



Fifth NIPN Global Gathering

Brussels, Belgium

6-8 June 2023



C4N-NIPN Global Coordination

Contents

1 Organisation and Objectives.....	3
1.1 Background.....	3
1.2 Objectives.....	3
1.3 Format and methodology.....	3
2 NIPN in the country context	3
2.1 Opening remarks from donors and partners.....	3
2.2 Putting communication into practice – the Lego Communication Game.....	4
2.2 Presentation of the NIPN Contribution Study	4
2.3 Updates from platforms on sustainability	5
3 Communicating for decision-making.....	6
3.1 Communicating to decision makers.....	6
Presentation summary	6
Role play and group exercise.....	7
3.2 Avoiding gender bias communication	8
Plenary presentation:.....	8
Expert working sessions:.....	9
3.3 Side meetings: Capacity Development Task Force, and EC Nutrition Information Systems (EC-NIS).9	
CD Task Force Meeting	9
EC-NIS side meeting	10
3.4 NIPN and SUN panel discussion	10
4 Towards sustainability.....	12
4.1 Developing sustainability plans.....	12
4.2 Feedback and reflections on the 2023 Global Gathering	13
Action points.....	14
5 Closing.....	15
6 Key messages and action points.....	15
Contribution Study.....	15
CD Task Force	15
EC-NIS	15

Participant feedback cards.....	15
Meetings on Guatemala webinar on decentralisation experience.....	16
7 Conclusions	16
Annex 1: Agendas.....	17
Annex 2: List of participants	20
Annex 3: Side meetings summaries	24
Annex 4: Country to country peer exchange requests in detail	26
Annex 5: QR codes to NIPN applications (shared during GG)	27



Group photo of Global Gathering participants at Stanhope Hotel, 6 June 2023

This report has been developed by Capacity for Nutrition (C4N) – National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN) Global Coordination. C4N-NIPN is financed by the European Union, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and implemented by GIZ as part of the Knowledge for Nutrition (K4N) programme. The report does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Commission, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, UNICEF, or any other stakeholder.

1 Organisation and Objectives

1.1 Background

The National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN) initiative was launched by the European Union in 2015 to support partner countries that are part of the global Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement and are committed to delivering evidence-based programmes and interventions to improve human nutrition in their progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). 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 are currently established in nine countries: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kenya, Laos, Niger, Uganda, and Zambia.

Since 2018, annual global gatherings with all NIPN countries have been organised by the global coordinating unit. The overall objective is to align and take stock of country progress and facilitate experience and knowledge sharing as well as exchanges on lessons learnt. In 2023, the NIPN Global Gathering (GG) was organised from 6 to 8 June 2023 at the Stanhope Hotel in Brussels, Belgium.

1.2 Objectives

In line with the theme '**Communication for informed decision making**', the main objective of the event was to strengthen platforms' capacity to communicate to decision makers.

Specific objectives this year included:

- to reflect on progress towards implementation with an **emphasis on sustainability**;
- to **strengthen policy and program communication**;
- to avoid **gender bias in communication**;
- to learn from the NIPN Contribution Study and discuss ways forward by exchanging with other countries.

1.3 Format and methodology

The meeting used a **mix of methods** (panel discussions, informative sessions, working group and virtual presentation of the contribution study) to maximise learning and exchanges between the participants. The agenda is available in Annex 1. The list of participants is available in Annex 2. The Global Gathering seeks to facilitate strategic discussions with donors, representatives and implementing partners. This year NIPN welcomed Zambia to the community of eight other countries who have been active for the last several years. Given the mix of varying levels of experience in implementation, the activities and discussions were adjusted accordingly.

2 NIPN in the country context

2.1 Opening remarks from donors and partners

To open the 5th annual Global Gathering (GG), **Leonard Mizzi, Head of Unit, Sustainable Agri-Food Systems and Fisheries, DG INTPA**, spoke to the importance of communicating and NIPN's unique position to further strengthen policy briefs to allow for persuasive messaging to decision makers. He highlighted the close collaboration with EC Nutrition Information System (EC-NIS) project and urged partners to work hand-in-hand towards shared objectives. **Christoph Langenkamp, Programme Director Knowledge for Nutrition / Capacity for Nutrition (C4N)**, emphasised the importance of the collaboration with the SUN Movement in

working to build on NIPN results thus far and supporting national stakeholders to deliver effective multisectoral coordination. **Chika Hayashi, Chief, Nutrition Data Unit, Data & Analytics Section at UNICEF**, outlined three important aspects of the role of data: 1) data has the power to change policies and ensure responsible policies; 2) data documents good work and supports its communication; and 3) data ensures the sustainability of evidence.

2.2 Putting communication into practice – the Lego Communication Game

Following the introduction of the participants, the country and partners were called on to put their verbal communication skills to the test with the Lego Communication Game. Each team nominated one ‘designer’ for their team, who together with the other designers were shown in a separate room a small but complex figure built of ca. 18 Lego pieces. After mentally noting the construction of the Lego figure, the designers returned to their teams to describe it, using only verbal communication, so they could build the same figure. With some trial and error and many bursts of laughter each team constructed their version of the original Lego figure – some closer to the original than others!

In the discussion on their experience in the exercise, the team members shared several important insights, for example, the usefulness of providing an overview of the figure’s shape (a bird) before building it, as well as setting priorities in giving instructions and to listening to each other.

2.2 Presentation of the NIPN Contribution Study

This session consisted of an online presentation of the preliminary findings of the Contribution Study conducted by [N4D](#) in 2023. The study laid out three primary objectives:

1. to evaluate the performance of the NIPN Phase 1;
2. to understand whether any changes are needed to NIPN’s approach to inform future implementation;
3. to provide actionable recommendations that inform future implementation.

To achieve the objectives the study sought to understand the relevance, coherence, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of NIPN Phase 1, globally and within countries. The study used a mixed methods approach through programme data, 112 key informant interviews, and three deep-dives in Bangladesh, Kenya, and Niger. The full report is expected by September 2023¹.

The presentation was received with much interest and solicited many questions from participants:

- **Efficiency is not part of the criteria presented in the report. How can NIPNs be more efficient?**

N4D: NIPN has been quite a journey in several countries. There are no quick fixes and the journey itself is important. Having a quick or light approach is not always feasible.

