Synthesis Report

NiPN
National Information Platforms for Nutrition

Seventh NIPN Global Gathering

Lusaka, Zambia

23-25 September 2025

C4N-NIPN Global Coordination

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 is 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.

Group photo of Global Gathering participants in Lusaka, Zambia – 23 September 2025. Photo courtesy of GIZ.

Participants gathered before the start of the plenary session. Photo courtesy of GIZ

To all NIPN colleagues,

We have valued the community we have built together as NIPN, the opportunities to collaborate and connect on shared experiences, the bonds we have built with you over the years, and the bonds you have built with each other.

There has been turnover across all organisations, but there has always been continuity of a core of colleagues, and new colleagues have been warmly welcomed into the NIPN community spirit.

We have valued the continued exchanges we have had over the years, the opportunity to meet different NIPN teams, working in different context and environments, and how much we have learned from countries through trainings, workshops and personal interactions.

We have also valued the real strong efforts in making NIPN work in your countries, the huge amount of work you have, as we regularly learned during our Quarterly Progress Monitoring calls, and your singular and dedicated ambition to improve the nutritional situation through data.

We appreciate the way country teams accepted us, the global team, not as external consultant or experts, but as members of your team. It has been a pleasure for us to provide technical assistance, capacity building and needs-based country support.

For you, our NIPN colleagues and platform teams, we wish determination and perseverance in your efforts to keep NIPN alive. We wish you may maintain the conviction of the importance of developing evidence-based nutrition programming, and that you find fulfilment in working to improve the nutrition circumstances in your countries and globally.

We wish you continued success in your work for NIPN, in advancing multisectoral collaboration, strengthening nutrition data governance, improving data quality and accountability, reviewing nutrition indicators, fostering cross -country learning, ensuring sustainability, and capturing and reflecting on lessons learnt in the process.

We also wish for each team member to be able to share the knowledge acquired during these years and to be recognized and rewarded for your continued efforts in a changing environment.

Finally, we hope that all platform colleagues keep their identity and their great humanity.

Laura Barrington

C4N-NIPN Global Coordination

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1. Organisation and objectives

1.1 Background

Initiated by the European Union (EU) 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 selected number of EU partner and SUN member countries through NIPN for Nutrition Information Systems (NIPN4NIS). To reinforce the implementation of the initiative and harmonise 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.

In 2025, the NIPN Global Gathering (GG) took place from 23 to 25 September in Lusaka, Zambia, under the theme *Reflecting on progress to maintain nutrition impact.* The event brought together over 60 participants from government institutions, NIPN country platforms, implementing partners, donors, and technical institutions. Held at a crucial moment, as the second phase of NIPN's external funding is coming to an end, the 2025 Gathering served as a timely space to review progress, share lessons learned, and discuss the way forward. Over three days, participants reflected on NIPN's contribution to strengthening accountability and evidence-based decision-making in nutrition. The sustainability of the platforms was at the heart of the discussions, which focused on sharing the best practices and approaches for embedding NIPN processes, products, and activities that made difference across institutional, financial, and technical dimensions — creating strong frameworks that can adapt to progress national priorities and resource constraints.

1.2 Objectives

As NIPN progressed in its final year, the 2025 NIPN GG adopted the timely theme, 'Reflecting on Progress to Sustain Nutrition Impact.' The event successfully delivered on its critical objectives:

1. **Celebrate achievements**: participants recognized the tangible results of years of collaboration and commitment. Platforms highlighted country-led successes, innovative approaches and progress in building nutrition data systems and influencing policy.
2. **Advance sustainability:** countries presented how they are integrating NIPN within national structures, securing funding, and institutionalising practices to ensure sustained impact beyond the project's lifetime. Lessons were shared on sustainability strategies, institutionalization, partnerships, and domestic resource mobilization.
3. **Capture and exchange knowledge**: the GG facilitated the synthesis and exchange of country experiences, tools, and insights across themes such as capacity building, dashboard and repository management and artificial intelligence (AI) applications. Strategic leadership was discussed in the context of multisectoral collaboration, resilience, and responsiveness during transitions. A special emphasis was placed on the integration of gender dimensions into data systems, analysis, and policy dialogue at country level. Participants also discussed how to strengthen advocacy and communication strategies to enhance data use in decision-making.

4. **Position NIPN contributions to achieving N4G 2025 commitments**: discussions demonstrated how NIPN has contributed to advancing global nutrition accountability, enabling countries to monitor progress, assess impact, and align with their N4G commitments and other global nutrition targets.
5. **Build bridges for future collaboration**: participants addressed opportunities to integrate NIPN tools, knowledge, and networks into future programmes and projects such as Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) and other nutrition data-focused development cooperation and global agendas such as the Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus.

1.3 Format and methodology

The three-day in-person gathering used a mix of methods, informative sessions, roundtables, working groups, presentations, Q&A sessions and bilateral meetings, to maximise learning, strategic discussions and exchanges among participants. Preparatory work included diverse materials (e.g. presentations and posters) which are available on the event website and translated into English, French and Spanish.

Jane Badham contributed to facilitating the event. Her guidance helped ensure dynamic discussions and active participation throughout all sessions. On-site simultaneous interpretation was provided. All sessions were documented by the Global Coordination team to capture key insights and outcomes which led to this report. The agenda is available in Annex 1.

2. NIPN in the country context

2.1 Opening remarks – A decade of NIPN: Milestones, impact and future directions

The 7th annual Global Gathering was opened by high-level guests. **Mr. Buumba Siamalube**, representative of the German Embassy in Lusaka, praised the strong commitment demonstrated by the NIPN Zambia team. He highlighted that nutrition initiatives in the country are supported by robust, evidence-based data and that this experience offers valuable lessons to be learned and shared collaboratively among stakeholders

Up next was **Ms. Amparo González Díez**, Head of the Nutrition Sector at the Directorate-General for International Partnerships of the European Commission. She highlighted the positive and tangible progress achieved since the launch of NIPN in 2015, notably influencing national multi-sectoral nutrition strategies and supporting more efficient allocation of resources to nutrition. Looking ahead, Ms. González Díez stressed that, as the NIPN initiative approaches its conclusion, ensuring sustainability and capacity to adapt to evolving realities must remain a central priority. Finally, she underlined that the initiative's achievements have established a strong foundation for further advancements in data-driven nutrition governance and reaffirmed the commitment to building on this progress.

2.2 NIPN platform updates

Following the introductions, participants convened in smaller multi-country groups to present the key achievements from the past year. Each country showcased its work through posters[1] that addressed two guiding questions: (1) How is NIPN contributing to nutrition information systems (NIS) and multisectoral coordination? and (2) What multisectoral evidence has NIPN generated that has influenced important policies and decisions related to budget allocation?

[1] All posters can be accessed on NIPN website: 2025 NIPN GLOBAL GATHERING – 23-25 SEPTEMBER 2025 - NIPN - National Information Platforms for Nutrition.

In **Burkina Faso**, the NIPN platform has reinforced its nutrition information system (NIS) through the development of dashboards and scorecards that enable the analysis of multisectoral indicators. These tools have supported a more coordinated monitoring of the nutrition situation across sectors and improved the accessibility of data for decision-makers. However, persistent challenges remain, particularly regarding data sharing and system interoperability.

In **Niger**, data visualisation tools (DVT) have also contributed to improve multisectoral coordination. The nutrition data dashboard has been updated through structured, participatory sectoral workshops, achieving around 80% data completeness. This participatory approach has fostered greater ownership among ministries, while efforts are still underway to strengthen collaboration mechanisms for data input and to explore the digitalisation of data collection. NIPN Niger has also invested in long-term capacity development, including media toolkit and training. Moreover, the platform successfully engaged civil society and journalists, who now play a key role in advocating for nutrition and disseminating NIPN analyses.

