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Building National Information Platforms for Nutrition Newsletter

News and information from the NIPN initiative

A service by Capacity for Nutrition (C4N) NIPN Global Coordination

Dear readers,

C4N (Capacity for Nutrition) and the NIPN (National Information Platforms for Nutrition) initiative is pleased to share with you our 20th newsletter.

Chers lecteurs,

C4N (Capacité d'appui pour la nutrition) et l'initiative PNIN (Plateformes Nationales d'Information pour la Nutrition) ont le plaisir de partager la 20ème lettre d'actualités. Version française [ICI](#).

Estimados lectores,

El C4N y la iniciativa PINN (Plataformas de Información Nacionales para la Nutrición) se complacen en compartir el 20º boletín informativo. Versión en español [AQUÍ](#).

News

SUN Networks take stock of their actions in Burkina Faso



Participants in the workshop

The Technical Secretariat in charge of Multisectorality for Nutrition (ST-Nut) organised a workshop on the networks of the Scaling up nutrition (SUN) movement, followed by a training in resource mobilization from 13 to 15 September 2023 in Ouagadougou. These networks consist of the Academic Sector Network for Nutrition (RECANUT), the Civil Society Network for Nutrition (RESONUT), the Private Sector Network for Nutrition (RAPNUT), the Network of Parliamentarians for Nutrition Security (REPASEN), the

United Nations network and the donor network.

For each SUN network, it was a matter of taking stock of the achievements of its action plan, presenting the difficulties encountered and proposing perspectives. This workshop was also an opportunity to strengthen the capacity of the actors of the different networks on the resource mobilization strategy. The training allowed networks to identify potential donors for the financing of their activities.

Mid-term review of the multisectoral nutrition strategic plan in Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso's Multisectoral Nutrition Strategic Plan (MSSP) is due to expire in 2024. After three years of implementation, a mid-term review was needed to assess the level of achievement of the indicators, analyse the level of physical and financial implementation of activities, and identify lessons learned and hurdles to improve implementation over the last two years. The ongoing process began in April 2023 with all the stakeholders in the multisectoral nutrition platform.

To date, the performance tools for the indicators and the physical implementation of the activities and their cost over the period 2020-2022 have been completed. This has been made possible by reorganizing the MSSP according to the logical framework of results-based management. One of the major difficulties encountered was filling in the financial data. This prompted the technical committee to organize a working session, with the support of the a C4N consultant, to involve the technical and financial partners, and the results of the monitoring of public funding for nutrition. Data is currently being collected from the various partners, and a workshop is planned to draw up the final review report.

Burkina Faso scientific nutrition days

The first Scientific Nutrition Days (JSN) were held from 30 May to 1 June 2023 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The theme of the event was "Multisectoral nutrition in Burkina Faso: what contributions and synergies of action to guarantee food and nutritional security". Over 250 people attended the conference, which was chaired by the Minister for Health, Dr Robert Lucien Kargougou. Some forty papers and four high-level panels were presented. Discussions focused on several themes, including funding, data management, training, and nutrition research.

Key recommendations at the end of the event included: institutionalizing the nutrition science days to ensure their long- term sustainability, lobbying for the application of the law on research funding, promoting national funding for nutrition research, and strengthening the collection and analysis of nutritional data.

While welcoming the initiative, Minister Kargougou reassured stakeholders that arrangements would be made for a thorough review and implementation of the meeting's recommendations.

Three-day gender training in Ethiopia

GIZ organized a three-day gender training from 5 to 8 September 2023 for NIPN partners and stakeholders on how to integrate gender into nutrition data management and programming. Twenty-one participants actively participated in an interesting and interactive training programme which gave practical approaches to integrate gender in NIPN and Nutrition. Gender related concepts, methodologies to integrate gender into NIPN activities and links between nutrition and gender were shared in a participatory manner,

mixing group working sessions and theory presentations. Topics included what gender transformative approaches mean in nutrition and how it can be integrated in day-to-day programming work and was brought to practical application through group activities. Gender is included by default in GIZ and EU supported interventions and aims at opportunities for an active change in gender norms, promoting the inclusion of women in social and political positions of influence, and addressing gender inequities. The participants found the training useful, interactive, and fun-filled as it easily instilled the complex concepts in a simple manner.



Participants in the gender training

School feeding in Ethiopia: a scoping review

A scoping review developed by the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) mapped the evidence relating to school feeding. The review included coverage of school feeding, quality, nutritional impacts, funding issues, and its impact on educational achievements among students in Ethiopia to inform policies, programs, future research, and offer insight related to school feeding in Ethiopia.