- **How can NIPN platforms be better integrated at the regional level as there are strong regional institutions and the SUN 3.0 strategy is opening regional hubs?**

N4D: There have been gaps in NIPN Phase I and the regional approach is one of them. But “don’t beat yourself up”, there are always gaps and the nutrition institutional ecosystem is fragmented. The N4D team

¹ The presentation is available on the [2023 NIPN Global Gathering web page](#).

was amazed by the quantity of NIPN analyses that have been produced, while NIPN still needs to find its 'story to tell'.

- **On the SUN / NIPN weak linkage: in Kenya for instance, there is no provision for non-government actors to be involved into NIPN. What are your recommendations?**

Where there is a SUN Civil Society Network (CSN) in country, NIPN should try and engage as this would be a short cut to access NGO data and evidence and for NGOs to have a role in formulating policy questions and where necessary helping with analysis. As we understand it, the vibrant SUN Civil Society Alliance in Kenya has a seat at the table for the NIPN policy analysis committee, though engagement between NIPN and national SUN Networks isn't yet generally strong.

- **On institutional sustainability: staff turnover was identified as a challenge; any recommendations on ways to address?**

NIPN could invest in Training of Trainer type models and depend less on consultants to undertake capacity building. NIPN must also try to reduce levels of uncertainty that force good technical and policy staff to leave their NIPN roles and consider whether there should be MoUs with government departments which ensure that newly trained staff stay for a minimum duration of time.

- **Follow up on regional integration of NIPN: considering the challenges that some of the regional entities are facing, such as ECOWAS facing a great number of vacant positions, is it wise to add on the burden of these entities?**

We entirely agree but the purpose of regional engagement is for NIPN to offer services to those regional entities that have a nutrition strategy/portfolio and focal person that can be usefully supported by NIPN policy outputs. Furthermore, the SUN 3.0 regionalisation means there are now three regional hubs and one convergence hub to bring SUN countries closer and provide more bespoke support, which will present an opportunity for NIPN to engage and influence at this level. It is also important to note that regional entities such as AfDB and ECOWAS do important nutrition work across regions into which NIPN analysis can feed.

- **When you suggest scale up of NIPN as a way forward, do you refer to sub-national scale up? Regional scale up? Or implementation in new countries?**

When we talk about NIPN being more ambitious and reaching a greater scale we are talking about more SUN member countries joining the NIPN family. Some NIPN countries are already devolving sub-nationally which may ensure further institutionalisation of NIPN, and potential increase its relevance and sustainability. However, as we tried to point out, this 'devolution' is at the early stages and there is a great deal of learning that needs to happen to ensure that this process is understood, and lessons captured and shared.

Next step: C4N-NIPN Global Coordination will organise a webinar when the full results will be available.

2.3 Updates from platforms on sustainability

This session focused on sharing the development, implementation and monitoring of sustainability plans since the 2022 GG. Each NIPN country had developed a poster outlining their sustainability plans which were used as a point of facilitation exchange between groups to better understand their experiences. There were three groups, each consisting of two to three countries. In each group, each country had the opportunity to present to the others in turn and receive feedback and questions.

Based on the countries' presentations and ways forward, some dimensions emerged as key to achieving sustainable platforms:

Dimension	Actions taken or to be taken
Coordination and making NIPN more visible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use existing governmental institution • Use existing coordination mechanism • Capacity building • Working with all key partners • Increasing demand for NIPN evidence
Capacity development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building • Decentralisation of the NIPN (departmental and communal levels) • Mobilisation of financial resources (budget allocation) • Knowledge management
Diversification and internalisation of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilisation of financial resources • Mutualise with sister initiatives • Create national budget line for the NIPN
Decentralisation of the NIPN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the NIPN approach at subnational level • Focus on NIPN key outputs to sustain at the end of external funding

3 Communicating for decision-making

3.1 Communicating to decision makers

To meet the learning objectives of this year's GG, a 'communicating to decision makers' session was held on day two. The sessions were broken down into three sections: presentation, role play and a group policy exercise. The aim of the session was to explore how to translate data informed nutrition policy questions into results and how to effectively communicate them to target decision makers.

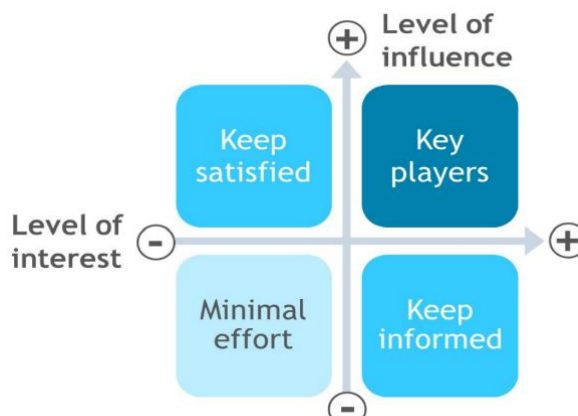
Presentation summary

The presentation zoomed in on the specificity of communicating with decision-makers, for example how to communicate with the intention to influence policymaking and how to leverage the NIPN's relationship of trust with decision makers. The facilitator highlighted how NIPN platforms are in a prime position to develop such a relationship, having been established to respond to national priorities and with specific policies in mind – as seen for example with NIPN's work feeding into multisectoral nutrition action plans in several countries.

To influence decision-making, communication must:

- **meet a need:** this requires identifying what decision makers priorities are, what are the policies or programmes under discussion, and where there is room for influencing;
- **find the right moment:** the NIPN platform will need to spend time figuring out the policy calendar, potentially the budgetary calendar, in order to provide content when decision-makers are most likely to be using it;
- **propose clear solutions:** either one policy pathway, or a range of evidence-based options.

In the second half of the presentation, national teams took stock of their communication tools, including stakeholder mapping, and their current communication channels. Most have already carried out a stakeholder mapping, however participants expressed the desire for further information on conducting stakeholder mappings. To further facilitate their ambitions a mapping matrix was introduced; moreover a description of how to conduct a stakeholder mapping is included in the [‘Communicating and disseminating findings’](#) guidance note available on NIPN’s website.



Source: [Communicating and disseminating findings](#) guidance note

Participants found that stakeholder mapping is a useful steppingstone ahead of conducting a more thorough audience analysis, which would respond to questions such as:

- where does my target audience get their information?
- who influences them?
- what do I want them to know/feel/do because of the communication?