Côte d'Ivoire has made advancements in both data integration and institutional coordination. The platform incorporated nutrition indicators into the DHIS2 system and developed a glossary to harmonise indicator definitions and usage across ministries. The establishment of a new government structure for nutrition coordination (CONANUT) reinforces high-level commitment to multisectoral action. Additionally, NIPN has contributed to mainstream the gender dimension into policymaking, as this approach is being institutionalised in policy frameworks. The platform is looking to formalise partnerships with research institutions to ensure continued evidence generation and policy influence.

In **Lao PDR**, artificial intelligence (AI) tools have been leveraged to strengthen the multisectoral information system. The NIPN platform has established a hub with an AI-powered search engine that centralises relevant evidence-based information and analyses and improves its accessibility. Moreover, the country platform has rolled out the NIPN approach in six (out of 18) provinces, which is mostly advanced in Salavan, contributing to refining data systems to inform more targeted nutrition actions. **Guatemala** also reported advances in digitalisation, with NIPN supporting institutions in the health and agriculture sectors to use digital tools that improve nutrition governance and facilitate tracking of both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive indicators. Similarly, **Uganda** expanded the use of tools such as Open Data Kit and district-level dashboards, alongside a functionality scorecard, to monitor nutrition program performance across different administrative levels.

Delegates from NIPN Lao PDR presenting platform updates. Photo courtesy of GIZ.

In **Ethiopia**, NIPN delegates highlighted the platform's strong governance structure, which is anchored in a high-level multi-sectoral advisory committee and a technical steering committee (MER-SC), a fact that has been central to its success. The platform has facilitated collaboration between regional public health institutes and universities to generate policy-relevant evidence, providing at the same time technical and financial support. NIPN has now expanded to the regional level through partnerships with the public health institutes in Amhara and Sidama, complementing the alliance with capacity-building activities and provision of digital infrastructure. Moreover, the

platform collaboration with the Ministries of Education and Health led to the development of a school meals booklet for Addis Ababa that is based on healthy diets which are affordable and culturally appropriate.

In **Kenya**, NIPN's multisectoral collaboration enabled the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to integrate nutrition objectives into the National Irrigation Sector Investment Plan, reflecting a growing recognition of nutrition-sensitive approaches beyond the health sector. The platform has also contributed to food security surveillance through its collaboration with the National Drought Management Authority and supported geographic targeting and beneficiary profiling for the Cash and Health Education (NICHE) programme under the national social protection system.

In terms of policy influence and budget allocation, **Ethiopia** provided one of the most substantial examples of evidence-based decision-making. NIPN analyses informed the scaling-up of the 'Seqota Declaration', an ambitious government commitment to end child stunting by 2030. Based on the NIPN's modelling of stunting reduction and mortality outcomes, the Ministry of Health decided to allocate 690 million ETB (some EUR 3.9 million) annually to support the expansion of the initiative.

NIPN **Uganda** used the Lives Saved Tool (LiST) to generate evidence that informed the development of the 'Nutrition Action Plan III (2026–2030)' and the 'Food and Nutrition Policy'. The platform also actively participated in high-level advocacy spaces, including the National Nutrition Forum and the National Nutrition Dialogue, to promote increased domestic financing and stronger multisectoral coordination. Similarly, NIPN **Zambia** used LiST modelling to estimate the impact and cost-effectiveness of nutrition interventions, generating evidence that fed into the review of the '8th National Development Plan.' This analysis revealed that, without stronger action, stunting would remain between 26–31% by 2030 (from 32% in 2024), prompting renewed government commitment to reduce stunting to 15% by the same year. In **Kenya**, NIPN analyses supported the mid-term review of the *Kenya Nutrition Action Plan (KNAP) 2018–2022* and contributed to the integration of nutrition budgets into 14 county integrated development plans.

Finally, **Côte d'Ivoire** and **Burkina Faso** presented how they are exploring different approaches to sustainable financing. In Côte d'Ivoire, discussions are underway on the use of taxes on telecommunications or sugar-sweetened beverages to fund nutrition data collection, such as SMART surveys. Burkina Faso, meanwhile, has called for the institutionalisation of funding mechanisms for NIPN through dedicated national budget lines or partner contributions.

3. The upcoming end of C4N-NIPN and what comes next

The next session was dedicated to clarifying the future of global support for NIPN platforms. Laura Barrington, Head of C4N-NIPN Global Coordination, delivered a presentation on 'The Upcoming end of C4N-NIPN and what comes next', followed by a Q&A session.

Global support to NIPN platforms is currently managed by the C4N-NIPN Global Coordination Unit, part of the EU–BMZ Joint Action 'Capacity for Nutrition' (C4N) under GIZ's 'Knowledge for Nutrition' (K4N) programme, which also supports NIPN Phase II implementation in Ethiopia, Niger, and Zambia. As K4N concludes in April 2026, the new programme Knowledge and 'Policy Coherence for Nutrition' (KPCN) will be launched by BMZ and the EU to provide

Delegates from NIPN Cote d'Ivoire. Photo courtesy of GIZ.

continued but reduced support at global, regional, and national levels. Table 2 in Annex 2 summarises the activities that will be carried out at these three levels. A smaller global team will focus on short-term technical assistance and capacity development, prioritising EU partner and SUN member countries with existing NIPN platforms.

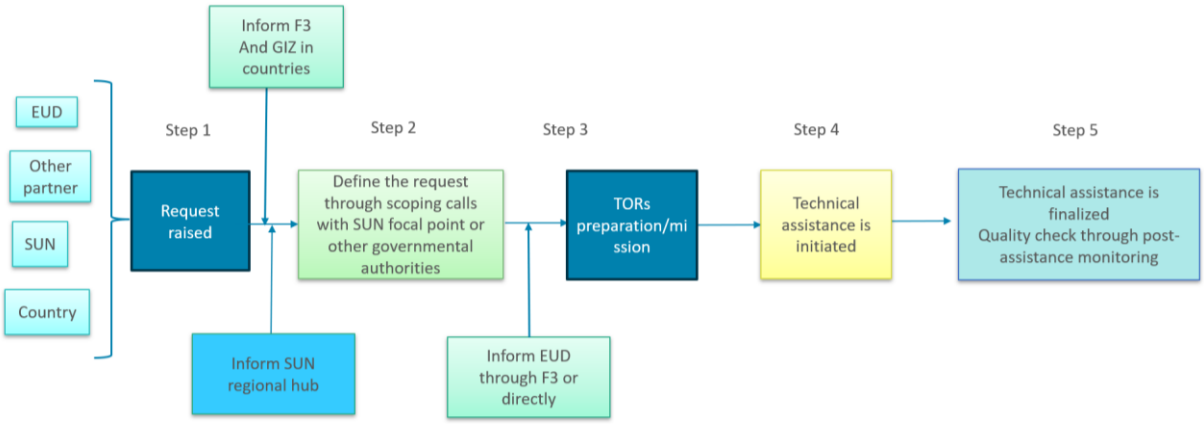
During the Q&A session, participants expressed strong interest in understanding in greater detail the type and modalities of support that will be available under KPCN, given the expected reduction in resources. Some inquired about the availability of support for civil society organisations. On the other hand, some delegates expressed a preference for direct financial support rather than purely technical assistance. As the programme is still in development, Ms. Barrington reaffirmed C4N's commitment to maintaining open communication with platforms as more information becomes available and encouraged country platforms to share their perspectives and suggestions regarding the continuation of support.

4. NIPN for nutrition information system strengthening: Lessons learnt from the first year of NIPN4NIS

NIPN4NIS was initiated in 2024 to provide technical and financial assistance to a limited number of EU partners and SUN member countries to strengthen their existing multisectoral NIS, for better informed decision making. During the GG, Barbara Baille and Raphael Hillebrand, presented the lessons learnt from the first year of implementation of NIPN4NIS.

Support under NIPN4NIS builds on the technical expertise accumulated through the NIPN experience and applies guidance related to all stages of the data value chain. This support is demand-driven and can be referred via SUN focal points, EU delegations, or direct country requests. When relevant, connections are also made to resources developed by other international initiatives such as the EC-NIS collaboration, UNICEF or the World Health Organisation. This approach aims to contextualise assistance to specific country needs, ensuring flexibility and complementarity with ongoing processes.

