

2022 Annual Report



Frontpage: Children playing in Ferkessédougou, Côte d'Ivoire
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Introduction

The National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN) initiative was launched by the European Union in 2015 with the goal to support partner countries who are part of the global Scaling Up Nutrition movement. These countries have committed themselves to delivering evidence-based programmes and interventions to improve human nutrition in their progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goal 2: end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

The main objective of the NIPN initiative is to create multi-sectoral country-led and country-owned information platforms for nutrition, to strengthen national capacities in the analysis of nutrition data and information, and to better inform policymakers in the areas of policy, programme and investment for nutrition.

In 2022 the NIPN initiative is implemented by eight countries: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kenya, Lao PDR, Niger, and Uganda. While the NIPN country platforms are implemented by different organisations in the field, and respond to different nutrition contexts and to different policy questions depending on the Government's priorities, they all work under one common results framework, and base their work on the NIPN operational cycle (see overleaf).

The NIPNs engage policy makers and programme planners to develop strategic questions around nutrition and bring together and analyse existing, often underutilised data from surveys, sector monitoring and resource tracking to answer these questions. They turn findings into evidence-based recommendations that policy makers and programme planners can use to improve policies, programmes and investments for nutrition. NIPNs use this approach in an iterative cycle that involves multisectoral stakeholders and stimulates multisectoral policy dialogue.

The NIPN set-up at country level consists of a policy component and a data component; both are embedded in national institutions to ensure long-term sustainability.

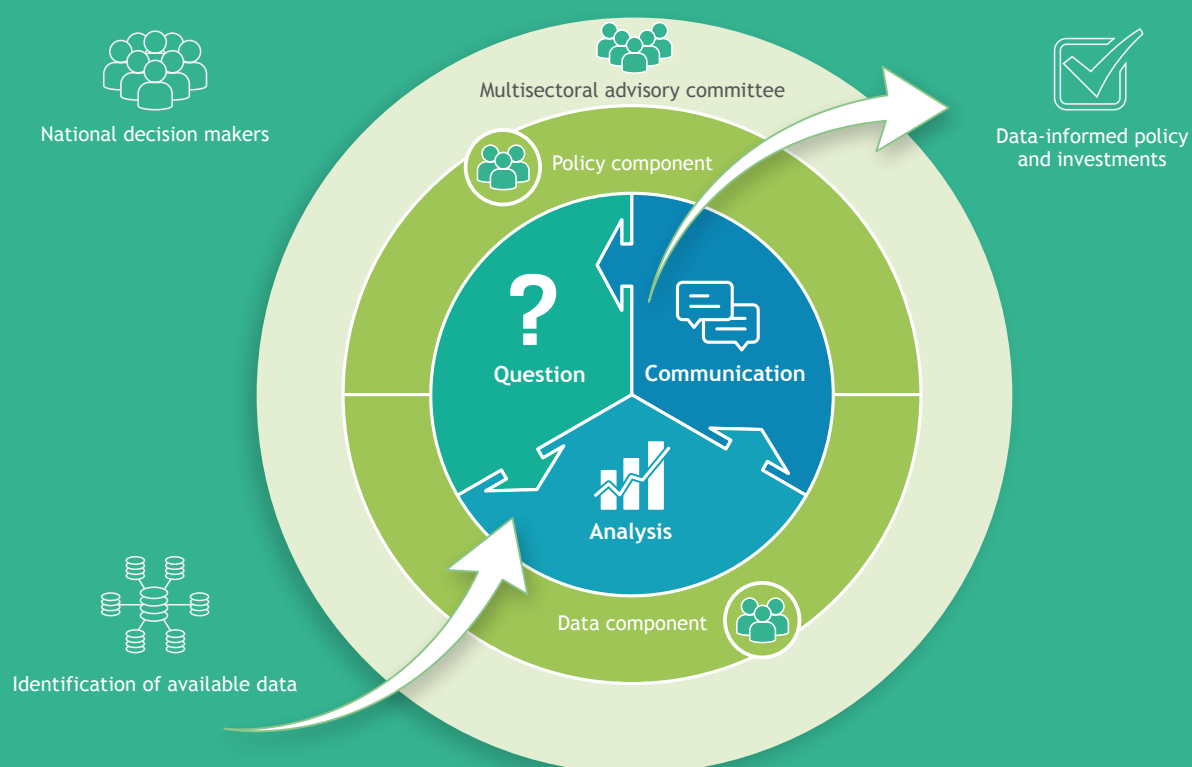
To support each country's implementation and to coordinate technical assistance and capacity building, a NIPN Global Coordination unit leads the overall collaboration with the implementing partners (IP) and facilitates the capturing and sharing of experiences and lessons learned, while also strengthening the global positioning of NIPN. A high-level expert advisory group provides the technical back up and guidance to the Global Coordination unit.