The study found that school feeding programs have positive effects on various parameters such as body mass index, height, thinness, anaemia, and weight. It has also similar effects on academic performance, dropout rate, class attendance and enrolment. Factors affecting school feeding programs negatively, include poor food quality, and financial or funding constraints. However, this study could not find evidence on the status of school feeding program coverage in the country.

NIPN Ethiopia hosts successful virtual panel discussion on Circular Food System

NIPN Ethiopia hosted a webinar [panel discussion on the Circular Food System \(CFS\)](#) on 20 June 2023. Researchers, panellists, and virtual attendants drawn from renowned international and national universities and organisations have dealt with extensive issues in the realm of CFS. The event featured international and national experts who discussed various aspects of CFS. Challenges such as soil degradation, population growth, and limited fertilizer availability were highlighted. The importance of coordination among various sectors for a sustainable food system was underscored. The discussion aimed to find entry points for positive contributions and ensure sustainability in Ethiopia.

NIPFN training workshop on evidence-based policy making in Kenya



From the workshop

NIPFN organized a training for program directors, assistant directors, and economists from the Central Project Planning Monitoring Units on the effectiveness of the public policy-making process for nutritional-based decision-makers from 12 to 20 April 2023.

The main objective was to train the officers to positively influence policy making and to learn how to formulate a policy document. At the end of the training sessions, the participants were able to explain what public policies are, understand how public policies are made, illustrate how power struggles and policies affect policy development, explain the theoretical models of evaluating policies, measure the impact of public policy on citizens; and establish linkages between research and public policy.

In Kenya, the 6th KIPPRA Annual Regional Conference

NIPFN was one of the main sponsors of the 6th Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) Annual Regional Conference “Accelerating Economic Growth and Development for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) in Kenya” from 21 to 23 June 2023, bringing together state and non-state actors to discuss the opportunities, progress made, challenges faced and the way forward in accelerating the economic growth and development in ASALs in Kenya.

The NIPFN team presented three papers titled [“Influence of Household Sanitation on Child Stunting in Kenya”](#), [“Analysis of Diet Diversity and Child Stunting in Households Practicing Smallholder](#)

Kenya's 4th National Nutrition Symposium ‘Eradicating malnutrition in all its forms: Stepping up political, multi-sectoral, and interdisciplinary action towards nutrition resilience.’

NIPFN co-hosted the 4th National Nutrition Symposium in April 2023, organized to raise awareness on nutrition and to share knowledge on good practices to address the nutrition problem in Kenya.

Speaking at the symposium, Principal Secretary for the State Department of Health Standards and Professional Management noted that Kenya is committed to eradicating malnutrition by 2027, which is in line with the African Union (AU) agenda 2063 aspiration aiming at having healthy and well-nourished citizens by using modern agriculture for increased production.



Participants in the symposium.

Policy analysis training in Lao PDR

A training was organised from 20 to 23 June 2023 using "Policy Analysis Toolbox Part 1 – How to understand a problem in order to create policy alternatives", providing an overview of the rationale for using simple methods for analysing policy. As decision makers often require rapid responses and base their decisions on available data, policy analysts can help to improve the quality of decisions by providing quick, accurate, and timely analyses.

In addition, a framework for conceptualising policy analyses and a process for conducting policy analyses were presented. A policy analysis process was introduced that consisted of six basic steps: (1) defining the problem, (2) establishing evaluation criteria, (3) identifying alternative policies, (4) evaluating alternative policies, (5) displaying and distinguishing among policies, and (6) monitoring policy outcomes.

Training materials: [Patton, C. V., Sawicki, D. S., & Clark, J. J. \(2016\). Basic methods of policy analysis and planning. Routledge.](#)

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Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 32 + 36
53113 Bonn, Germany
T +49 228 44 60-0
F +49 228 44 60-17 66

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1 - 5
65760 Eschborn, Germany
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15

E info@giz.de

I www.giz.de

Registered at

Local court (Amtsgericht) Bonn, Germany: HRB 18384

Local court (Amtsgericht) Frankfurt am Main, Germany: HRB 12394

VAT no. DE 113891176

Tax no. 040 250 56973

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Ingrid-Gabriela Hoven (Vice-Chair)

Anna Sophie Herken

In charge of this newsletter:

Laura Barrington, laura.barrington@giz.de

Editor(s):

Kim Clausen, kim.clausen@giz.de

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