Figure 1: Standard operating procedure for NIPN4NIS



Source: C4N-NIPN Global Coordination

Country experiences illustrated the wide range of demands and entry points for strengthening NIS. In Benin, support was provided through a comprehensive diagnosis of the NIS and the development of a roadmap to guide institutional change. In Madagascar, the focus was on refining incomplete or imprecise indicators through systematic data mapping. Mali highlighted the importance of strengthening nutrition governance, improving food security indicators, and formulating subnational

research questions. Finally, Sierra Leone benefited from remote coaching sessions and the development of a nutrition dashboard to facilitate data use and visualisation. A detailed list of countries and activities supported through NIPN4NIS can be found in Annex 3.

The session also highlighted the added value of NIPN4NIS. The initiative was acknowledged for its ability to capitalise on lessons from country experiences and its contribution to facilitating coordination among partners that had previously worked in silos. Nevertheless, effective coordination remains difficult in contexts where it is not possible to identify a clear focal point. Training activities were recognised as valuable, but participants stressed that short-term sessions do not automatically translate into sustained capacity. For example, in Madagascar, participants noted insufficient time to apply LiST analyses effectively. Gender inclusiveness was also raised as a concern, with significant imbalances in training participation (only 15% women in Mali compared with 50% in Sierra Leone). Finally, lengthy administrative procedures were identified as obstacles to efficient implementation.

Delegates from NIPN Ethiopia. Photo courtesy of GIZ.

The Q&A session provided additional insights from participating countries. A representative from NIPN Ethiopia stressed the importance of support for routine data collection and analysis, as there are still huge concerns and lack of confidence about it, which is preventing the NIPN team to use it. In Guatemala, a lot of work was done to improve routine data quality, and local, up-to-date data has been available since 2019. NIPN Zambia highlighted the need of capacity development on data quality checks and improvements, while another participant from Uganda reported progress in mainstreaming nutrition indicators into national development planning.

5. Discussions on NIPN sustainability

5.1 Fishbowl discussion on NIPN sustainability

After the presentation on NIPN4NIS, participants from all platforms engaged in a fishbowl discussion on the sustainability of NIPN, moderated by Dr. Ingo Neu. In this methodology, a small number of participants are seated in an inner circle (the 'fishbowl') to initiate the discussion, while the rest of the audience listens from a circle around them. After the inner-circle debate, the discussion is opened to allow for broader participation in a plenary discussion.

Representatives from NIPN Uganda, Ethiopia, and Niger initiated the inner circle debate by presenting the platform's main contributions and challenges. In Ethiopia, for example, the institutionalisation of NIPN within the Ethiopian Public Health Institute has resulted in over 19 publicly accessible metadata resources and more than 30 capacity development sessions. The platform has produced robust

Participants during the Fishbowl discussion. Photo courtesy of GIZ.

analytical evidence that has directly informed food fortification policies, reinforcing the platform's strategic importance.

In Niger, the dissemination of technical reports and active communication through digital platforms have increased national decision-makers' awareness of nutrition issues and enabled national anchoring of nutrition considerations. The National Institute of Statistics is working to integrate NIPN as a permanent government entity. In Uganda, NIPN's technical assistance has strengthened national data systems. NIPN has proven valuable in both technical evidence generation and governance strengthening. As Ms. Namayanja Gertrude Batemyeto, from the Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda, stated, 'NIPN is meant to support governments'. However, continued financial support remains a challenge.

Opening to the outer circle, two central sustainability concerns emerged: human resources and funding. Participants noted that retaining specialised technical staff after the end of external funding may be challenging, and that without a clear distribution of roles, existing institutional staff might find it difficult to maintain NIPN activities. Financial sustainability remains equally complex, as it will require diversifying funding sources and embedding NIPN costs within national budgets. Several countries have begun planning transitions: Guatemala developed a sustainability plan and organised capacity workshops to ensure local ownership, while Kenya outlined three potential scenarios for sustaining NIPN; full government funding, co-financing, or maintaining a minimal core team. Ethiopia's formal integration of NIPN into EPHI offers a promising structure for continuity.

During the discussions, participants also addressed key factors for sustainability. They emphasised the need for a long-term process-oriented approach. The added value of NIPN, notably its ability to produce high-quality data and rigorous analysis, was highlighted as central to its credibility. Flexibility and adaptation were identified as critical assets, as platforms have demonstrated efficiency and resilience in adjusting to evolving donor landscapes and shifting partner configurations. While each country context is different, the overarching lesson is that sustainability must be understood as a gradual, multi-governance process that relies on national ownership, institutional embedding, and continued adaptation to dynamic environments.

5.2 Country reflection on sustainability

Following the Fishbowl discussion, each country delegation was invited to identify what they had learned that could influence their sustainability action plans going forward. They selected key actions to prioritise and noted their learnings on cards. Annex 4 includes a compilation of all country reactions. The discussions revealed that while countries are at different stages of preparing or implementing sustainability plans, their priorities converge around a few key principles in the technical, financial, and political dimensions of sustainability: institutional integration and ownership, financial diversification, and evidence-based advocacy.

As the NIPN initiative transitions toward a new phase, the country-led sustainability strategies will be essential to preserve the progress achieved and to secure the future of multisectoral nutrition data systems.

6. Data visualisation tools review

The second day of the GG began with a session dedicated to data visualisation tools (DVT). The session offered an opportunity to present the results of the recent review conducted by NIPN Global Coordination of different country experiences in developing and using these instruments. Julien Chalimbaud gave a presentation on the NIPN experience, followed by a Q&A session.

The DVT comparative analysis combined a review of 15 DVT –mainly data dashboards and scorecards– across eight countries: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kenya, Lao PDR, Niger, Sierra Leone. The findings revealed similarities, but also significant diversity across

national experiences, reflecting how each country developed its tool in line with its institutional context, data ecosystem, and specific policy needs.

The presentation addressed the purpose and the development process of DVT, as well as country examples, good practices and lessons learnt. During the session, a video developed by the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and Food System Coordination Unit of the Vice-President Office of Sierra Leone was shared to demonstrate how stakeholders can access and use the national DVT, highlighting the importance of communication and user engagement in promoting the tool's adoption.

After the presentation, a Q&A round allowed participants to exchange insights and experiences. NIPN country delegates raised questions concerning the validation and approval processes to update data that are structured across different ministries. In response, representatives from Côte d'Ivoire described the platform's participatory approach, in which representatives from different sectors review, validate and upload data jointly during coordination workshops. This process is carried out by civil servants, which avoids additional costs and contributes to long-term sustainability. Participants from Kenya noted the need for continuous sectoral engagement to ensure data quality, typically achieved through regular validation workshops.

A delegate from NIPN Guatemala brought attention to the issue of data storage costs and the potential advantages of establishing national public data warehouses to improve efficiency and access. While experiences vary across countries, participants agreed that hosting DVTs within national statistical systems can enhance cost-effectiveness. However, delegates from NIPN Lao PDR shared the challenges they faced in relation to data storage and cybersecurity. In addition, the Lao PDR team pointed to the importance of designating specific staff members within each sector and sub-national levels of government to take responsibility for providing and maintaining data, ensuring continuity despite institutional changes. Finally, they shared their innovative work in exploring the use of artificial intelligence to improve user experience and facilitate access to the dashboard via smartphones, an approach aimed at increasing the visibility and usability of nutrition data across different audiences.

The full DVT review and an executive summary will be published on the NIPN website. A webinar on data for nutrition will be organised to communicate the results of the review on 13 November 2025. The recording will be available online after the event.

7. Gender integration in nutrition policy and data systems

A thematic session was dedicated to the integration of the gender dimension into nutrition policy and data systems. Dr Tatiana Gil presented updates resulting from the review of the NIPN technical guidance note on gender. She shared opportunities and actionable recommendations for strengthening the gender dimension in nutrition information systems across:

- the generation and analysis of evidence;
- the formulation of strategic plans;
- the design and implementation of programmes; and
- the configuration and management of human resources, including NIPN staff.