Since 2020 the Global Coordination unit has been managed by Capacity for Nutrition (C4N), a joint action financed by the EU and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

Between 2021 and 2022, all NIPN platforms have gradually entered the second funding cycle of the initiative, NIPN Phase II. In this phase, various implementing partners are delivering technical and programme management assistance for the platforms: GIZ's C4N in Ethiopia and Niger; UNICEF in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Lao PDR and Uganda; Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE) in Guatemala.

The 2022 NIPN Annual Report provides a brief presentation of a few selected highlights from the work of the NIPN country platforms and of NIPN Global Coordination during the past year.

NIPN Operational Cycle





The NIPN 2022 Global Gathering took place in hybrid format in Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya and online.

C4N-NIPN Global Coordination Activities

In the fourth quarter of 2021, the NIPN platforms started transitioning to the second phase of the initiative. To ensure a continuum between the two phases, NIPN Global Coordination, in close collaboration with NIPN Platform teams and IPs organised **in-country transitional workshops** between January and August 2022 in the eight NIPN countries.

The workshops had three specific objectives:

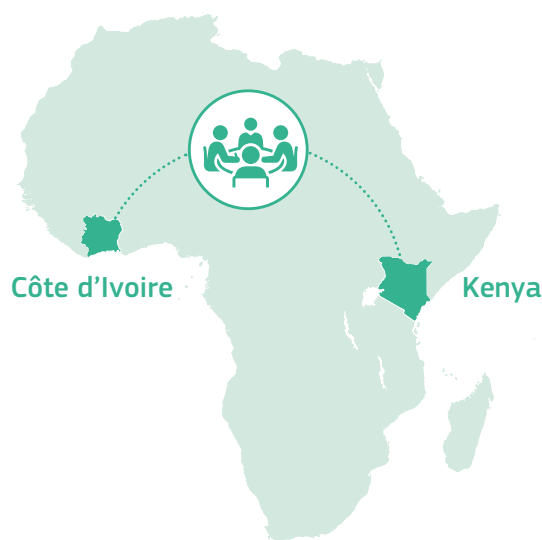
1. to identify lessons learned from NIPN Phase I,
2. to define priorities and needs for NIPN Phase II,
3. to discuss roles and responsibilities between partners in countries and at global level.

One of the main activities carried out by Global Coordination was the **2022 Global Gathering**. It took place in early October in Mombasa, Kenya and Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire, with a virtual link between the meetings, under the theme of "Accelerating for results".

It enabled NIPN to take a step forward in the transition towards Phase II, building on achievements from Phase I and identifying areas for acceleration within the NIPN processes, to ensure the sustainability of the platforms in the long term.

With more than 100 participants (27 in Côte d'Ivoire, 55 in Kenya and more than 20 online), the Global Gathering laid the foundations to ensure the sustainability of the platforms through their integration into national systems. The start of **NIPN Phase II** was officially announced with a **launch event following the Global Gathering**.

The event was inaugurated by guest speakers Leonard Mizzi (EC), Martin Hoppe (BMZ) and Siméon Nanama (UNICEF). Laura Barrington (C4N-NIPN Coordinator) and Ella Compaore (NIPN Coordinator, Burkina Faso) presented key outcomes from the 2022 Global Gathering. Final remarks were rendered by Julio Lopez, representative of CATIE, implementing the NIPN initiative in Guatemala.



During 2022, NIPN Global Coordination led the drafting of a **guidance notes** on a) integration of gender and b) sustainability, to support better integration of these dimensions within NIPN's ongoing activities.

Both technical guidance notes are being finalised and will be available in early 2023. Moreover, the following **case studies** have documented the experience in implementing the NIPN approach: The Guatemala case study, Implementing decentralised information platforms for nutrition – insights and lessons learned from Momostenango, Guatemala and the Ethiopia case study, Aligning with food and nutrition security priorities, have been published and are available on the NIPN website. A third case study on the lessons learned from NIPN in Côte d'Ivoire, Monitoring of a national multi-sectoral nutrition plan, is being lay-outed and has been published in early 2023.

Global Coordination has commissioned the consultancy group N4D to carry out a contribution study to analyse the impact of NIPN Phase I.

