donor funding) contributed to stunting reduction.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>What is the trend of public financing on nutrition in the country and in provinces?</td>
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<td>Nutrition investment: the case of Lao PDR in the context of ASEAN?</td>
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<td>Human Resource:<strong>Health workforce in Lao PDR: Nutrition capacity and distribution</strong></td>
<td>World Bank has done an assessment of human resource capacity of the health sector. It covers some aspects of nutrition but not indepth.</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Do health staff have the capacity (technical and numbers) to implement nutrition interventions.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>What is the capacity (technical, numbers, supplies) of provinces and districts to implement nutrition interventions?</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>What is the capacity of partners (technical, numbers and supplies) in implementing nutrition interventions?</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>What is the human resource capacity in districts and provinces for nutrition service delivery</td>
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Lessons learnt

- Participation of key stakeholders throughout the process
  - Enhanced learning and ownership
- Making use of relevant opportunity
  - Innovation

- Participants at different levels of understanding of QF Cycle
- Process took longer than expected
  - Staff turnover and other NIPN priorities
- QF is an iterative process
Next Steps

• Data analysis and report writing ongoing
• Further reflections and prioritization of questions
• Targeting annual NIPN Dissemination Forum to share new findings
• Continue QF processes by leveraging on new opportunities
Thank you - questions & discussion