Operational recommendations included the systematic collection, analysis, and use of sex-disaggregated data to ensure that nutrition-related evidence adequately reflects gendered dynamics; the formulation of policy questions that explicitly address gender differences and inequalities; and the allocation of dedicated financial resources to gender-related activities as a prerequisite for effective implementation. Additional measures included the establishment of gender-sensitive indicators and results frameworks in nutrition programmes, the development of communication materials that adopt a gender-sensitive lens, the promotion of gender equality in institutional work environments, and the identification and training of staff to strengthen gender

expertise within NIPN platforms. These considerations reflect the need for a holistic approach, where gender is not addressed as a standalone issue but rather incorporated at all stages of policy and programme cycles.

The presentation was followed by a working group exercise where countries examined two practical case studies on how gender integration could be operationalised in practice. Discussions highlighted the importance of designing more flexible job postings to accommodate women with caregiving responsibilities, the need to remove compulsory on-call duties during the weekends and of carefully assessing the relevance of some requirements such as driving licences or specialised technical skills that hinder women's access to positions. Moreover, participants discussed different strategies to advance gender-sensitive data collection, management, and use, such as regular training on gender-sensitive data analysis and the designation of a gender focal point within NIPN platform teams.

The exercise illustrated both opportunities and challenges faced by NIPN platforms in embedding gender into institutional arrangements and data systems, while fostering peer learning among countries. As platforms evolve, they must continue to institutionalise gender-sensitive approaches to ensure that nutrition policies and programmes respond to the different needs, constraints, and opportunities of women and girls.

8. Strengthening food and nutrition information ecosystems in the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus – a roadmap for action

During the session *'*Strengthening Food and Nutrition Information Ecosystems in the Humanitarian–Development–Peace (HDP) Nexus*'*, Barbara Baille, Dr. Roos Verstraeten and Julien Chalimbaud presented the background of the workshop 'Breaking Down Silos: Unifying Humanitarian and Development Efforts through Nutrition Information Systems', notably the development of the draft 'Roadmap for Strengthening Food and Nutrition Information Ecosystems in the HDP Nexus'.

Held at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy (10–12 June 2025), the workshop was organised to build a shared understanding of challenges that are putting increasing strain on food and nutrition information systems and to co-design concrete actions to bridge the humanitarian–development divide and create a unified, resilient nutrition information ecosystem.

As the presenters noted, the initiative behind the workshop was conceived at a time of profound transformation in the global data landscape, with growing fragmentation of data infrastructures, critical information gaps and slower response capacities. In this context, a strategic roadmap was devised to foster *'*a coherent, resilient, agile, and action-oriented nutrition information ecosystem for the humanitarian–development–peace nexus, grounded in a strong nutrition data value chain.' The roadmap is structured around four interdependent pillars:

1. coordination and capacity development;
2. primary data collection;
3. the use of routine and administrative data;
4. and the advancement of metrics, methods, and tools to foster harmonization and methodological rigor across actors.

These four pillars are operationalised in key actions. The full list of can be found in Annex 5.

Presenters also detailed the roadmap's expected functions and outcomes. For national systems, it aims to identify and mitigate systemic vulnerabilities such as duplication, funding volatility, and coordination breakdowns; to support adaptive and flexible programming capable of operating under crisis conditions; to strengthen monitoring and accountability mechanisms through outcome-oriented indicators; and to reinforce local ownership via capacity development in data governance, analysis, and use. For donors and international partners, the roadmap provides strategic direction

by clarifying shared and divergent priorities across humanitarian and development domains, aligning funding and technical assistance with nationally owned plans such as Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plans, and promoting harmonised indicators and data platforms to reduce fragmentation. It also highlights high-return investment opportunities, including the integration of early warning systems, the strengthening of national data architectures, and the building of surge analytical capacity.

At the end of the session, participants reflected on the roadmap's relevance, emphasising that 'it is essential to streamline these initiatives through national governments' to ensure ownership and sustainability. A NIPN country delegate further underlined the importance of data transparency, noting that 'data from partners, including UN agencies, must be actively shared with national authorities' to promote coordination and coherence within integrated data ecosystems.

The session concluded with an overview of the upcoming steps. An open consultation webinar co-organised by ANH Academy will take place at the end of October 2025, offering all NIPN platforms the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft roadmap. The final Roadmap for Strengthening Food and Nutrition Information Ecosystems in the HDP Nexus will be officially presented in January 2026 in a hybrid format, both in Brussels and online.

9. Micronutrient Forum: Nutrition Data Collective Action Plan

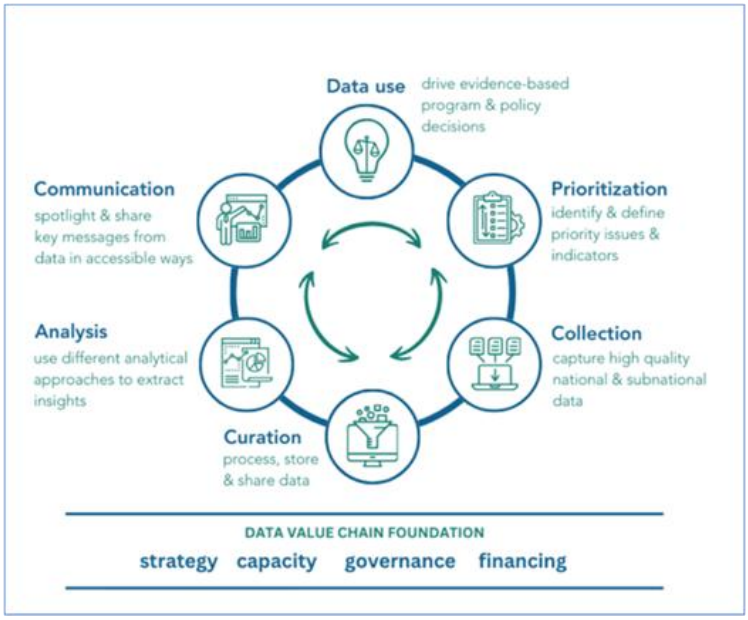
The session of the day focused on current collective efforts to strengthening the nutrition data value chain. Reed Atkin, from the Micronutrient Forum, delivered a presentation on the importance of nutrition data and introduced the ongoing work on the Nutrition Data Collective Action Plan.

Atkin opened his presentation by emphasizing that reliable nutrition data are essential to identify vulnerable populations, inform policy priorities, and guide the efficient allocation of resources. Drawing on the experience of the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), he illustrated how these data collection instruments have been central to monitoring nutrition and health outcomes worldwide. However, Atkin noted that the global nutrition data landscape remains fragmented, and that reductions in financial support have further weakened data collection and monitoring efforts. Therefore, he emphasised the urgent need to strengthen the nutrition data value chain to ensure that available data can inform effective action.

During the *Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit* in Paris, governments made over 500 political and financial commitments, of which around one-third were related to data and research. Atkin insisted that follow-up and coordination remain essential to translate these pledges into results. From this recognition emerged the initiative to develop a Nutrition Data Collective Action Plan, a process rooted in a series of technical consultations.

One of the key milestones was the meeting *Micronutrient Data in a Changing Landscape: Impacts, Opportunities, and a Collective Way Forward*, held in June 2025

Figure 2: Nutrition data value chain



Source: DataDENT Nutrition Data Value Chain (2025 version)

and convened by the Micronutrient Data Innovation Alliance (DInA), the Micronutrient Forum, and DataDENT. This meeting gathered government representatives, UN agencies, donors, and technical experts, to discuss the impact of funding cuts on micronutrient data systems and explore more sustainable and cost-effective approaches. Participants agreed on the need for a coordinated plan to guide collective action.

The Nutrition Data Collective Action Plan is being developed under the leadership of DInA, hosted by the Micronutrient Forum. Its goal is to support low- and middle-income countries in accelerating and sustaining progress in the generation, analysis, and use of nutrition data. The plan will propose a set of concrete short- and long-term actions across the data value chain –from prioritization and collection to curation, analysis, communication, and use– alongside strategies for financing national data systems. Its approach is built on consensus, promoting coordination through global and regional consultations and leveraging existing platforms for dialogue.