The objectives of this assignment are threefold:

- to evaluate the performance of the NIPN Phase I;
- to understand whether any changes are needed to NIPN's approach to inform future implementation;
- to provide actionable recommendations that inform the future implementation.

The assignment will comprehensively assess the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of NIPN Phase I to understand how far it has increased demand for data-driven policymaking on nutrition within its target countries.

In addition to the evaluation of concrete NIPN I implementation, the contribution study will explore the particular case of Bangladesh where the NIPN was discontinued after phase I. The team that carries out the contribution study will also go to Niger and Kenya to exchange with stakeholders in the field.

Burkina Faso



- The NIPN policy component is hosted by the Nutrition Directorate of the Ministry of Health.
- The NIPN data component is hosted by the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD).
- Technical assistance is provided by Agence Européenne pour le Développement et la Santé (AEDES) and ECORYS.
- Technical and programme assistance is provided by UNICEF.



The NIPN Burkina Faso website is now complemented by a mobile application.

In 2022, the NIPN platform in Burkina Faso (PNIN – Plateforme nationale d'information pour la nutrition) **designed a mobile application** for the visualisation of the indicators of the Multisectoral Strategic Plan for Nutrition (PSMN) in order to increase the accessibility of data on nutrition.

Up until now, the PNIN has had a [web-based platform](#), which has served as a source of information on nutrition in Burkina Faso. It provides information on nutrition indicators, databases/microdata, survey reports, studies, useful information and news on nutrition.

With the new mobile application, developed by the PNIN team and validated by stakeholders, the dissemination of the monitoring indicators of the PSMN has been enhanced.

The objective is to offer the target audience (decision makers, researchers, students, etc.) easy access to information on nutrition in Burkina Faso.

Stakeholders can access data from sector indicators (health/nutrition, education, food security, WASH, social protection, etc.) and are able to search for a PSMN indicator by name or 'strategic axis'; in addition, they can consult key concepts of nutrition or edit a table or a graph.

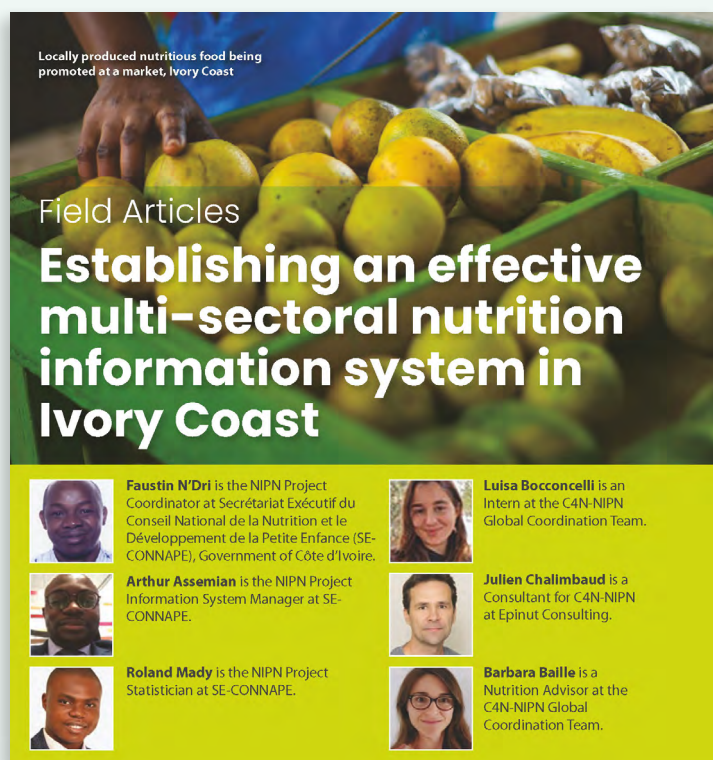
The application also constitutes a tool to support multisectoral coordination by integrating relevant information from all sectors involved in nutrition.

As such, it fills the information needs around timely monitoring of national, regional and international political and financial commitments related to nutrition.

Côte d'Ivoire



- The NIPN policy and data components are hosted by the Executive Secretariat of the National Council for Nutrition, Food and Early Childhood Development (SE-CONNAPE).
- Technical and programme assistance is provided by UNICEF.



The NIPN experience was the subject of an article in Emergency Nutrition Network's Field Exchange

The year 2022 was marked by the development of the **new multisectoral national nutrition plan**. The NIPN platform was able to play an important supporting role in this key process by producing useful pieces of evidence and actionable recommendations to policy makers.