While the NIPNs’ unique position within the nutrition coordination structures, their targeted knowledge products and their expertise make them an invaluable resource for decision-makers, several speakers also mentioned the need to communicate the NIPN’s story, and document the NIPN’s impact, in addition to sharing the NIPN products, to assert its relevance and grow its visibility.

The next session focused on what communication with decision-makers should include, and what pitfalls to avoid, as summarized in the graph ‘Influencing a decision-maker’.



Role play and group exercise

To illustrate communication practices depicted in the presentation, the participants acted in a two-minute skit, one exemplifying maladapted approaches and the other showing best practices. The plot followed a meeting between a NIPN expert and an Executive Director of a National Food and Nutrition Commission who is drafting a new 5-year Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan. The skit was marked by two examples, one whereby an expert is overwhelming her with data and evidence that she cannot use for her strategy, ignoring the decision maker’s questions and remarks. The second exemplified a more strategic approach by targeting the content to her needs. The second example also depicted a communication style that used less jargon and welcomed clarifying questions by the decision maker. The audience then had an opportunity to share experiences.

Participants commented that access to decision-makers may be difficult; but targeting content to the decision-maker’s need remains important whether in face-to-face meetings or for online outreach. Streamlining their brief to one relevant issue permits for a more focused and rich exchange. Additionally, participants underlined to approach decision-makers as high-level civil servants, while not forgetting to consider advocacy at the grassroots level as another essential method to influence policy.

To put the presentation into practice, the national teams applied the session’s key points to revise and sharpen their policy briefs. One trend emerged, several teams realised they had packed ‘too much’ into one policy brief, agreeing it would be more impactful to have single-focused policy briefs and considered dividing their content into several policy briefs.

Key takeaways

- Invest time in analysing your audience.
- Monitor the policy and budgeting agenda at different levels of decision-making.
- Maintain continuous communication on a range of channels to reinforce your credibility and ensure your visibility.
- Break down multi-layered problems in singular issues; keep it simple and actionable.

3.2 Avoiding gender bias communication

Plenary presentation:

Dr Tatiana Gil, expert in nutrition and gender focal point for NIPN, presented common gender biased communications and **suggested concrete solutions** to avoid them. The objective of gender inclusive communication is to:

1. ensure that women and men are represented;
2. challenge gender stereotypes;
3. avoid exclusionary forms;
4. use equal forms of address;
5. create a gender balance;
6. promote gender equity through titles.

A suggested gender-sensitive formula include:

English		Spanish		Français	
Male/Female	Man/woman	Masculino/Fem nino	Hombre/mujer	Masculin/Féminin	Homme/Femme
Mankind	Humankind	Patria	Tierra nativa/natal	Patrie	Pays natal
Fatherland	Native land	Lengua materna	Lengua nativa	Langue maternelle	Langue natif
Mother tongue	Native tongue	Hermandad	Comunidad, parentesco	Fraternité	Communauté, parenté

Brotherhood	Community, kinship	Licencia de maternidad/paternidad	Permiso parental	Congé de Maternité/paternité	Congé parental
Maternity/paternity leave	Parental leave	Maternidad	Crianza, cuidado	Maternel	Affectueu.x.se, nourricière

For more guidance on how to avoid gender stereotypes in communication, please refer to the NIPN [technical guidance note](#) and the March 2023 [webinar on gender](#).

Expert working sessions:

In this activity the plenary group was broken down into four groups. Each group received a document (either a scientific article, a communications document, or an infographic) to discuss in their group if they can identify gender bias communications as well as gender sensitive ones. The group should also reflect on how to change the gender biased elements to be transformed into a gender sensitive communication way.

The **objective** of this session was to put in practice the learning experience from the ‘avoiding gender bias communication’ sessions from the morning and to encourage active reflection to identify texts, words and images that perpetuate gender stereotypes, and try to find solutions to communicate in a more equitable way.

Back in the plenary room, the groups shared what they had observed and identified in their discussions. The participants were motivated and actively participated in the group discussions. They showed creativity and suggested solutions for improving the documents and images proposed.

3.3 Side meetings: Capacity Development (CD) Task Force, and EC Nutrition Information Systems (EC-NIS)

CD Task Force Meeting

In 2022, the Global Coordination unit conducted an exercise called ‘CD mapping’ to develop a catalogue of all the capacity development activities conducted or funded by the platforms. During a webinar, it was agreed to develop a ‘CD Task Force’ to update the catalogue and continue to exchange experiences on CD in the context of NIPN. The task force is formed of 2 to 3 members of each country. Updates for the catalogue of CD activities were provided during the lunch meeting and will be available [here](#) on the NIPN webpage in the near future.

A short reminder of the results and recommendations of the CD mapping exercise was followed by a short debrief of each platform. From the debriefing, some interesting remarks were made:

- Reluctance from some trainers to share their training documents as they consider it as a private intellectual property (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia).
- In Côte d’Ivoire, for each training, the development of the capacity of the NIPN team is included.
- In Niger, the platform built a formal training module in the University with official certification and renewed every year. The training is designed for professionals who want to understand better

nutrition.

- In Guatemala, the trainings are recorded and available. Issue of translation for sharing the training materials with other NIPN platforms.
- In Kenya, there has been a lot of workshops/meetings on question formulation which is a CD activity but not a formal classic training. How to document these kinds of CD activities? The more common 'face to face' training materials are available on the NIPFN website.
- In Ethiopia, many trainings have been conducted in 2022-2023.
- In Uganda, training on data handling.
- In Laos, several trainings are conducted with the same participants (cohort approach), increasing their knowledge. An internal portal is used to share materials.

Action points:

- Continue the CD task force with a physical meeting during the next global gathering
- Continue exchanging experiences on CD activities with the participants of this CD Task Force meeting outside of GG (regular emails, teleconference, etc)
- Translate some of the training materials to make them more accessible to other platforms.
- Investigate how to better monitor the impact of those CD activities.

EC-NIS side meeting

Participants: representatives from Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Uganda, Cote d'Ivoire, Zambia, EC (F.3), UNICEF, WHO and C4N-NIPN.

- Ingo Neu gave an overview of the joint case study being conducted currently; a good number of global actors has been interviewed already; next step is to interview governmental stakeholders.
- Preliminary results show a good complementary between the two initiatives and great collaboration at global level while it could still be improved at national level.
- The start of the joint case study which includes implementation of a diary has improved communication and therefore collaboration between the two projects at country level.

