

Concept Note

National Information Platforms for Nutrition Global Virtual Meeting 2021

“Strengthening NIPN approach into the National Multi-sectoral Governance for Nutrition”

CAPACITY FOR NUTRITION (C4N)

Launch session: **Thursday 18th March 2021**

Meeting: **Monday 22nd to Thursday 25th March 2021**

1. Background

The National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN) initiative was launched by the European Union in 2015 with the goal of supporting partner countries who are part of the global Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement and are committed to deliver evidence-based programmes and interventions to improve human nutrition in their progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 to “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”. The main objective of the NIPN initiative is to create country-led and country-owned information platforms for nutrition to strengthen countries’ analysis of nutrition information and data to better inform policies and programmes for improving nutrition. Platforms have been established in nine countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kenya, Laos, Niger and Uganda.

To support each country’s implementation and to coordinate the technical assistance and capacity building, a global support unit was established in 2015, which since 2020 is the responsibility of Capacity for Nutrition (C4N), a joint action financed by the EU and BMZ and implemented by GIZ. Since 2018, annual global meetings with all NIPN countries have been organized by the Global Support team with the aim to align and galvanize country progress along common objectives and share experiences and knowledge.

At the first global gathering in Paris in July 2018, most platforms were at an initial stage thus the meeting’s main objective focused on solidifying the NIPN concept and reviewing the implementation process in each country. At the second global gathering in Amsterdam in May 2019, most platforms were well-established and benefitted from sharing practical experiences and lessons learnt on the different steps of the NIPN operational cycle.

Maintaining overall objectives of aligning country platforms under common goals and capitalizing experience and knowledge across countries, C4N-NIPN Global Support will host the third NIPN Global Meeting, in a virtual format due to the current COVID crisis.

2. Objectives of the 2021 meeting

With the theme: “Strengthening NIPN approach into the National Multi-sectoral Governance for Nutrition”, this year’s meeting aims to support the platforms’ stronger linkages with the broader governance for nutrition of each country. All NIPN countries have adhered to a multisectoral, multi-stakeholders’ approach to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 2 and the World Health Assembly targets. At national level, this translates into a National Multisectoral Governance for Nutrition which - depending on the context - can encompass national multisectoral Plan of Actions for Nutrition (or NPAN) and Strategies, multisectoral and multi-stakeholders coordination mechanisms, a multisectoral monitoring and evaluation strategy and an investment plan or common results framework.

Since their inception, the NIPNs are positioned to support and strengthen the progress and implementation of the NPAN and strategies for nutrition. As most countries have implemented fully or partially a NIPN operational cycle, it is thus the right time to take stock and share experience on how NIPN is strengthening the National Governance for Nutrition. The focus of this third virtual Global Meeting will thus to share experiences on the platforms’ linkages with the broader national nutrition governance in a more systematic and deliberated way. Working beyond the NIPN core teams and core institutions, reaching out to higher level decision makers and supporting multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms is both challenging and instrumental for the success and sustainability of the platforms.

Three specific aspects of the Multisectoral Governance for Nutrition are proposed for the meeting sessions, relevant both to the overall theme and to NIPN added value and positioning at country level:

- Linkages between NIPN and Multisectoral National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN) and strategies;
- Support & linkages between NIPN and the multisectoral national coordination mechanisms;
- Contribution/support to the Multisectoral Monitoring and Evaluation framework.

In addition, an information session is planned on the outlook for NIPN phase II (provided by DEVCO C1 Nutrition Unit) and C4N-NIPN global support.

3. Global Meeting Format

Due to the virtual format, the meeting will be organized on four-consecutive days, with daily sessions of a maximum of 4 hours, instead of the usual three-day format of a physical meeting.

The NIPN teams are located in Asia, East and West Africa and Central America – in three different time zones and three working languages. To enable the participation of all colleagues in core thematic sessions, some sessions may have to be repeated. To ease sharing of experience between countries the meeting will use a mix of methods, for example: shorter and/or repeated sessions, clustering countries by time zone as well as break-out rooms with specific country teams’ assignments – either on- or off-line.