In particular, the analysis of the indicators defined by the [common monitoring framework](#) and the compendium of existing nutrition-related indicators, both produced by the NIPN platform, highlighted the challenges of the previous monitoring framework and suggested concrete improvement for the development of the new one.

The platform also produced and shared its analyses and recommendations to better understand the determinants of undernutrition and dietary diversity among children aged 6 to 23 months in Côte d'Ivoire.

In addition, applying the [Lives Saved Tool](#), a modelling tool never before used in Côte d'Ivoire, the platform proposed a **package of nutritional interventions** that can optimise the use of financial resources and support the most efficient activities.

In 2022, the NIPN in Côte d'Ivoire had the opportunity to share its experience with the monitoring of a multi-sectoral nutrition information system in the international NGO Emergency Nutrition Network's on-line and print publication Field Exchange, which shares programming experiences on nutrition and food security in high burden and humanitarian contexts (article available [here](#)).

Ethiopia



- The NIPN Ethiopia policy and data components are hosted by the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI).
- Technical and programme assistance is provided by GIZ.
- Technical support on data and research is provided by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).



Two women and their children in Dharito Health Post. © UNICEF/UN0141423/Sewunet

Creating an up-to-date centralised data repository, which provides information to data users on available multisectoral nutrition datasets, was a key activity for the NIPN in Ethiopia in 2022.

The main objectives of the data repository are:

- to promote the use of existing data sets for nutrition research;
- to archive datasets obtained from different sectors, research institutions, and other National Nutrition Plan II/food and nutrition policy partners and create a metadata codebook for easy use and access of the data;
- to facilitate data users' access to selected datasets by including contact information on the repository.

For each existing dataset, a dataset description document (metadata), a codebook, data collection instruments/questionnaires, and relevant published articles related to the datasets are included in the data

repository. This allows data users to easily find and use the existing information to answer their own research questions.

In addition, archiving descriptive information about the datasets will help prevent duplication of research and will optimise the use of existing resources.

The metadata and the codebook facilitates the use of existing data for answering complex research questions in nutrition.

The NIPN Ethiopia data repository can be [accessed here](#).

Analysis of the effectiveness of nutrition interventions on severely and acutely malnourished (SAM) children in Ethiopia and use of Lives Saved Tool (LiST) for data visualisation and estimates of different nutrition interventions have been two other achievements for NIPN in Ethiopia.

Guatemala



- The NIPN data and policy components are hosted by the Secretariat for Food and Nutrition Security (SESAN) of the Presidency of the Republic of Guatemala.
- The NIPN data component is implemented jointly by SESAN and Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE).
- Technical and programme assistance is provided by CATIE.



Three children playing in Chirrepec, Alta Verapaz
© UNICEF/UN0642842/Willocq



The Guatemala team in discussion at the 2022 NIPN Global Gathering

Throughout 2022, the NIPN team in Guatemala has been working on developing a **variety of digital tools** to support national authorities in monitoring relevant nutritional data, to facilitate the formulation of operational questions and to compile multisectoral nutritional data for further analysis and dissemination.

These include **monitoring tools** to facilitate the analysis and follow up of different programs and data for decision makers and technicians. Those tools are the property of and for the exclusive use of SESAN and other governmental bodies. Below a brief description of some of these tools.

- **Acute malnutrition monitoring app:** to collect monitoring data on acute malnutrition at national level. The acute malnutrition data, collected and processed through the system, can be filtered, visualised and the user can download a report.
- **Mapping of food and nutrition security actors app:** This tool collects data related to all programs, interventions and stakeholders intervening in food and nutrition security, health and nutrition in Guatemala.
- **Community monitoring app:** This app allows data collection to monitor prevention of chronic

malnutrition, violence, arboviruses and disability at community level. As with the other tools, it allows the user to generate summaries and download filtered reports for communities where the data are gathered.

- **Monitoring of fortified complementary food distributions:** This app allows data collection to monitor the distribution of complementary food for children (Nutri niños) at national level.