Next steps: Ingo will finalise the interviews and draft a first version of the joint case study, to be circulated among the partners.

3.4 NIPN and SUN panel discussion

'We are all SUN and NIPN is a tool to achieve the objective of SUN in a transparent and organised way to fight malnutrition, support evidence-made governance, and establish a system to gather information and to use this information, analyse it for decision-making and improving the policies.'

Helena Guarin, Head of Nutrition Section, F3 Unit INTPA

The panel discussion focused on collaboration between SUN and NIPN across the global platforms. Delivering the keynote, newly instated Coordinator of the SUN Movement Afshan Khan underscored the

importance of reliable data and the formation of synergies between important stakeholders that can influence the common agenda to create a persuasive efficient narrative to policy and a clear articulation in gender. Enhanced multisectoral information systems which drive the nutrition agenda supported by evidence from efficient data, are critical in fostering meaningful policies.

The presence of Ms Afshan Khan reflected the political willingness and the function of NIPN as enabler of the SUN strategy, adaptable to suit the country needs. Considering the current global geo-political situation Ms Khan commented that ‘when there’s so much pressure on the international system due to conflict, due to climate, and due to a whole host of other economic issues linked to increasing food, fuel and energy prices, we have to be able to articulate persuasive and evidence-based narratives to policymakers.’ She underlined the crucial need for a clear articulation of gender to ensure strategies and actions to be inclusive and balanced.

Ella Compaoré, SUN and NIPN Coordinator in Burkina Faso, avowed that more collaboration and mutual exchange was needed to align efforts. She emphasised the necessity of well-informed and aligned indicators, and the identification of good quality data, leading towards the filling of data gaps and avoiding competition between actors working on a common agenda.

Following the SUN 3.0 strategy as a common denominator in achieving the SDG2 and ending all forms of malnutrition, NIPN serves as a tool to align and create a common understanding of indicators. Joining forces requires mutual information about activities and progress, working towards a common focus in research and advocacy to inform government actions, she said.

Dr Phonesavanh Keonakhone of Lao PDR, NIPN Coordinator and SUN focal point, affirmed that alignment of NIPN and SUN were very important for all sectors of the government with a nutrition link, so that they can jointly support nutrition governance. To achieve this link, all stakeholders must understand the focus of NIPN activities, be informed and monitor nutrition outcomes, in a joint progressive manner.

Panellists commented on the already close existing ties between NIPN and SUN in their countries and the importance of this close collaboration for such a multisectoral topic as nutrition. It was furthermore requested to make more use of opportunities to exchange on experiences and activities, for instance at regional gatherings. One such opportunity may be a deeper inclusion of SUN and SUN focal points in the next NIPN Global Gathering in 2024.

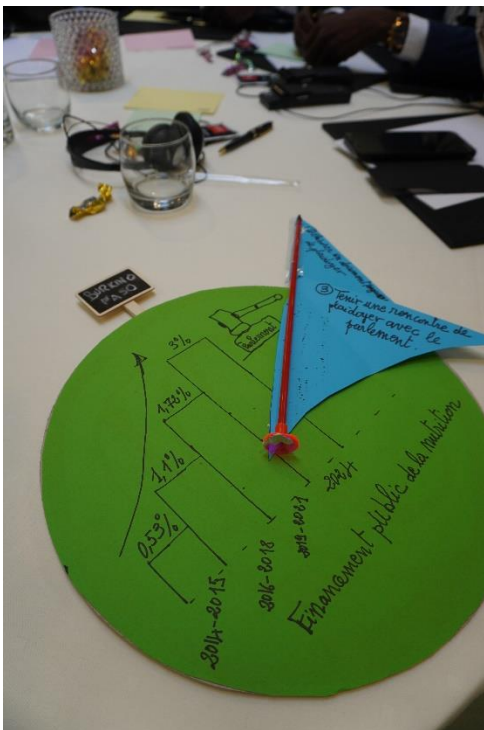
4 Towards sustainability

4.1 Developing sustainability plans

During this session, each platform was asked to build a target for sustainability in an exercise divided in two parts:

1. During the first part, the platforms were asked to define what are the main targets to be achieved to reach the sustainability of the platform. Those targets were then written on a paper in the shape of a target.
2. In the second part, the platforms were asked to define the three critical activities to be achieved to reach those targets. Those activities were then written on the wings of an arrow.

In the following session, the platforms were divided into three groups to present their targets and activities to the other platforms of the group.



(Burkina Faso)



(Kenya)



(Guatemala)



(Cote D'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and Niger)

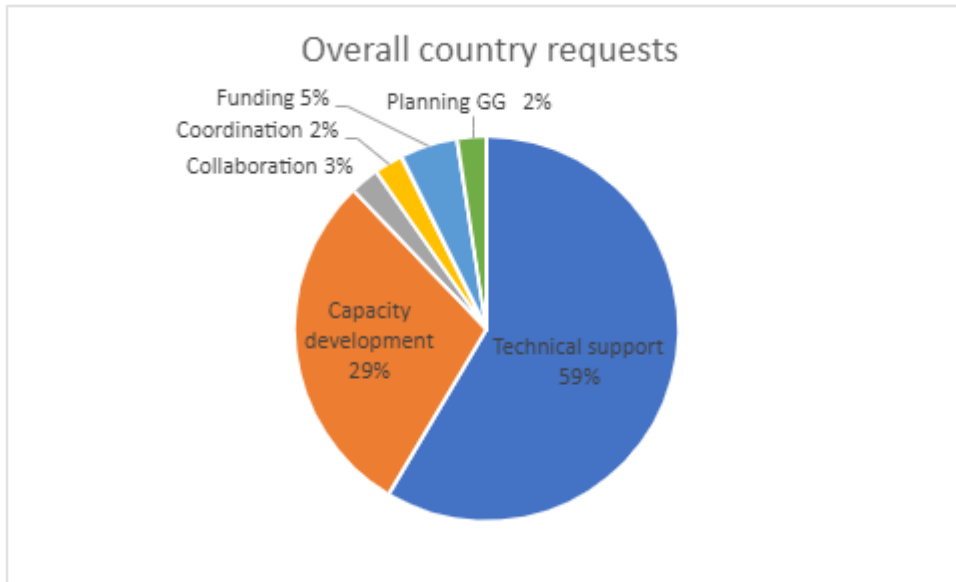
4.2 Feedback and reflections on the 2023 Global Gathering

To capture reflections and support requests in the spirit of lessons learned, cards were handed out to all participants to document feedback on the topics of communication, gender, sustainability, and exchange. The feedback highlighted the significance of understanding how targeted communication is used for right decisions and promotes the use of nutritional data and nutritional awareness.

