Support a ‘self-learning’ approach within NIPN teams, to course-correct and build sustainable and effective NIPNs

Country discussion

Webinar - 8 and 9 October
Why are we having this webinar?

– Country NIPN platforms are moving from setting up the platform and capacity building to implementing the NIPN approach.
– This means that the country teams find out what works and what does not work along the way.
– It also means that barriers are encountered, solutions are needed and decisions will be taken that need to be validated by NIPN team.

Documenting the process and documenting the recommendations will help:

• Providing clarity to all involved and informing superiors
• Creating some ‘institutional memory’ which is important in case of staff turnover
• Learning lessons on what works in case of sustaining / institutionalising the approach
Quality & effectiveness

• Learning is about getting better => quality

• Quality of implementation in everything we do

• To achieve high quality, we need to be

  inquisitive and reflective
Objective of this webinar

• To discuss current practices of country teams
  – to reflect on and analyse what works and what does not work and
  – to document these points, decisions, actions

• To share examples from other countries / other projects

• To identify potential / additional practices that might help

Purpose: to support NiPN country teams to develop their self-reflection and self-learning capacity
Points for discussion in this webinar

A. Which opportunities exist / are being used for reflection on what works or not?
B. What questions are being / could be discussed in these meetings?
C. How are the discussions and outcomes / recommendations being captured, shared and archived?
D. How are action points / recommendations being followed up?
A. What opportunities are being used to reflect on what works or not?

- Key institutions together brought together on a quarterly basis
- 80% of the nutrition data are within KNBS
- On-going survey
- Issues with quality of survey data
- NFS key government pillar
- KNBS has mandate to coordinate statistical system
- KNBS recognized institution
A. What opportunities are being used to reflect on what works or not?

- Team meetings within each institution & joint meetings
- About progress/lack of progress
- Inception meeting
- Meetings with other institutions likely to provide data
- Discussion paper on policies under peer-review process
A. What opportunities are being used to reflect on what works or not?

• Regular progress meetings: not enough time to go into the details of why it does not work
• Need to have specific times for that, to analyse challenges, involve staff and others => reflection meetings
• Can use the committee meetings for that, or the team meetings
B1. What type of questions could be or are being discussed in reflection meetings?

- Role of the platform in government system
- Role of the different institutions in the platform
- How is it going to contribute to measure the impact of MS approach
- How the different institutions can work together

⇒ Key questions - needs to be addressed clearly - and modestly
How do we do it as a team and how to learn from other platforms
What are the weak and strong points
How can we improve
With whom can we work
Who will implement our actions/decisions (inside/outside team)
Need to be documented to avoid misinterpretation
Ethiopia’s experience

- Minutes of meetings and events
- Review of operational progress
- Reflection time based on minutes/documentation
- Identify areas of improvement
- Event evaluation (form filled by participants)
- Pilot NIPN working with only 1 sector (WASH & nutrition) to learn how to do the whole NIPN approach
- Pilot used to build capacity and draw lessons to work with other sectors
Ethiopia’s experience

• We are delivering one presentation per seminar after the evaluation
• We use google drive to share information among NIPN team
• We do use knowledge sharing emails
B1. What are the questions that could be discussed in the ‘reflection or learning’ meetings?

1. What worked and what did not work? (Successes & Challenges)
2. Why not? (Weaknesses)
3. What can be done to improve? (Opportunities, Course correction)
4. Who will implement these recommendations and
5. Who will support / reinforce?
B2. The reflection can pertain to any element of the NIPN approach
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• Planning (clarity on accountability, roles and responsibility timelines, ...)
• Team (communication, how decisions are made and followed-through, collaboration, common vision & understanding, ...)
• Collaboration with stakeholders (common vision & understanding, participation, contribution, evaluation of workshops, sharing information & data, ...)
• Implementation of the steps (understanding, capacity, efficiency, effectiveness, ...)
• Quality and effectiveness of the outputs
• Quality and effectiveness of the support
Examples of topics