Atkin concluded by underlining the need for shared responsibility and a coordinated global effort.

10. World Café

On the afternoon of the second day, participants took part in a World Café, a dynamic and participatory format designed to encourage open dialogue and knowledge exchange across different thematic areas. Participants were divided into multi-country groups and rotated among discussions on four themes: Leadership beyond position, the Humanitarian–Development–Peace (HDP) Nexus Roadmap, an exchange with the Micronutrient Forum, and an exchange with UNICEF.

After the last round of discussions, all participants reconvened in a plenary session for a collective debrief, where they shared the main insights and reflections that emerged from their conversations.

10.1 Leadership beyond position

Participants from Guatemala and Niger led a conversation about the outcomes of the leadership workshop held in June 2025 at North-West University in Potchefstroom, South Africa organised by NIPN Global Coordination. Participants revisited some of the workshop's core themes and reflected on their relevance for sustaining and scaling NIPN efforts at the country level. The discussions emphasised the importance of active listening and constructive feedback as fundamental elements of effective leadership. Participants also explored the difference between leadership and management, recognising that leadership extends beyond technical or administrative responsibilities to involve collaboration, building trust, and fostering a shared vision. Finally, a key point of reflection was the balance between influence and manipulation, highlighting the ethical dimension of leadership and the importance of integrity when guiding teams and shaping partnerships.

10.2 Exchange on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus Roadmap

The World Café discussion exercise on the HDP Nexus Roadmap, facilitated by Barbara Baille, Julien Chalimbaud and Dr. Roos Verstraeten, provided a space for participants to exchange perspectives on aligning the NIPN approach with the principles of the roadmap. Each of the four rounds was dedicated to one pillar of the roadmap.

Participants during the World Café. Photo courtesy of GIZ.

Discussions explored practical ways to operationalise the roadmap key actions and shared insights on how data and evidence

generated by NIPN could be leveraged to inform more integrated and coherent policy responses. The session also surfaced opportunities for cross-sectoral collaboration.

10.3 Exchange with the Micronutrient Forum

The exchange with the Micronutrient Forum (MNF) was facilitated by Reed Atkin, Senior Advisor at the organisation. He introduced the vision of the MNF and its core areas of work. During the discussion, participants were invited to share insights on the micronutrient situation in their respective countries.

10.4 Exchange with UNICEF

During the exchange with UNICEF, facilitated by Alina Michalska, participants engaged to discuss the role of the organisation as one of the three implementing partners of the NIPN initiative. Michalska opened for discussion by asking participants what the ideal nutrition multisector coordination would look like. Participants exchanged on feasibility, challenges, and how their respective projects can further enhance multisector coordination.

11. Capacity Development Task Force meeting

The Capacity Development Task Force held its third meeting, to reflect on the continuation and expansion of training initiatives initiated under NIPN. Three main focuses emerged:

1. There is ample capacity within the platforms –from LiST to leadership skills. Colleagues in the platforms offered and called for a mechanism to facilitate peer-to-peer trainings where there is capacity in another NIPN platform. This approach would help ensure continuity beyond the project's lifecycle.
2. There is an abundance of training materials available but there is no central storage place for other platforms to benefit from them. Participants called for a knowledge management solution to share and access existing training materials.
3. Lastly, building on point one, the CD Task Force expressed an interest in maintaining a network or forum beyond the project's closing in April 2026 to allow for continued exchange.

Overall, the third meeting of the Capacity Development Task Force reaffirmed that investing in human and institutional capacity remains a priority to NIPN's long-term vision. As the meeting ended, participants reiterated their shared commitment to strengthening capacity development as a foundation for sustainable nutrition information systems. The session concluded with agreement to follow up on the consolidation of all existing training materials into a single repository, continue to map current capacities across countries, and maintain communication to finalise the updated catalogue.

12. Experts exchange session on data, communication, policy and coordination

A series of expert exchange sessions were held on the key thematic areas of data, communication, policy, and coordination, bringing together specialists from country platforms to share insights, challenges, and best practices.

12.1 Data

The expert exchange on data, facilitated by Julien Chalimbaud, brought together participants to share experiences on strengthening nutrition data systems. Discussions focused on selecting and visualising key indicators, ensuring system interoperability, and innovative approaches in dietary data collection. Many countries have developed dashboards to monitor nutrition plans and inform policy. For instance, Zambia's dashboard was built using DHS and LiST analyses, and enhanced with Power BI training for sustainability. Burkina Faso highlighted the challenge of varying data

update frequencies, while Ethiopia's upcoming dashboard is aligned with national plans like the Seqota Declaration. Niger opted for simplicity, reducing over 400 indicators to 10 core ones, improving usability. Kenya's dashboard, hosted by the National Statistics Institute, aligns World Health Assembly, SDG, and national indicators, though update timeliness remains a challenge.

Interoperability emerged as a key theme. Zambia uses the Open Data for Africa platform to host interoperable dashboards, while Kenya promotes cross-sector alignment of indicators. Innovation in dietary data was also discussed. Niger uses tools like the Global Diet Quality Score and Fortification Rapid Assessment Tool, while other countries are exploring digital surveys and AI to modernise food data collection. Key takeaways included the importance of focusing on a manageable set of indicators, investing in open platforms, and building capacity in data tools like Power BI. Participants also emphasised open data policies and simplified dietary surveys as paths to more effective, sustainable nutrition information systems.

Throughout the exchange, participants exchanged several key lessons for improving data systems within the NIPN framework. First, sustainability requires focusing on a limited set of indicators that are regularly updated and directly inform decision-making. Second, interoperability should be strengthened through open data platforms that connect systems across institutions and sectors. Third, continued capacity building, including training in Power BI and data management, is essential to maintain and evolve these tools. Fourth, simplifying dietary surveys and data collection methods through innovative digital approaches can improve efficiency. Finally, participants reaffirmed the importance of open data policies to enhance accessibility and transparency while safeguarding data quality and privacy standards.

12.2 Communication

The session on communication, facilitated by Kimberly Rambaud, provided a space for reflection on how NIPN platforms are addressing the visibility, credibility, and influence of nutrition data through effective communication strategies. Discussions focused on communication outlets and tools, and the promotion of nutrition data as a valuable public good.

In Ethiopia, the NIPN team includes two dedicated communication officers. Alongside a quarterly newsletter, they have established a partnership with The Ethiopian Herald, which publishes monthly articles on NIPN's scientific and programmatic work targeted at government offices. They also manage several digital channels, including LinkedIn, Telegram, Facebook and the dedicated NIPN website. Ethiopia's platform has built a trusted relationship with national decision-makers, responding to their evidence demands addressed directly to the Ethiopian Public Health Institute. This relationship demonstrates the value of the NIPN approach and institutional communication.

The NIPN Zambia communication team operates under the Nutrition Education and Communication Unit of the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC). Their communication strategy is under development. In Côte d'Ivoire, a communications specialist ensures the smooth flow of information between the platform and ministerial focal points. Nutrition has high political importance and visibility in the country, supported by the Office of the President and key ministries, which frequently request multisectoral data. This demand-driven approach fosters a trusted exchange and reinforces NIPN's role as a reliable coordination and information hub.

NIPN Niger has recently strengthened its communication presence, with a professional officer managing external channels including social media, a renovated website, and visual documentation. The launch event of the national NIPN website – attended by government officials – significantly increased traffic and visibility. However, the team noted that engagement levels vary across audiences, with higher interaction among researchers and academia than among senior policymakers. Among its communication activities, Niger has organized workshops and media trainings on how to visualize and communicate nutrition data effectively and has built a journalist network to amplify dissemination efforts.

NIPN Burkina Faso also uses multiple channels to reach different target groups: a website, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc. A key achievement has been the establishment of a dynamic journalist network that helps disseminate evidence widely. However, the platform prioritizes decision-makers as its main audience. The platform's website functions as a central repository of nutrition information, addressing the challenge of fragmented sectoral portals and providing an accessible entry point for users seeking reliable, multisectoral data.