- One standout quote emphasised, 'Critical role of gender in shaping nutritional outcomes'. Another participant expressed, 'Sustainability should be a core focus in all aspects of nutrition and important session at conference was the exchange of sustainability plans, learn from countries about different approaches and methodologies, share experiences on achievements and challenges.'
- The importance of knowledge exchange and collaboration was emphasised, with one participant stating, 'Sharing experiences, updates, lessons learnt, and innovative approaches build the network and collaboration between professionals across different communities and cultures. It is vital for addressing global nutrition challenges and achieving sustainable development goals.'

During the conference, participants submitted a total of **41 support requests to the Global Coordination team** to be addressed on a rolling basis before the next GG. Upon analysis of the country support requests (*Graph 1*), it was found that the **majority (59%)** were seeking additional **technical support**. This indicates a strong emphasis on assistance in terms of knowledge, expertise, and resources in specific areas. Additionally, **29%** of the requests focused on **capacity development**, highlighting the desire to enhance skills and capabilities within their respective countries. The remaining requests encompassed various fields such as funding, collaboration, coordination, and next GG planning. These findings indicate a multifaceted approach towards addressing global challenges and fostering cooperation among countries.

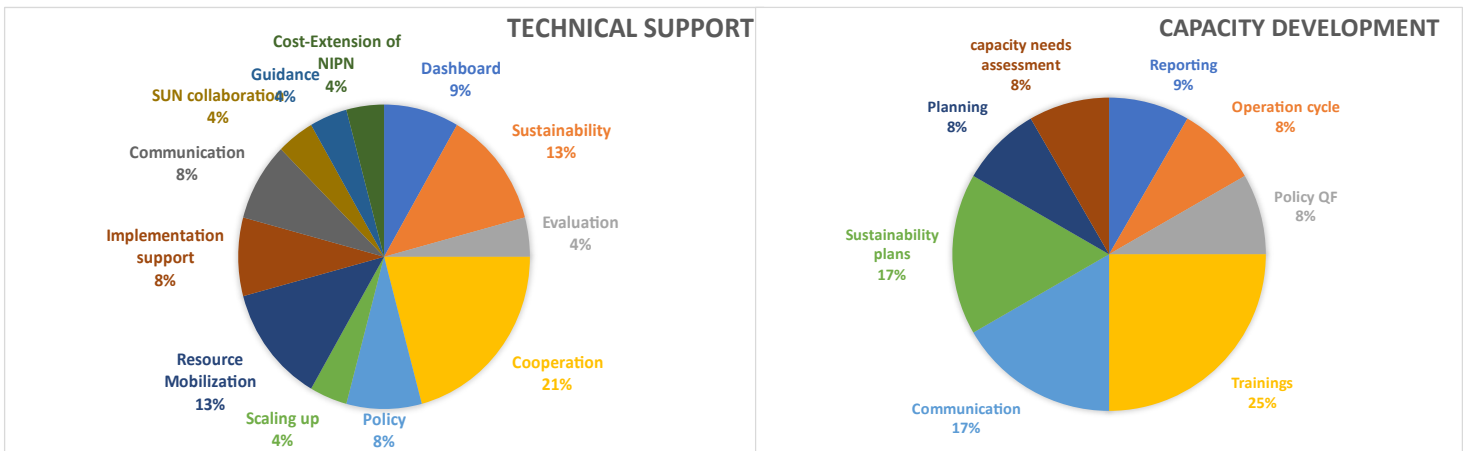
Graph 1: Overall country requests, NIPN GG



Graph 2 and Graph 3 indicate the functional areas for the most significant country requests, technical support (59%) (for more details see annex 4) and capacity development (29%) and capacity development (29%).

Graph 2: Functional areas of technical support

Graph 3: Functional areas of CD



Action points

To address the strong emphasis on technical support and capacity building, alongside requests for funding, collaboration, communication, coordination, and planning, some follow-up actions to be considered are to:

- specify the technical support requests and identify establish key partnerships/networks to provide the necessary expertise and resources;
- develop knowledge-sharing mechanism to facilitate the exchange of technical know-how and best practices among countries and organisations;

- design and implement capacity-building initiatives in relevant areas to enhance skills and capabilities within organisations, focusing on the areas highlighted in the requests.

Overall, these follow-up actions aim to leverage the findings from the GG to foster cooperation, address global challenges, and enhance the capacity of organisations to tackle specific issues. The implementation strategies will depend on the nature of the requests, available resources, and the involvement of relevant stakeholders.

5 Closing

The gathering was closed with appreciative words by Helena Guarín, Head of Nutrition Section, Sustainable Agri-Food Systems and Fisheries, Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Commission and insights from the NIPN implementing partner in Guatemala, Julio López Payés, National Director and Representative of CATIE Guatemala.

6 Key messages and action points

This section highlights the key messages and action points from the various working sessions and meetings to be addressed ahead of the next GG.

Contribution Study

Action points:

- C4N-NIPN Global Coordination will organise a webinar when the full results will be available.

CD Task Force

Action points:

- Continue the CD task force with a physical meeting during the next global gathering;
- Continue exchanging experiences on CD activities with the participants of this CD Task Force meeting outside of GG (regular emails, teleconference, etc.);
- Translate some of the training materials to make them more accessible to other platforms;
- Investigate on how to better monitor the impact of those CD activities.

EC-NIS

Action points:

- The interviews will be finalised and a draft first version of the joint case study will be circulated among the partners.

Participant feedback cards

Action points:

- Specify the technical support requests and identify key establish partnerships/networks to provide the necessary expertise and resources;
- Develop knowledge-sharing mechanism to facilitate the exchange of technical know-how and best practices among countries and organisations;
- Design and implement capacity-building initiatives in relevant areas to enhance skills and capabilities within organisations, focusing on the areas highlighted in the requests.

Meetings on Guatemala webinar on decentralisation experience

Action points:

- C4N-NIPN Global Coordination will organise a webinar for the Guatemala team to present its tools and decentralisation experience.

