ANEC VIII workshop:
National Information Platforms to strengthen Nutrition Policy & Programme decisions

The Ethiopia Country case

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Establishing a National Information Platform for Nutrition in Ethiopia

Setting up multisectoral linkages and effective partnerships

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In Ethiopia, the NIPN unit is housed at the Ethiopia Public Health Institute (EPHI)

- NIPN initiated early 2018 in Ethiopia, hosted by EPHI
- Applies a long term, sustainable and holistic approach
  - Links a dedicated NIPN unit with long term nutrition experts at EPHI
  - Institutional approach: collaboration with other divisions at EPHI
- Collaboration with IFPRI/Compact 2025 to support long term capacities
  - Institutional MOU between EPHI and IFPRI (through A4NH)
  - Tapping into expertise of various IFPRI divisions and CGIAR programs
NIPN fully operates in a multisectoral environment

Although NIPN is housed in EPHI, it involves many multisectoral stakeholders and supports implementation of National Nutrition Program (NNP)

- Linkages with the Ethiopia Institute for Agriculture Research (EIAR)
- Core team of the national nutrition Monitoring and Evaluation Steering Committee doubles up as a NIPN Advisory Committee
- This committee is chaired by EPHI and co-chaired by EIAR
- Reporting on NIPN progress towards highest level of NNP governance structures through EPHI’s role as chair of the committee
No duplication, but tapping into the existing initiatives and opportunities

- The nutrition data repository of NIPN: will collect multisectoral data and will be established through collaboration with the National Data Management Center for Health at EPHI

- Existing outputs of MOH initiatives can feed into NIPN data repository
  - Multisectoral Unified Nutrition Information System in Ethiopia (UNISE) – monitoring NNP implementation of all sectors

- Take advantage of EPHI’s involvement in various multisectoral projects which collect multisectoral data (research related to Sequota Declaration, the SURE program; the National Food Based Dietary Guidelines)
Ongoing research projects led or supported by NIPN

- Research project on WASH and Nutrition, a “learning by doing”/demonstration project
  - Establish what is known about the linkages in Ethiopia
  - Allows for a practical, phased approach towards capacity strengthening

- NIPN team supports the development of food based dietary guidelines (FBDG)
  - The FBDG: involves many NNP and NIPN key stakeholders
  - Uses existing data to support the development of these guidelines
  - Aims to strengthen national capacity to analyze and translate dietary data for better health
Strengthening multisectoral capacities

- Support from IFPRI to NIPN: mentorship, collaborative research, trainings
- EPHI, IFPRI/Compact 2025 and Nutrition International join hands to support institutional capacity to monitor the NNP and to implement the NIPN
- Approach for an institutional needs assessment being defined
- Expected to adapt global NIPN tools to local context (Nov 2018-January 2019)
Closing the gap between research and policy

- NIPN launch brought together many multisectoral stakeholders
- Nutrition gatherings are used to promote the NIPN approach
- NIPN ‘s Nutrition Research and Policy Seminars aim to
  - Present findings of existing nutrition related research
  - Improve understanding of stakeholders on specific nutrition issues
  - Promote interactions between decision makers and researchers
- Use of EPHI and global websites (IFPRI, GSF) to promote NIPN activities
- The development of a NIPN Communication Strategy has started