



# NiPN

National Information  
Platforms for Nutrition

**The Ethiopia NiPN capacity strengthening activities: what was done and what we plan to do...**

NiPN-Ethiopia Team

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> NiPN Global Gathering: May 22- 24, 2019, Amsterdam**



## EPHI, NIPN's "institutional house" :

- NIPN is housed at the Ethiopia Public Health Institute (EPHI) and receives support from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to establish the NIPN.
- The EPHI is a big government led research institute with over 800 staff, and closely linked with the Ministry of Health and there is a dedicated Food Science and Nutrition Research Directorate in EPHI

## The timeline

- Project is from 2018-2021, but we aim for sustainable approach
- Activities were officially launched in May 2018
- In 2019, we have a long list of activities planned and hope the have the first NIPN outputs available

## Sustainability is high on the agenda and guides the NIPN action plan

This is obtained by creating long term capacities, but also by working under the national nutrition Governance structure

- A. NIPN operates fully embedded with of the National Nutrition Program
- B. Building strong institutional NIPN capacities at EPHI
- C. Building institutional capacities of other NIPN key stakeholders

## The principles which guide our capacity strengthening approach

### 1. NIPN aims to provide a comprehensive approach to creating capacities:

- Capacity strengthening efforts should aim to cover all the operational elements of NIPN, such as project management, literature review, data analysis and interpretation, report writing, communication, data repository,...
- EPHI and IFPRI work together to apply a dual approach: immediate needs for NIPN specific capacity needs are addressed, while a long term and systematic capacity strengthening strategy is being developed.

### 2. Capacity strengthening activities are needs based and follow an iterative “Serve as Needed and Support” approach:

- First the need for support has to be identified
- Once the need is identified, IFPRI and EPHI will assess how the demand can best be met.

### 3. Implementing capacity strengthening activities is also a tool to foster institutional and multisectoral partnerships for NIPN

- When implementing trainings , the NIPN reaches out to other staff of the EPHI and other institutions and sectors linked with nutrition research or policy communications, as it believes that this will further strengthen the institutional capacity for NIPN

### 4. Capacity strengthening is a collaborative action and the result of an effective partnership between EPHI and IFPRI .

- IFPRI and EPHI have signed an MOU in June 2018. This promotes a long term approach to collaborative capacity strengthening

## 5. Delivery platforms can vary

- Platforms used so far have been seminars, workshops, webinars, longer training sessions, mentoring and collaborative research

## 6. Training and mentoring support needs to be designed to lead to action

- Trainings are systematically being linked with NIPN skills and to improved NIPN outputs

## 7. Evaluating progress and assessing the suitability of the training approaches is important .

- Capacity development efforts should be monitored, skills are measured before and after formal trainings, evaluation are done, and the feedback and lessons learned are captured to inform the capacity strengthening approach for the following years.

## Apply a “Learning by doing “ approach

- This project allows for a practical approach towards capacity strengthening.

## Mentoring

- Within EPHI, and where needed, the more senior staff is involved to guide, mentor and support the NIPN or less experienced staff.
- IFPRI provides continuous support and on the job mentoring and trainings

## Formal trainings

- Based on punctual capacity needs assessments, NIPN ensures targeted and needs-based capacity strengthening support
- Various formal trainings were implemented (Rapid literature review, Understanding policy reform processes, An introduction to STATA, Household income, consumption and expenditure surveys, report writing and Developing a data repository training)

## The system approach

In parallel to addressing short term needs, the project also aims to address long term needs

1. Developing a long term institutional NIPN capacity strengthening strategy:
2. System approach: involvement of other key sectoral ministries and research institutions:
  - A. Opening up access to NIPN training
  - B. Organizing nutrition policy and research seminars
3. Working with universities



## Opportunities provided by EPHI

- EPHI organizes or co-organizes regular knowledge learning events, during which the nutrition research agenda is promoted for a wide set of researchers. Examples are the ANEC-8 (2018) and the EPHI health days (2019).

## Fostering successful partnerships for NIPN:

- EPHI also takes full advantage of its current relationships and partnerships to strengthen capacities of its nutrition researchers. Local universities (many EPHI staff are doing PHD there), International universities and research organizations (John Hopkins, London School, Wageningen, A4NH, FAO collaborations...)

## Tapping into existing opportunities provided by Compact2025 (IFPRI)

- Through the connection with Compact2025 various direct and indirect key NIPN stakeholders were invited to the Global conference in Bangkok on “Accelerating the end of hunger and malnutrition” organized by IFPRI and FAO in November 2018 in Bangkok.

IFPRI and EPHI work closely together to ensure that the planned capacity development efforts are monitored, skills are measured before and after formal trainings, evaluation are done, and that feedback and lessons learned are well-captured, which will in turn inform the capacity strengthening approach for the following years.



***Thank You !***