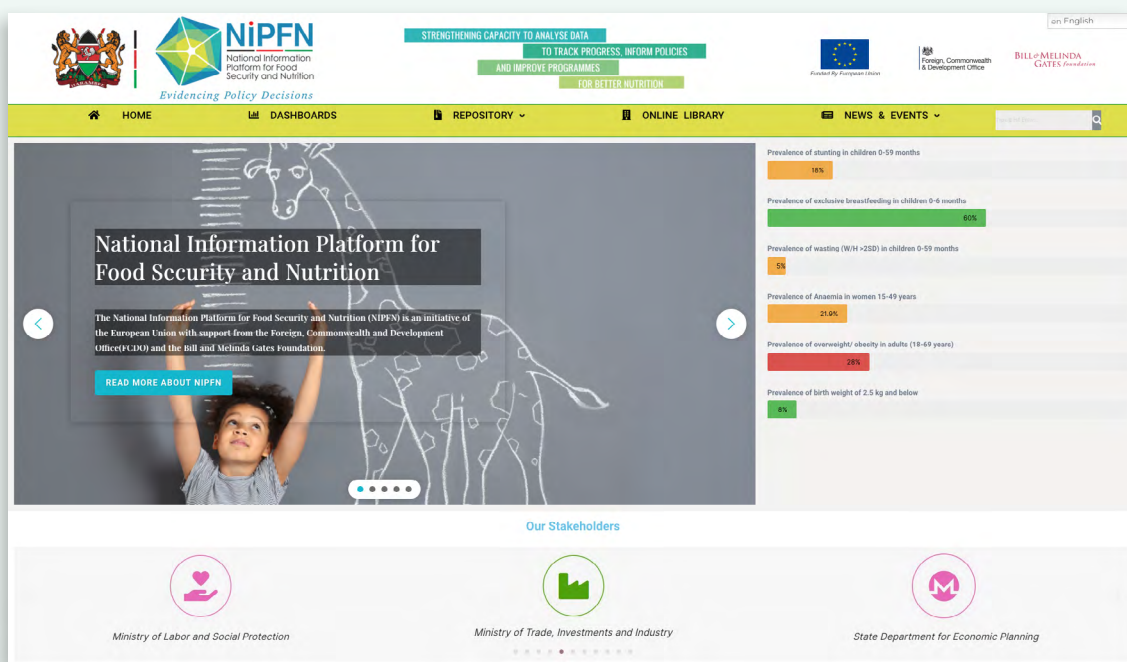
During 2022, NIPN Guatemala also developed a website for the general public, to share the main indicators related to different sectors linked to nutrition such as health, education and social affairs. The data is uploaded and updated by the different Ministries, generating infographics and visual data, and easy to read. The website will go public in early 2023.

To facilitate the prioritisation and organisation of the operational questions, the NIPN developed an **operational questions website**, for the exclusive use of SESAN and other governmental bodies, to collect all the questions related to nutrition. In the future, the system will help to select and prioritise the most relevant questions that can be answered with the available data. This process aims to facilitate the analysis and further communication of data.

Kenya



- The NIPN policy component is hosted by the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA).
- The NIPN data component is hosted by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS).
- Technical and programme assistance is provided by UNICEF.



The NIPFN portal was launched in June 2022.

The highlight in 2022 for the **National Information Platform for Food Security and Nutrition (NIPFN)** was the official launching of its web portal in June 2022. This tool enables a summary and visualisation of nutrition information coming from multiple sectors, in a central space, contributing to monitoring progress on the nutritional situation in Kenya.

Through the [portal](#), the KIPRA and KNBS are already working together to identify priority areas for nutrition and support the government priorities to accelerate progress in preventing malnutrition and mitigating food security.

The NIPFN portal ensures that nutrition information is continuously being consolidated, summarised, and visualised centrally, helping to provide a snapshot of the nutrition situation in at risk population groups in Kenya.

It is envisioned that the platform will enhance the dissemination and use of information, to better inform strategic decision-making and thereby advance achievement of optimal nutrition.

Furthermore, through the NIPFN portal, KIPPRA and KNBS are identifying areas to advise the government on priorities to be taken forward to accelerate progress in the prevention of malnutrition and mitigation of food security.

The web portal has summarised statistics on food and nutrition, visualised data information and has a central repository of data accessible and in a ready-to-use format, to guide on Government policies and strategies.

Lao PDR



- The NIPN policy component is hosted by the Socio-economic Policy Research Institute, Lao Academy of Social and Economic Sciences.
- The NIPN data component is hosted by the Development Research Institute, Ministry of Planning and Investment.
- Technical and programme assistance is provided by UNICEF.



The Lao PDR delegation at the NIPN 2022 Global Gathering.

As part of NIPN Lao PDR's plan in its second phase to expand its scope to the sub-national level, the provincial assemblies have been engaged since 2021. During 2022 a **dissemination workshop on recent research was conducted in each region**, with the participation of key stakeholders from line agencies at provincial level, academia, and provincial assemblies. The results and data shared by NIPN have been considered important at subnational level to monitor outcomes.