- Difficulty to engage stakeholders => getting the buy-in
- Need consistency & coherence and shared understanding
- Transparent and clear communication
Examples from Laos

• Development of a clear concept note before starting any activity
• Quarterly plan for all activities + roles & responsibilities of all stakeholders involved
• Create time for meetings with sectors
• DAU + PU brought together every quarter in meetings chaired by NIPN secretariat. Opportunity to analyse what is off-track and why and set new objectives
• Letting stakeholders know that they will be mobilised for some activities? First verbal info followed by formal letters sent to institution
C. How are these discussions and outcomes / recommendations being captured

- Minutes for every meeting => discussed in the next meeting (raises issues) (LA)
- Validation of the minutes by the participants
- Use google drive to share these reports (ET)
- Use what’s app platform (LA) every ministry has access to it
- Plan to develop short best practices booklets which explain what worked well and why, and which were the processes applied (ET)
D. How are action points / recommendations being followed up?

• ...

• ...

• ...
Example:
Learning-adaptation process in NEP-Mali
Key lessons learnt over the course of the NEP implementation

I. Some key partners (*data owners, implementation, evaluation and planners institutions*) were not involved in the NEP implementation structure (*lesson learnt in 2014*)

II. Turnovers of the Technical Working Group (TWG) members were not anticipated (*some members left after being reinforced*) (*lesson learnt in 2015*)

III. NEP Home institution Directors could play relevant role in NEP visibility and influence as well as in supporting the TWG, but were not organised to do so (*lesson learnt in 2015*)

IV. Steering Committee chairman could play much more important role, he knew the NEP team expectation regarding to him, thus become more useful (*lesson learnt in 2015*)
Two additional institutions (National directorate of heath & Unit of planning and statistics) have been added to the NEP Homes institutions (HI)

New additional members from NEP HI ‘’called substitutes’’ have been to the working group to compensate turn overs and keep NEP staff capacitated

New entity called ‘’Home Institution Directors Advisory Committee‘’ have been created to increase support to the TWG, the NEP visibility and its influence

Tailored ToR have been elaborated for the Secretary General of MoH which was the steering committee chairman to boost the NEP efficacy and influence
Written Terms of reference for each entity specifying its roles, and responsibilities

STEERING COMMITTEE
(made of national MNCH&N institutions and partners)

NEP CHAMPIONS

HOME INSTITUTIONS’ DIRECTORS
(CREDOS, INRSP, INSTAT, DNS, CPS/SS-DS-PF)

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP
(constituted by staff from Home Institutions)

PROJECT COORDINATION TEAM
(made of people from the project main HI)

Written minute for every meeting classified and archived by the main home institution of the project

Official meeting report validates by all and signed by the steering committee chair person

To keep engaged by regular updates and involvement in specific problems solving, etc.

Meet regularly to troubleshoot problems encountered by the TWG, etc.

Meet, 2-3 time per month to answer priority questions validated by the SC

Meet weekly to track activities implementation and identify hurdles and opportunity...

Roles, Responsibilities and learning throughout monitoring processes of the NEP Mali implementation
Lessons on content, approach & steps

• The flexibility of the NEP:
  – increased it efficacy, visibility and influence
  – Leaded to strong commitment of MoH high level decision-makers
  – The findings leaded to strong, tailored and targeted recommendations which implementation was followed by the cabined of the minister of health himself using official to institutions
Which type of tools do country teams use?
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<th>Self assessment / reflection - tools</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>What do you originally plan to do?</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>What did not work about the original plan? Why?</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>What did you decide to do instead?</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>What difference do you hope this change will make/ has this change made? How will you know?</td>
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### Minutes template

**Date:**

**Venue:**

**Participants:** xx, zz, yy, 

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Issue under discussion:</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Details</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Decisions</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Recommendations</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Action points &amp; next steps</strong></td>
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**By whom:**

**By when:**