

Concept Note

NIPN Global Gathering 2024

Date: 22-25 October 2024

Location: Ethiopia, Addis Ababa

Context

Initiated by the European Union in 2015, the National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN) aligns with the global Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement to enable evidence-based interventions that enhance nutrition, contributing significantly towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). NIPN aims to establish and maintain country-driven and -owned platforms that strengthen the analysis of nutrition data, thereby enhancing policymaking and programmatic outcomes in nutrition. These platforms are now active in nine countries: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kenya, Laos, Niger, Uganda, and Zambia. Best practices of the NIPN approach are also being introduced in a limited number of EU partners and SUN member countries through NIPN for Nutrition Information Systems (NIPN4NIS).

To reinforce the implementation of the initiative and harmonize technical assistance and capacity strengthening, a Global Coordination (GC) unit has been operational since 2015. Since 2018, the GC team has hosted annual global gatherings of all NIPN countries, crucial for assessing national achievements, exchanging expertise, and deliberating insights.

The 2024 gathering in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, will focus on assessing and building NIPN sustainability in an evolving policy environment, as well as, ongoing progress and challenges, and advancing the collective mission of the NIPN initiative. Global Gathering participants will encompass colleagues from the government representatives, NIPN platforms, implementing partners, donors as well as partners from EC-NIS and other nutrition data initiatives.

This 6th NIPN Global Gathering will take place 5 months before the Nutrition For Growth summit in Paris (N4G in March 2025), where countries will formulate pledges, demonstrating their commitments to improve nutrition. In this particular context, NIPN GG will be an opportunity to reflect on the needs for governmental and international commitments toward nutrition data systems and convince decision makers on the importance to invest in nutrition information. The format of this call for investment for nutrition data will be further defined together with involved partners.

Objectives

As NIPN progresses in its second phase of implementation, this year's Global Gathering adopts the timely theme, **"NIPN for the future: Sustainability in an evolving policy environment."** The event aims to achieve several critical objectives:

Sustainability: Support the further development and implementation of sustainability plans, promote NIPN's role among national decision-makers at global and country events, advocate for domestic funding within the framework of financial/institutional/technical sustainability and review the progress of platforms' rollout to the sub-national level, especially in countries with devolved governance.

Review progress: Explore each country's advancements in implementing NIPN strategies, highlighting key successes and challenges.

Policy environment: Discuss the evolving policy environment and its impact on NIPN implementation. Look into NIPN future directions and emerging opportunities.

Knowledge exchange: Facilitate an exchange of insights between platforms on best practices and lessons learnt, enhancing mutual understanding, collaboration, and opportunities for peer-to-peer support.

Tackle challenges: Organize targeted sessions and working groups designed to explore specific challenges and opportunities within the NIPN framework.

Discussions at the event will encompass a review of the global policy environment for nutrition and examine the linkages of global agendas and processes within NIPN activities, such as Nutrition for Growth (N4G), Scaling Up Nutrition Global Gathering (SUN GG), Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus (HDPN), and the National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation. Emphasis will also be placed on gender as an essential cross-cutting theme throughout the event's discussions and activities. To accommodate the diverse communication needs of all participants, on-site simultaneous translation services will be provided in English, Spanish, and French.

Key activities

Participants will have an opportunity to:

- Showcase successes and exchange on challenges with NIPN colleagues and nutrition experts.
- Exchange ideas on the evolving national data ecosystems to enhance the impact of data on decision-making processes including the implications of new developments in technology, like AI, for NIPN.
- Enhance advocacy to attract national donors including an exchange on the development of business cases and promoting NIPN's achievements.
- Discuss strengthening partnerships to facilitate institutional sustainability.
- Discuss resource mobilization opportunities in the face of changing financial modalities and their possible impacts on sustainability, including, potential budget cuts and investigate additional areas for NIPN collaboration, e.g. private sector partnerships and sustainable value chains.
- Exchange updates on EC-NIS and NIPN progress and discuss further collaboration.

Partners from the EU, BMZ, EC-NIS projects (WHO, UNICEF), heads of country EUDs, members of the [EAG](#), colleagues from SUN, EU4SUN, donor institutions, and relevant nutrition stakeholders will be invited to join the event on-site. Costs related to travel and accommodation will be at their own expense.

List of potential sessions

Implementing partners (CATIE, GIZ and UNICEF) are proposing the following sessions at the Global Gathering:

- *Critical synergies between global initiatives and NIPN objectives.*
- *Overview the project implementation successes and ongoing challenges.*
- *Updates from platforms on sustainability: exchange on the development, implementation, and monitoring of sustainability plans, best practice exchange examples.*
- *NIPN4NIS as a solution for strengthening multisectoral nutrition information systems.*

- *The Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus and leveraging the NIPN data ecosystem*
- *N4G commitments and accountability: what NIPN platform are doing for N4G tracking and how to help countries to formulate realistic and ambitious pledges for the next N4G in Paris*
- *Gender analysis and practical examples of TGN implementation at policy level*
- *Food system transformation and national pathways*
- *Data, policy, coordination*
- *Strengthening communication materials*
- *Review of ToC on Global and Country level*
- *Innovations, updates on new guidelines*

Working groups on selected topics enable peer-to-peer exchanges on relevant issues, often upon request by the platforms. These topics include the roll-out of NIPN at the sub-national level and its role in the sustainability of NIPN, the CD task force, EC-NIS and NIPN collaboration, IT tools and dashboards, engagement with academia, data analysis (including gender), multisectoral coordination, the policy analysis cycle, and project management.

Note: A collaboration with the EC-NIS project is planned to take place during this event. The specific details, including the format and nature of the activities, will be finalized and confirmed later.