Thus, the **expansion of NIPN at sub-national level was initiated in six selected provinces** based on their high malnutrition rates and geographical location. Two provinces from each region were selected, and include Khammouan, Savannakhet, Sekong, Saravane Oudomxay, and Phongsaly. A two-day NIPN transitional workshop, jointly facilitated by NIPN Global Coordination

and UNICEF staff from the Lao PDR country office, was held in May 2022 and formulated an approach on the coordination and formulation of research questions as well as the team setup for implementation at subnational level.

In addition, to further communicate the objectives, coordination approach, methodology of capacity building and the institutional setup at the subnational level, **inception meetings, led by the Vice Minister of the Ministry of Planning and Investment**, were conducted in each targeted province. The mission gained positive feedback from each province on how best to introduce the initiative at the subnational level. The next step for the country platform is to update the capacity development plan, which includes a capacity needs assessment exercise of key sub-national level stakeholders planned for early 2023.

Niger



- The NIPN policy component is hosted by the Secretariat of the presidential initiative 'Les Nigériens nourrissent les Nigériens' (I3N) under the leadership of the High Commissariat of 3N (HC3N).
- The NIPN data component is hosted by the Institut National de la Statistique (INS).
- Technical and programme assistance is provided by GIZ.



The report on the Emergency-Development-Nexus approach in nutrition was issued in January 2022.

In 2022, the NIPN platform in Niger carried out several actions to further advance the sustainability of the platform:

The generation of information in response to requests by politicians helps maintain demand for evidence and its use for decision-making. **The development of the policy on the Emergency-Development-Nexus approach** was led by the NIPN under the guidance of HC3N, responding to the need to support the multisectoral governance of the Emergency-Development Nexus, in particular in the field of nutrition. The report can be accessed through the [NIPN Niger website](#).

NIPN also contributed towards the formulation of the second 2021-2025 National Nutrition Security Policy (PNSN) Action Plan. NIPN supported the formulation of the common results framework with the definition of indicators and targets per year. The plan has been edited and shared with sectors and actors for its consideration in their programming. NIPN is participating in the ongoing dissemination at the national level and in the administrative regions.

A further highlight of activities in Niger was **capacity strengthening conducted by the platform in the areas of nutrition, data analysis and information systems, as one of the pillars of NIPN's sustainability**. The provision of long-term training to INS staff contributes to strengthening the platform in Phase II. In addition, a one-year diploma course for 14 executives from the sectors collaborating in NIPN is underway at Abdou Moumouni University in Niamey. Phase II of NIPN will continue nutrition diploma training and on-the-job training activities for managers from collaborating sectors and administrative regions through ongoing co-financing and partnerships.

The two partner institutions (INS and HC3N) are being restructured, which represents an opportunity to strengthen the sustainability of the platform by integrating it into their organisational charts. During the October 2022 Global NIPN Gathering, Niger committed to integrate NIPN into the ongoing restructuring of the INS organisational chart and to update the governance structures of the National Nutrition Security Policy (Politique Nationale de Sécurité Nutritionnelle – PNSN 2017-2025).

Uganda



- The NIPN policy component is hosted by the Office of the Prime Minister.
- The NIPN data component is hosted by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics.
- Technical and programme assistance is provided by UNICEF.



Uganda, Amudat District. A portrait of young girls smiling away. © UNICEF/UN0421349/Abdu

One of the key highlights for the NIPN in Uganda in 2022 was **the national dialogue on the nutrition situation in Uganda** held in September, which welcomed 240 participants.

The Prime Minister and seven ministers attended the dialogue, together with manifold nutrition stakeholders. The findings of the Uganda National Panel Survey nutrition situation report, based on nutrition data analysed by NIPN, were presented at the event.

The findings on the nutrition situation as established by the panel survey is a key product to support central stakeholders in making informed decisions to address Uganda's nutrition challenges.

Because of the findings highlighted by the report, the Government of Uganda established a national nutrition

dialogue platform, with the objective of leveraging the findings and engaging policy makers and programme managers for joint, informed action.

As the second phase of NIPN takes off in Uganda, the event emphasised the need to maintain the momentum in support of the Government's efforts towards **ensuring that healthy diets and adequate nutrition** can be attained by the entire population, thus reaching its full potential.

The Government of Uganda stressed the importance of NIPN's continued support to the gains made so far, providing game-changing solutions to the nutrition challenges faced by the future generations of Uganda.