Communication within NIPN platforms is both a technical and strategic function. By making nutrition data more visible and understandable, platforms can strengthen the perception of data as a public good, essential for decision-making and resource allocation.

12.3 Policy

The expert exchange session on policy, facilitated by Youssouf Keita, provided a space for NIPN delegates to discuss two main themes: the contribution of civil society to nutrition advocacy and policy processes, and the integration of the nexus approach into nutrition policy frameworks. Participants recognised that civil society organisations (CSOs) are essential for advocacy, accountability, and community engagement, yet their contribution remains underutilised, calling for further efforts to institutionalise CSO participation in policy dialogue and implementation.

Niger illustrated how CSOs, in collaboration with NIPN and GIZ, are driving advocacy for a dedicated national nutrition budget line and integrating nutrition objectives into sectoral programmes. These efforts, supported by capacity-building for local officials, media engagement, and data-driven advocacy, were highlighted as good practice.

Kenya and Zambia noted challenges in aligning advocacy agendas with government priorities and called for clearer structures defining CSOs' roles in policy platforms. Zambia proposed involving civil society in NIPN capacity-building to strengthen their evidence use, while Côte d'Ivoire identified expanding CSO partnerships as a priority for future work. Ethiopia and Burkina Faso shared the importance of CSO engagement, especially at the community level, in promoting healthy diets, monitoring interventions, and advocating for sustained nutrition funding.

The second part of the session focused on the nexus approaches. NIPN Ethiopia shared its ongoing work on a nutrition-centred HDP Nexus approach in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Office of the Seqota Declaration, linking humanitarian response, resilience, and long-term nutrition programming. Delegates from NIPN Niger expressed strong interest in learning from peer countries as it prepares to revise its national nutrition policy, with a view to better integrating the climate–nutrition nexus and advancing climate resilience objectives. On the other hand, NIPN Kenya highlighted the importance of engaging more strategically with subnational authorities, who play a decisive role in sustaining implementation at community level. Zambia reiterated that long-term sustainability will depend on strong partnerships across government, civil society, and the private sector.

At the end of the session, Youssouf Keita reaffirmed that multisectoral collaboration and inclusive participation are essential for effective policy implementation. Continued coordination, political commitment, and sustained investment will be key to ensure that NIPN's policy dialogue, advocacy, and evidence systems endure beyond donor support.

12.4 Coordination

The expert exchange session on coordination, facilitated by Dr. Ingo Neu, focused on sharing country experiences in establishing and maintaining effective multisectoral coordination mechanisms for nutrition, that is central to NIPN's approach.

Discussions highlighted the need to balance political and technical coordination, as high-level political anchoring can strengthen visibility and commitment but may face instability due to

leadership or priority shifts, while purely technical coordination ensures continuity but often lacks authority to drive multisectoral action.

Country examples illustrated these dynamics. In Niger, coordination now operates mainly at a technical level after the dissolution of the High Commission for the 3N Initiative. Although this limits policy influence, it has ensured operational continuity. In Kenya, coordination remains challenging as nutrition and food security have declined in national prominence, yet NIPN continues to strengthen multisectoral collaboration at the subnational level. In Ethiopia, cross-sectoral coordination is led by the Public Health Institute through the Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Steering Committee (MER-SC). While it has fostered technical collaboration nationally and regionally, participants noted that political engagement can be strengthened. At the same time, NIPN Burkina Faso highlighted the impact of staff turnover on coordination efforts led by the National Statistics Institute in the country.

In Zambia, nutrition coordination is led by the National Food and Nutrition Commission under the Ministry of Health. Discussions are ongoing about relocating the unit to the Office of the Vice-President to boost political influence, although there are concerns about potential operational challenges. The Zambian team expressed strong interest in learning from the experiences of other countries regarding the optimal institutional placement for nutrition coordination.

NIPN Guatemala reported consistent technical cross-sectoral collaboration, while NIPN Côte d'Ivoire has opted to reinforce high-level oversight, anchoring coordination under the Office of the President.

Participants agreed that multisectoral coordination mechanisms must be tailored to national political and administrative contexts. Moreover, they emphasised strong technical coordination must be complemented by political leadership to sustain multisectoral engagement and ensure that nutrition remains a national development priority.

13. Open space

At the opening of the Global Gathering, participants were invited to propose topics for discussion in an 'open space', a participatory format designed to encourage country-led dialogue on issues of shared interest. Following an open voting process, the following topics were chosen: the LiST community of practice (CoP), the Lao PDR experience with Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools and the Regional NIPN Hub in Ethiopia. The exchanges in the open space took place during the last day of the gathering.

13.1 The LiST community of practice

The discussion on the LiST CoP focused on the need to strengthen collaboration and exchange of experience among countries using the Lives Saved Tool within the NIPN and NIPN4NIS frameworks. Participants agreed that the establishment of a LiST Community of Practice would be instrumental in consolidating the accumulated technical expertise and fostering continuous learning across participating platforms. However, they emphasized that such a community should remain strictly professional in its purpose and use, ensuring that the exchange of information is relevant, evidence-based, and focused on improving analytical capacities for nutrition policy and programming.

Several practical recommendations emerged from the discussion. It was proposed that the scope and objectives of the CoP should be clearly defined, as suggested by Sikufele Mubita from ZamStats, to ensure that the group remains targeted and effective. Each participating country would also be invited to submit a short summary paragraph describing how LiST is applied in their respective contexts, to map existing practices and identify potential synergies. In addition, participants endorsed the creation of a WhatsApp group for Africa-based LiST users, an initiative proposed by Youssouf Keita, as a simple and immediate way to enhance communication,

collaboration, and peer support among practitioners. The consensus was that such a professional network could significantly enhance both the visibility and the practical application of LiST in supporting nutrition-related decision-making at national and subnational levels.

13.2 The Lao PDR experience with artificial intelligence tools.

The second open-space discussion focused on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by the NIPN team in Lao PDR. The team presented their ongoing work on developing an AI-powered integrated data hub designed to make nutrition evidence more accessible, interpretable, and actionable for policy and programmatic decision-making.

Open space session by Lao PDR. Photo courtesy of GIZ.

The NIPN AI system has been trained to process large volumes of information and to translate complex analyses into clear insights, automatically flagging data gaps and inconsistencies. The platform also enables users to query the system in plain language, receiving concise and relevant summaries or recommendations in return. This feature significantly improves the accessibility of data and promotes its use among non-technical stakeholders.

In parallel, the Lao NIPN team, in collaboration with Alive & Thrive, is piloting the use of AI tools for monitoring the violation of breastmilk substitute advertising and promotion on social media. This innovative approach represents an important step towards strengthening the enforcement of national nutrition regulations and demonstrates how AI can support real-time monitoring and accountability mechanisms in the nutrition sector.

13.3 Regional NIPN Hub in Ethiopia

The next open space session brought together NIPN representatives from Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Burkina Faso, and Côte d'Ivoire to discuss the proposal for establishing a Regional NIPN Hub in Ethiopia and a broader Regional NIPN Network in Africa. The initiative builds on Ethiopia's recent designation of the Ethiopian Public Health Institute as an African Union Centre of Excellence (CoE) and seeks to strengthen regional collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the long-term sustainability of NIPN efforts across the continent.

Participants recognised the proposal's potential to consolidate the achievements of existing NIPN platforms and to foster cross-country exchange on data use, policy dialogue, and multisectoral coordination for nutrition. The session also highlighted lessons from Côte d'Ivoire, which hosts the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM). Participants agreed that the Ethiopian Hub should work closely with CERFAM to build synergies, particularly in mobilising resources and leveraging the experience of existing regional institutions.

Moreover, linking the Hub with a Regional Network was seen as a way to attract potential support from development partners such as the World Bank and the African Development Bank. As a way forward, it was agreed that the NIPN team in Ethiopia would engage with CERFAM to learn from its experience and identify areas for collaboration. Interested NIPN countries would hold internal discussions on their potential involvement and, where relevant, prepare a concept note outlining their proposed contributions and responsibilities within the network. Participants concluded that continued communication and consultation among countries will be essential to refine the proposal and ensure collective ownership of this regional initiative.