7 Conclusions

The 5th annual Global Gathering in Brussels was carried out with success and enthusiasm, as seen from the feedback cards. The objectives of strengthening communication objectives were met and participants expressed satisfaction with skills and perspectives gained on balancing gender bias. The Global Coordination team will continue to provide support on monitoring implementation, as well as follow up with support requests on a rolling basis via the quarterly progress meetings. The capacity development task force is fully functioning and will continue the monitoring of capacity development initiatives, while also proactively seeking out opportunities to facilitate peer-to-peer learning to build upon important lessons learned at the country level.

Platform teams, donors, implementing partners and the global coordination team were delighted to have the possibility to meet in person for this year's Global Gathering, which provided fruitful possibilities for continued collaboration and new opportunities for platform strengthening. In the afternoon after the gathering the participants took the opportunity, while in Brussels, to visit governance institutions of the European Union: the European Parliament and the European Commission.

Annex 1: Agendas

DAY 1 – TUESDAY 6 JUNE 2023			
TIME	TOPIC	INTERPRETATION	METHODOLOGY
8.30 9.00	Registration	Interpreters: 2 EN-FR, 2 EN-SP – 8 hours	
09.00 09.15	Welcome	EN>FR EN>SP	
09.15 09.35	Opening speeches from donors and partners	EN>FR EN>SP	Leonard Mizzi, Head of Unit, Sustainable Agri-Food Systems and Fisheries, Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Commission Christoph Langenkamp, Programme Director Knowledge for Nutrition / Capacity for Nutrition Chika Hayashi, Chief, Nutrition Data Unit, Data & Analytics Section, UNICEF
09.35 10.35	Introductions 9 countries + GC + partners	EN<>FR EN<>SP	Table to table microphone 1 person from a country introduces their team and says what they are most excited to share or hear at the meeting
10.35 11.00	COFFEE BREAK		
11.00 12.10	Ice breakers in country groups	-	Lego communication game
12.10 13.40	LUNCH BREAK + Group photo		
13.40 14.00	Contribution study presentation	EN>FR EN>SP	Online presentation
14.00 14.45	Q&A	EN<>FR EN<>SP	Discussion
14.45 15.15	Updates from platforms since GG 2022 on sustainability: Exchange on the development, implementation, and monitoring of sustainability plans	3x3 presenters	Poster rotation Country teams appoint someone to stand at and present their poster (can change on each rotation = 3 presenters) 5 min: Rotation 1: 10 min: Country person presents to group. 12 min: Questions and discussion of poster with group
15.15 15.45	COFFEE BREAK		

15.45 16.45	Sustainability Planning 2nd & 3rd round of posters	As above	Rotation 2: As above Rotation 3 As above
16.45 16.55	Day 1 wrap up NOTE: Reminder to fill in lists for visits on day 3.	EN>FR EN>SP	
17.00 17.30	Organising team debrief and planning day 2		
19.00 21.00	DINNER AT HOTEL		

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE 2023			
TIME	TOPIC	INTERPRETATION	METHODOLOGY
9.00 9.10	Opening day 2	EN>FR EN>SP	
9.10 10.00	Communication to decision makers	FR>EN	Presentation
10.00 11.00	Improving an existing policy brief		Working groups (by country) 5 min: Break into working groups. 55 min: Based on what you have learnt work on making changes to an existing policy brief you have developed.
11.00 11.30	COFFEE BREAK NOTE: If necessary, can be a working coffee break		
11.30 12.30	LUNCH BREAK NOTE: CD Task Force members are having a working lunch session	EN<>FR EN<>SP	Wellington ~18 – 20 pp
12.30 14.00	Avoiding gender bias communication	EN>FR SP>EN	Interactive session
14.00 15.00	Expert exchange session, 3 to 4 groups: data, communication, policy, coordination	EN<>SP EN<>FR	Working groups (by expertise area) 5 min: Divide into expertise groups. 80 min: Guided discussion on gender Transformation Approaches with clear outcomes.
15.00 15.30	COFFEE BREAK		
15.30 16.30	NIPN and SUN collaboration	EN>FR EN>SP	Panel discussion

16.30 17.30	Policy brief finalisation		Working groups (by country) <u>3 min</u> : Back into country tables. <u>25 min</u> : Complete policy brief.
16.30 17.30	(in parallel) EC-NIS / NIPN meeting	EN<>FR	Meeting Venue: Wellington
17.30 17.35	Wrap-up of Day 2	EN>FR EN>SP	
Organising team debrief and planning day 3			

DAY 3 – THURSDAY 8 JUNE 2023			
TIME	TOPIC	INTERPRETATION	METHODOLOGY
8.50 9.00	Opening day 3	EN>FR EN>SP	
9.00 10.00	Development of sustainability plans	-	Jane Badham Julien Chalimbaud, Consultant, C4N-NIPN Ingo Neu, Consultant, C4N-NIPN
10.30 11.10	Follow up from session in Sustainability plans - Country sharing on their targets and activities in 3 country groups	1x EN<>SP	Jane Badham, NIPNs
11.10 11.45	Meeting highlights and Platform requests	EN<>FR EN<>SP	Jane Badham, all participants
11.45 12.00	Closing remarks	EN>FR EN>SP	Helena Guarin, Head of Nutrition Section, Sustainable Agri-Food Systems and Fisheries, Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Commission Julio López Payés, National Director and Representative of CATIE Guatemala
12.00 12.05	Logistic information for afternoon, Thank you and farewell from Global Coordination	EN>FR EN>SP	Laura Barrington, C4N-NIPN
13.45	Visits to European Commission institutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Parliament: 50 • European Commission: 50 	All	

