

NIPN Ethiopia

Some elements of the Learning Agenda.

Applying a learning by doing pilot project

The 2nd NIPN Global Gathering: May 22- 24, 2019, Amsterdam

NIPN-Ethiopia Team



Presentation Outline

- The Objectives
- The Approach and its Limitations
- The ‘learning by doing’ approach
- What we learned?
- Why this is important to us?

Objectives of the pilot project

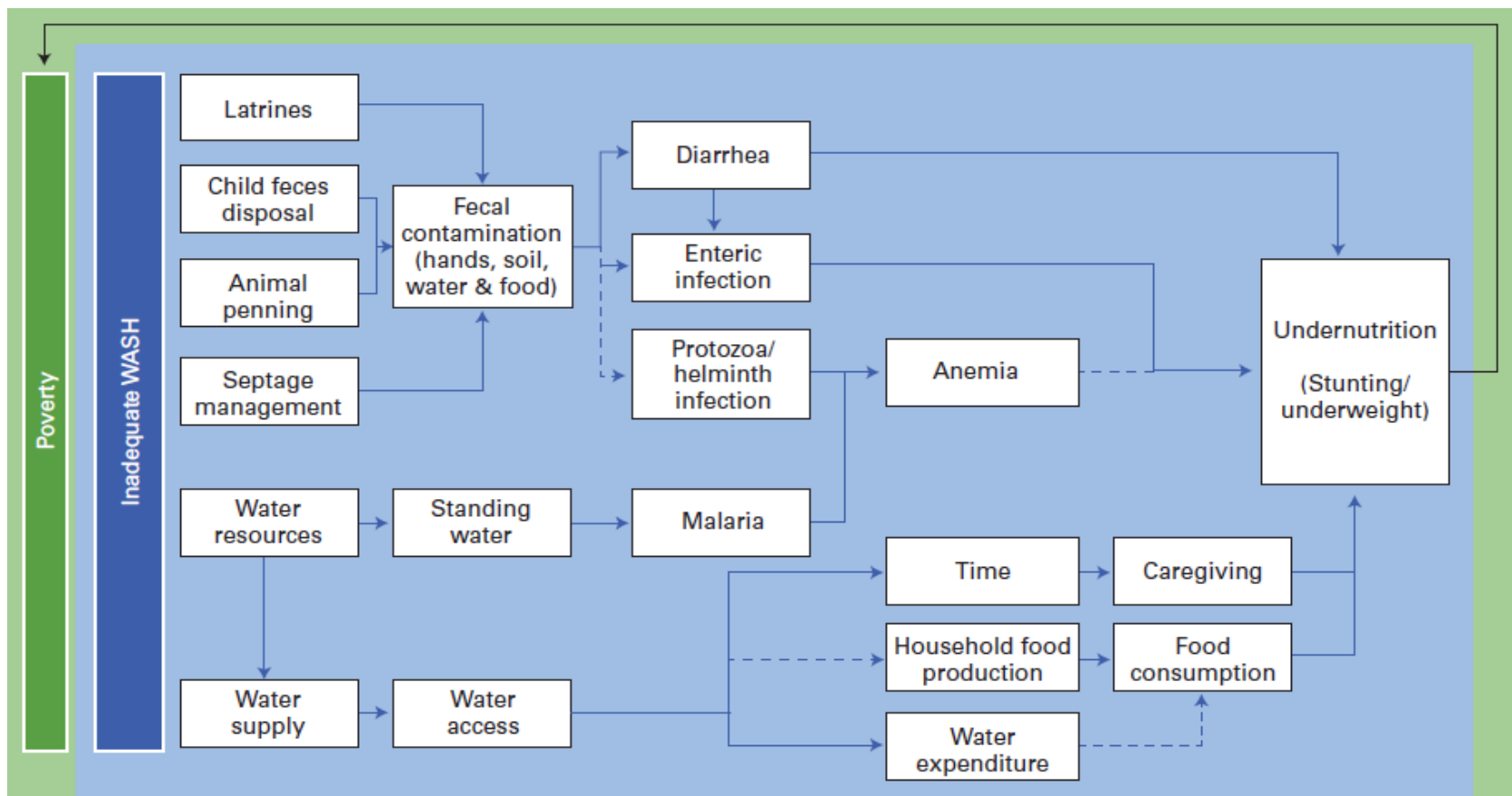
The objectives of the project were to simultaneously

- Respond to a policy question, while
- Building analytical and writing skill; and
- Create visibility for NIPN, highlighting what NIPN can mean for the NNP
- **Identify which approach could work best within the given (EPHI) institutional and the Ethiopian context**

→ Overall agreement that this project would be part of the Ethiopia NIPN learning agenda



Conceptual framework WASH to Nutrition linkage



The approach

Developed a concept note:

- Project would be carried out in several phases
- Each phase being linked to specific outputs, activities and learning agendas linked with the NIPN operational cycle.
- From the start: applied a flexible approach; Agreement to adapt where and when needed

The limitations

- We were ambitious in planning this pilot project
- The capacity building under this project would focus on the “in house’ capacity, not on those of our stakeholders (covered by other activities)

The learning by doing approach (1/2)

- The learning approach: more important than the actual output
 - How
 - Who is involved
 - Who is leading

- After every implementation phase: a moment of reflection**
 - Review experiences
 - asses strengths and weaknesses
 - identify organizational and capacity needs
 - identify how to respond to weaknesses, challenges etc

The learning by doing approach (2/2)

- ❑ **After every reflection: address capacity needs and adapt**
 - Reorganize team composition
 - Organize various short training workshops (IFPRI)
 - Apply new approaches to writing and team work
 - Developed a guideline to carry out rapid literature review
- ❑ **Future aspects of “learning by doing” (with IFPRI support)**
 - Work with a communication mentor
 - Data analysis will be done hand in hand with a training on how to manipulate DHS data

What we learned?

- Team building:** planning and working as a team; Getting to know the strengths and weakness of the team ;
- Policy question formulation:** required further analysis
- Expanded our technical “know how”** about the theme “WASH and nutrition and health outcomes”
- Engaging** with a sector traditionally not involved a lot in the nutrition agenda



Cont...

- Engaging sectors (WASH)
- Creating demand for NIPN service
- Prioritization of policy agenda
- Engaging policy and data people
- Team work
- Consult MER SC
- Alternative approach to overcome challenges



Why this is important to us?

- ❑ Understanding the team's strength and limitation (of the team as a whole and of the individuals); who does what?
- ❑ Learned the importance of project management skills (good planning, effective time management, etc)
- ❑ Understanding the importance of assessing specific capacities prior to designing capacity support
- ❑ NIPN-Ethiopia will use the learnings of the pilot project as an input during NIPN full cycle implementation

Thank You!!