14. Closing remarks

This concluding moment offered space to look back at the collective journey of the NIPN initiative; its achievements, challenges, and the shared commitment to advancing nutrition information systems as a backbone for evidence-based policymaking.

Representatives from the NIPN countries were the first to take the floor. Their interventions reflected both the diversity of contexts and the unity of purpose that has characterised the initiative. Lao PDR emphasized how the Global Gatherings and the C4N Global Coordination team have strengthened collective intelligence on nutrition information systems, creating a shared learning environment among countries facing similar challenges. From Ethiopia, the message was one of continuity and leadership: the country reaffirmed that NIPN's work does not end with donor support, committing to maintain collaboration.

NIPN Niger team members highlighted that the platform has reached a significant level of technical and institutional sustainability, though financial sustainability remains an ongoing challenge. For Guatemala, the flexibility of the NIPN approach was crucial to its success and contextual adaptation. The representative concluded with a powerful reminder that 'data have faces,' and that each malnourished child represents one too many.

From Côte d'Ivoire, the delegation expressed appreciation for the opportunities provided by the Global Gatherings to exchange experiences and ideas. Sharing an encouraging update: in January 2025, the Office of the Vice President decided to allocate specific government staff and budgetary resources to continue the work initiated under NIPN, ensuring institutional continuity. They also proposed that, given the presence of CERFAM in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire could host a regional hub on nutrition information systems to further promote South–South collaboration. Finally, NIPN Zambia, extended heartfelt thanks to C4N Global Coordination for selecting Lusaka as the venue and expressed deep appreciation for the mutual learning that took place among country platforms throughout the event.

The reflections then turned to the implementing partners of the NIPN initiative: UNICEF, GIZ, and CATIE. Speaking on behalf of UNICEF, Alina Michalska reaffirmed the organisation's pride in being a long-standing partner of NIPN. UNICEF underlined that the current global nutrition landscape remains deeply challenged by conflict, displacement, climate shocks, and economic instability. Nevertheless, the NIPN experience demonstrates that countries can make meaningful progress through data-driven, multisectoral collaboration. The message concluded with a reaffirmation of the core principles that have guided NIPN: flexibility, digital innovation, inclusiveness, and collaboration across the humanitarian–development nexus.

GIZ implementation representatives in Niger, Zambia and Ethiopia, Raphael Hillebrand, Juliane Kaunda, and Archana Sarkar, delivered their closing reflections in the form of a poem entitled *Storms and Strength – A Poem for NIPN's Journey.*

Part I — We began knowing little

You don't know what you don't know.
that's where we began.
From questions and spreadsheets,
to dashboards and plans.

In Ethiopia, eight years have flown,
through drought and conflict, yet seeds have grown.
In Niger, drought and coups pressed hard,
still our platform endured, standing guard.
In Zambia, just two years on this track,
we've shown resilience – there's no turning back.

Part II — Storms and Strength

We faced conflicts and wars,
administrative storms in GIZ's floors.
From GSF to C4N,
our compass reset again and again.

Yes, there was tiredness,
yes, there was strain.
Even ZAS — time sheets that pained!
But side by side we pulled through,
our strength proved true.

With servers and clouds,
dashboards and review,
we brought NIPN closer
to the people too.

Part III — Forward with Hope

Eight years, two years — each step counts.
The lessons are deep, the gains, immense amounts.
Donor winds may shift,
funds may grow thin,
yet our platforms are ready —
the strength lies within.

With KPCN and NIPN4NIS ahead,
we move with courage, not with dread.
Country-owned, country-led,
our vision will spread.

So we end with pride,
with thanks, with cheer:
The mission lives on –
its light is clear.

Eduardo Say, representative of CATIE, conveyed the gratitude of CATIE's Director General in Guatemala and the Regional Director. He spoke about how CATIE, as a university and regional knowledge institution, has learned enormously from its participation in NIPN. He recognised the initiative as a 'seed' that will continue to bear fruit in the coming years and reaffirmed his commitment to maintaining collaboration and supporting knowledge exchange between regions.

Laura Barrington concluded the interventions on behalf of C4N Global Coordination with a poem that captured the collective spirit of the NIPN community. Her message expressed gratitude for the collaboration, learning, and dedication shared across countries, recognising both continuity and renewal within the network. She commended the platform's commitment to evidence-based nutrition action and encouraged them to sustain their efforts moving forward. The full version of Laura Barrington's poem is included in the introduction of this report.

As the gathering came to an end, the sentiment across all interventions was unanimous: while the formal phase of donor support is ending, the NIPN community remains strong. The progress achieved over the past years, reflected in strengthened data systems, institutional integration, and cross-country collaboration, has laid a solid foundation for the future. The collective resolve to maintain collaboration, share expertise, and continue learning ensures that the spirit and impact of NIPN will endure well beyond this final Global Gathering.

ANNEX 1. 7TH NIPN Global Gathering agenda

7TH NIPN Global Gathering 2025 Reflecting on Progress to Sustain Nutrition Impact		
Day 1: TUESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2025		
MORNING SESSIONS: 08:00 - 13:00		
8:00 9:00	Registration	
9:00 9:10	Welcome National Anthem Prayer	Jane Badham
9:10 9:35	Opening remarks - A decade of NIPN: Milestones, impact and future directions	1. Mr. Buumba Siamalube - German Embassy 2. Ms. Amparo González Diez - European Commission (video) 3. Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ)
9:35 10:20	NIPN platforms and partners introduction	All participants
10:20 10:50	BREAK	
10:50 12:10	NIPN platform updates: What NIPN stands for – country reflections on recognized strengths and added value	NIPN country focal points All participants
12:10 12:20	Upcoming end of C4N-NIPN and what comes next	Laura Barrington - C4N-NIPN
12:20 13:00	Questions on the future of NIPN Global Coordination	All participants
13:00 13:15	GROUP PHOTO	All participants
13:15 14:15	LUNCH BREAK	
AFTERNOON SESSIONS: 14:15 - 17:15		
14:15 14:55	NIPN4NIS - Presentation and discussion	Barbara Baille - C4N-NIPN Raphael Hillebrand - NIPN Niger
14:55 16:05	Fishbowl on sustainability - How NIPN is recognized at country level: institutionalization, ownership, integration into national systems, contribution to evidence creation and multisectoral coordination	Ingo Neu, Julien Chalimbaud C4N-NIPN All participants
16:05 16:35	BREAK	
16:35 17:10	Country reflection on sustainability	All participants
17:10 17:15	Day 1 wrap-up	Jane Badham
18:30	RECEPTION DINNER - Wear your country's traditional dress!	All participants

Day 2: WEDNESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2025		
MORNING SESSIONS: 09:00 - 12:15		
9:00 9:10	Opening day 2	Jane Badham
9:10 10:05	Dashboard review - presentation and discussion	Julien Chalimbaud - C4N-NIPN All participants
10:05 10:35	BREAK	
10:35 11:30	Gender integration in nutrition policy and data systems	Tatiana Gil - C4N-NIPN All participants
11:30 12:00	Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus presentation	Barbara Baille, Julien Chalimbaud, Roos Verstraeten All participants
12:00 12:15	Micronutrient Forum collective action plan	Reed Atkin - Micronutrient Forum All participants
12:15 13:15	LUNCH BREAK	
AFTERNOON SESSIONS: 13:15 - 17:30		
13:15 15:30	World Café: 4 thematic topics	All participants
15:30 16:00	BREAK	
16:00 16:30	Plenary for country feedback on World Café	All participants
16:30 16:35	Day 2 wrap-up	Jane Badham
16:45 17:30	Capacity development task force session	CD Task Force representatives for each country