Annex 2: List of participants

GLOBAL GATHERING PARTICIPATION			
Mr / Ms	LAST NAME	NAME	POSITION
Burkina Faso			
Mr	Nakelse	Pascal	Directeur Informatique et du management de l'information statistique - Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie
Mr	Kambou	Ollo Fabrice	Statisticien - Chargé d'appui sectoriel
Mr	Ouattara	Issa	Charge de communication - Secrétariat technique chargé de l'alimentation et de la nutrition (STAN)/Ministère de la santé
Mr	Ouedraogo	Somwaoga Daniel	Secrétariat Technique Chargé De La Multisectorialité Pour La Nutrition /Ministère De La Santé
Ms	Compaoré	Ella	NIPN coordinator and SUN focal point
Côte d'Ivoire			
Mr	Cisse	Moustapha	Secrétaire Exécutif - SE CONNAPE
Mr	N'dri	Konan Faustin	Chef projet - SE CONNSPE/PNMIN
Mr	N'dri	Ahoutou Louis	Conseiller en politiques et stratégies - SE CONNSPE/PNMIN
Mr	Gbouazo	Tato Oumar	Informaticien - SE CONNAPE/PNMIN
Mr	Akaffou	Ohouo Kevin Serge	Spécialiste Système Information - UNICEF Cote d'Ivoire
Mr	Dosso	Ali	Chef Service S/E et Planification - SE CONNAPE
Ethiopia			
Mr	Dangisso	Dr. Mesay	Director General EPHI
Ms	Hafebo	Dr. Aregash Samuel	NIPN coordinator
Ms	Wondimagegnhu	Dr. Meron	NIPN data analyst
Mr	Yehuala	Gebretsadik	M&E officer
Ms	Endaylalu	Tirsit	IFPRI/ NIPN
Mr	Zerfu	Tadesse Alemu	IFPRI/ NIPN
Ms	Sarkar	Archana	GIZ Advisor
Lao PDR			
Ms	Sissomboun	Ounavong	Director General - Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and Investment
Mr	Siththorot	Rasphone	Director General - Development Research Institute, Ministry of Planning and Investment
Mr	Thiengthepvongsa	Ousavanh	Director General - Socio-economic Policy Research Institute, Lao Academy Social and Economic Sciences (LASES)
Ms	Chanthalanouvong	Thirakha	Director General - Department of Social Statistics, Lao Statistic Bureau (LSB)
Mr	Ounaphom	Dr. Phonepaseuth	Director General - Department of Health and Hygiene Promotion, Ministry of Health

Ms	Keonakhone	Dr Phonesavanh	Director General - National Nutrition Centre, Department of Health and Hygiene Promotion, Ministry of Health and SUN focal point
Mr	Dakurah	Prosper	Nutrition Specialist - UNICEF Lao PDR
Mr	Viphongxay	Vilon	Programme Officer - UNICEF Lao PDR
Guatemala			
Mr	López	Julio Gustavo	CATIE Representative
Mr	Say	Eduardo Rolando	PiNN Coordinator
Ms	Ogaldes	Gabriela María	PiNN Nutrition Specialist
Ms	Chavaque Villatoro	Lesly	PiNN M&E
Ms	Lou	Ninoshka	PiNN Communicator
Kenya			
Mr	Mathenge	James Theuri Gatungu	Project Manager - NIPFN Project
Mr	Kipruto	Samuel	Senior Data Specialist - NIPFN Project
Ms	Karanja	Lillian	Public Health Nutritionist - NIPFN Project
Mr	Abdi Duba	Mohamednur	Corporate Communication Officer - Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA)
Mr	Wairimu	Allan Gathuru	Data Manager - NIPFN Project
Ms	Matu	Sicity	Nutrition Specialist - UNICEF, Kenya Country Office
Mr	Macharia	Eric Denis	Statistician - NIPFN, KNBS
Ms	Onsomu	Eldah	Director, Economic Management Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA)
Niger			
Mr	Kebe	Mababou	Chef de mission Assistance Technique
Mr	Aboubacar	Mahamadou	Coordonnateur Cellule Nutrition
Mr	Bakoye	Saadou	Secrétaire Général du Ministère du Plan, Président du Comité National de Pilotage de la PNIN
Mr	Hillebrand	Raphael	Niger Advisor NIPN
Mr	Samaila	Ibrahim	Coordinateur
Mr	Sani	Oumarou	Secrétaire Général
Mr	Theodore Yatta	Almoustapha	Analyste Principal
Mr	Paraiso	Vincent Moussa	Secrétaire Général Adjoint
Uganda			

Mr	Muwonge	James	Director-Uganda Bureau of Statistics
Ms	Ndeman	Bernadette	Office of the Prime Minister
Mr	Mulengani	Moses	Commissioner-Office of the Prime Minister/Project Coordinator/NIPN II
Mr	Fusheini	Zackaria	UNICEF, Nutrition Manager
Zambia			
Ms	Mapani	Muntanga Kampengele	Executive Director NFNC and SUN focal point
Mr	Mhuru	Mathews	Executive Director NFNC
Ms	Kaunda	Juliane	Zambia Advisor NIPN
Ms	Nakazwe Daka	Chola	Chief Statistician ZamStat
Mr	Mukata	Lubinda	Field coordinator ZamStat
Speakers			
Mr	Mizzi	Leonard	Director F3
Ms	Khan	Afshan	SUN coordinator
Expert Advisory Group			
Mr	Saha	Kuntal	WHO
Ms	Verstraeten	Roosmarijn	EC Joint Research Centre
Ms	Hayashi	Chika	Senior Advisor, Monitoring and Statistics - UNICEF
Mr	Jef	Leroy	IFPRI
UNICEF RO			
Ms	Michalska	Alina	Nutrition Specialist ESARO
WAHO - West African Health Organisation			
Mr	Keita	Namoudou	West African Health Organisation
INTPA F3			
Mr	Pavard	Xavier	NIPN Programme Officer, F3
Ms	Guarin	Helena	Head of Nutrition Section, F3
Ms	Chaouki	Fadoi	Programme officer, F3
UNICEF Brussels			
Mr	Guerrero Oteyza	Saul	Senior Advisor, Financing for Child Nutrition & Development
Ms	Schuller	Annemarie	Partnership Manager
Mr	De Coster	Peter	Senior Programme Manager
FIIAPP			

Ms	Rodriguez Dias	Alba	EU4SUN FIIAPP
Facilitators			
Ms	Badham	Jane	Global Gathering facilitator
Ms	Walter	Benedicte	Global Gathering facilitator
GIZ			
Mr	Clausen	Kim	C4N
Ms	Barrington	Laura	C4N-NIPN
Ms	Baille	Barbara	C4N-NIPN
Ms	Rinnert	Marlene	C4N-NIPN
Mr	Langenkamp	Christoph	K4N
Ms	Estopa Gomez	Anna	C4N-NIPN
Ms	Mirsaidova	Manzura	C4N-NIPN
Ms	Rimbaud	Kimberly	C4N-NIPN
Mr	Frisch	Sebastian	C4N
Mr	Ntazinda	Chris	C4N-NIPN
Ms	Baldeon	Frida	C4N-NIPN
Mr	Chalimbaud	Julien	C4N consultant
Mr	Keita	Youssef	C4N consultant
Ms	Gil	Tatiana	C4N consultant
Mr	Neu	Ingo	C4N consultant
Ms	Hoeffler	Heike	Project Manager - Zambia
Ms	Friedrich	Juliane	K4N - E4N
Mr	Malik	Waqas	C4N Advisory
Ms	Dib	Sarah	C4N Advisory

Annex 3: Side meetings summaries

Several additional side meetings were arranged during or after the global gathering:

Exchange of experience on sub-national NIPNs

Date: Tuesday 6 June 2023

Participants: Members of the NIPN teams Ethiopia, Lao PDR and Kenya

Background: The respective NIPN teams have started or are planning to roll-out NIPNs at sub-national level. There was interest expressed during recent QPM calls to embark on bi- or tri-lateral discussions to learn from the experiences and approaches that the teams used or plan to use in this context. The meeting was a first step to initiate the communication and experience exchange process and to also discuss how to continue the communication. The following questions were discussed:

1) In how many locations at sub-national level do you plan to establish NIPNs and what is the starting date?

Ethiopia plans to implement NIPN in 1-2 out of six regions. So far, a pre-feasibility study was conducted to help identify the particular location for this roll-out.

In **Lao PDR** six out of 17 provinces were selected (two in the Northern part, two in the middle and two in the south of Lao PDR. The activities were started in July 2022 and representatives of the six provinces were invited to participate in a Quarterly Review Meeting (not to be confused with the QPM calls). Since then follow-up work continued, including capacity needs assessments that were conducted in all six provinces.

Kenya is planning or considering establishing NIPNs in 15 out of 47 counties and work in the first (pilot) county started in November 2022.

2) What experiences are you interested in sharing and learning from? What questions would you like to discuss with the other teams? *The following list of topics is not in a specific order or by country.*

1. What exactly is it that other countries want to achieve with the roll-out at sub-national level?
2. How to select specific locations (there are also politically sensitive dimensions to justify why only certain locations and not others)
3. What to roll-out at sub-national level and what not?
4. What activities or steps to start with?
5. What NIPN coordination structures to use/establish at sub-national level?
6. How to identify/decide on the best possible institutional/organizational arrangements?
7. What are enabling factors for sub-national NIPNs? How to plan sub-national implementation?
8. Are there any sub-national implementation plans that can be shared?
9. How to fund sub-national roll-out and implementation of activities?
10. Experiences to share with mobilisation of resources?

3) How to continue the experience exchange process?

It was agreed to organise a teleconference to further identify and agree on the topics to discuss and exchange experiences. In the future, a teleconference will continued be organized, possibly also a webinar, and there will also be the option for bi-or multilateral country visits.

Next Step: C4N-NIPN Global Coordination will organise a teleconference on 21 June at 10:00 in Ethiopia/Kenya, which is 14:00 in Lao PDR.

Meeting with Burkina Faso PNIN Team post GG

Date 9 June 2023, 08:30 – 09:00

Participants: Ella COMPAORE, Laura BARRINGTON, Pascal NAKELSE, Julien CHALIMBAUD, Daniel OUEDRAOGO, Olló FABRICE, Youssef KEITA

Meeting room: GIZ-C4N

Agenda	Notes	Action point	Lead	Deadline
Feedback	PNIN Burkina Faso (BF) has gained visibility at national and regional level. The last ECOWAS nutrition forum was a great opportunity for the PNIN visibility.	Keep progressing	PNIN BF Team	NA
Request to GC	Support to the review of the National strategic nutrition plan	Define and provide support to the PNIN BF	Global Coord.	TBD
	Support and participate in the forum on nutrition data value chain in Côte d'Ivoire	Define and provide support to the PNIN BF	Global Coord.	TBD
	Support and strengthen collaboration at regional level with SUN and WHO, etc.	Define and provide support to the PNIN BF	Global Coord.	TBD

Meeting with Niger and Guatemala

Guatemala offered an overview of the NIPN in Guatemala, especially focusing on the decentralisation of the platform. Guatemala uses a Governance index to categorize the counties and priorities its support. The index is composed of 7 indicators and 31 variables, and it is updated every 4 months.

Next step: C4N-NIPN Global Coordination will organize a webinar for the Guatemala team to present its tools and decentralization experience.

Annex 4: Country to country peer exchange requests in detail

Requesting country	Requestee	Functional area	Request
Guatemala	Laos	Data	Data analysis and answering questions with the academic sector July 2023.
	Ethiopia	Exchange	Experience of NIPN strategy, methodology, research, results
Kenya	Niger	Finance	Learn from financial system
	Laos, Guatemala	Sustainability	Sub-national roll-out of NIPN
Ethiopia	Laos	Sustainability / Data	Cascading NIPN at sub-national level NIS and NIPN collaboration Putting DHIS data under NIPN dashboard
	Niger	Policy	Learn from NIPN to be embedded in existing government structure and projects
	Guatemala	Sustainability	Cascading NIPN at sub-national level Securing funding from the government Idea of permanent trainings
	Kenya	Data	Securing administrative data from sectors for the dashboard Unified dashboard
Uganda	East African countries	Exchange	Share experiences within the East African Community
Burkina	Ethiopia	Exchange	Acquire experience of Ethiopia in the implementation of NIPN

Annex 5: QR codes to NIPN applications (shared during GG)

Burkina Faso



Burkina Faso developed a mobile app, to be downloaded on a mobile device. It allows users to get the latest nutrition trends, most updated indicators.

Guatemala



The GT QR code consolidates and makes all the applications developed by CATIE available to the public in order to help the Guatemalan government and SESAN (Food and nutrition security secretariat) monitor nutrition and food interventions.

Kenya



Kenya has launched its NIPFN data portal in 2022, attached to its NIPFN website. Latest nutrition trends and policy briefs produced by the platform can be found.



NiPN

National Information
Platforms for Nutrition

National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN) is an initiative of the European Commission's Directorate General for International Partnerships. NIPN is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and UNICEF. The NIPN Global Coordination unit is implemented by GIZ.



C4N-NIPN

GIZ
Rue de la Charité 33
B-1210 Bruxelles
Belgium

www.nipn-nutrition-platforms.org