Day 3: THURSDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2025		
MORNING SESSIONS: 09:00 - 13:30		
9:00 9:05	Opening day 3	Jane Badham
9:05 10:25	Experts' exchange session on the 4 topics: Data, Communication, Policy, Coordination	NIPN country focal points All participants
10:25 11:00	BREAK	
11:00 12:10	Open space: participants are invited to suggest topics for discussion	All participants
12:10 12:20	Appointments for bilateral meetings	All participants
12:20 13:25	Country NIPN reflections, Implementing partners reflections, NIPN global team reflections	All participants
13:25 13:30	Closing	Jane Badham
13:30 14:30	LUNCH BREAK	
14:30 17:30	Bilateral meetings	

ANNEX 2. KPCN support and activities

LEVEL	ACTIVITIES
Global	• Coherent positioning of the EC, Germany and other EU Member States+ • Political communication and strategic alliances / partnerships • Continued support for SDG 2 indicator for healthy diets • Staff in Bonn and Brussels (partially supporting NIPN & NIS)
Regional	• Support and build on regional initiatives and frameworks • Regional peer-to-peer exchange formats between SUN countries, SUN Networks and Civil Society • Increased and improved cooperation with SUN regional hubs & other relevant partners • Staff in regional hubs in Dakar, Nairobi and Bangkok (partially supporting NIPN & NIS)
National	• TA and CD support for SUN Countries and networks *(especially for NIPN, NIS, financing for nutrition, FST)* • Support for country level civil society networks

Source: The upcoming end of C4N-NIPN and what comes next (2025)

ANNEX 3. Countries and activities supported through NIPN4NIS

Country	Challenge	Opportunity	Support	Results
Mali	Need for reinforcement of nutrition governance, including decentralized governance to overcome the political situation at national level.	Take stock of indicators Synergy with GIZ Global Programme ProSAR	FS, nutrition and social protection indicators review; LiST Training Policy question formulation Review of nutrition national policy	Food security indicators reformulated, aligned with national plan; joint on food security and social protection indicators with PROSAR. LiST analysis and nutrition policies review to identify impactful interventions and adequate indicators. A sub-national workshop on development of nutrition policy questions in Sikasso region, that led to eight policy questions developed according to local priorities. Community's voice raised
Madagascar	The national nutrition plan has many indicators, not SMART, not consistently monitored, not in line with activities being implemented.	Take stock of indicators; review the national nutrition plan. Collaboration with EUD, SUN focal point.	Nutrition indicators review. NIS mapping. LiST Trainings.	Conducted a LiST analysis that highlighted the need to include more impactful interventions (zinc supplementation, breastfeeding support, WASH interventions) into the national plan to achieve stunting reduction. 118 indicators revised from five sectors. Nutrition Data Mapping. Three nutrition policy questions formulated.

Benin	Vast restructuring of national nutrition governance.	Government now has ownership of the national school feeding programme.	Diagnostic of NIS. Data mapping. Monitoring and evaluation support. LIST training.	Roadmap developed with specific recommendations, from IT structure to HR profiles needed. Identification of effective interventions to scale up for better impact thanks to LIST training. Identification of data sources thanks to Nutrition data mapping.
Sierra Leone	New monitoring and evaluation focal point for SUN. Lack of nutrition data dashboard	Collaboration with UNICEF Country Office and SUN Sierra Leone.	Online training sessions to develop a data dashboard for SUN.	The SUN Secretariat analyst and M&E officer improved their expertise. A data dashboard for nutrition in Sierra Leone was developed.

Source: C4N-NIPN Global Coordination

ANNEX 4: Country reflections on sustainability

COUNTRY	EXPECTATION	WHAT COUNTRIES LEARNT THAT CAN INFLUENCE THEIR SUSTAINABILITY PLAN AND KEY ACTIONS
BURKINA FASO	How to integrate the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus How to ensure the sustainability of the NIPN (achievements, funding)	• Innovative financing • Political support • Integration of nutrition as a focus area in the national development framework
COTE D'IVOIRE	Identify possible solutions for transitioning from the current status of the NIPN to full government ownership	• Demonstrate to decision-makers the achievements of the NIPN in combating malnutrition • Decide on the main actions to be taken to ensure sustainability in the future • Provide evidence to decision-makers for decision-making • Diversify sources of funding for NIPN activities
NIGER	Find new paths and strategies by drawing inspiration from the experiences of other countries in a similar context to Niger in order to ensure sustainability. What forms of collaboration are possible between countries and global support, and between PNIN Niger and global support?	• The importance of prioritising activities by selecting those that have the greatest impact in a context of scarce funding • Develop a minimum package of priority activities with their costs • Organise advocacy activities to secure funding for the package of activities, targeting technical departments
KENYA	Learn from peer countries on the sustainability strategies for NIPN (Challenges, anchoring within government system) Sustaining/Strengthening networking within the regional and globally for NIPN countries	What did they learn that would influence their sustainability action plan? • Technical and political must work together for impact • Mainstreaming integrating NIPN across activities Top action to take for sustainability • Implementing agencies including NIPN activities in their respective work plans • Finalisation of sustainability plan and concept note • Enhance advocacy across sectors and subnational levels

UGANDA	Models/approaches countries can adopt for sustainability in line with global community recommendations Stakeholders' views on integrating country platforms including nutrition platforms into one	• Review and implement the sustainability plan focusing on key NIPN activities (OPM taking level) • Strengthening (Integrating) data management systems across implementing agencies (UBS taking level)
ETHIOPIA	Learning how to ensure sustainability using different modalities like financial and so on Maintaining NIPN country network, the how part	• Be proactive and active (aggressive) to advocate for NIPN – EPHI/Ministries • Finalize and implement an actionable transition plan (People – skills – Activities)
GUATEMALA	Learn about progress in implementing the NIPN methodology in countries How is sustainability progressing in countries? Technical, institutional and financial	• Meeting with high-level decision makers (President + vice president + ministries and secretariats) to handover the NIPN digital tools and products to encourage them to continue using the data. • Looking to increase the annual budget for nutritional information systems
LAO PDR	NIPN is currently being implemented by ministry of finance (planning merged with finance), how could we use this new structure/leadership for strengthening nutrition financing? In LAO PDR, NIPN team is working free AI tools for the website. We would like to learn and seek ideas from others participant on how AI could be used for NIPN	• Revise and update NIPN data management and accountability framework in-line with new structure/sustainability plan • Finalize AI model for NIPN and train government officials in using data for decisions
ZAMBIA	What is the practical meaning of sustainability and how it can be attained learning from others who are already implementing sustainability activities. To have more insights on how sectors have used info generated through NIPN for policy making, planning and programming.	• Mainstream NIPN activities in the institutions to ensure activities continue after external funding ends • Show value of implementing interventions. More engagements with decision makers • Inclusion of more nutrition indicators in existing data sources/surveys • Identify the NIPN processes for the Price Tag and advocacy brief to lobby for funding

ANNEX 5: Pillars and preliminary list of key actions of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Pillars	Key actions
Coordination for capacity	**Stocktaking at global, regional, and national levels** • Take stock of losses of experienced professionals and technical and contextual expertise due to recent funding cuts, as well as those still remaining/in existence. • Take stock of loss of investments in talent pipelines and remaining/existing investments. • Conduct stocktaking exercise on existence of NIS with country-level government leadership. • Map existing platforms, nutrition data ecosystems, protocols, surveys, actors, and coordination mechanisms to build on what exists already. **Data management, use, and interoperability** • Strengthen capacity to develop and maintain the data value chain, customizing nutrition information systems to local contexts, and improving interoperability across sectors (e.g., via in-service and pre-service (master's or PhD) training; guidance on valid methods; and south-south technical assistance and exchanges. • Push toward clear, standardized protocols and capacity strengthening for data management and data sharing across partners, e.g. donor data sharing plans; open-source software/code for analysis on GitHub. • Increase attention to transparency and accountability in data sharing access, timelines, and procedures, including real-time data sharing, as well as simplification of data and reduction in duplication. • Improve capacity to tailor the presentation of data and results to meet audience needs. • Provide a common definition of an 'integrated, functional, and resilient NIS', as well as a 'minimal viable NIS' and identify/design indicators to measure integration, success, and sustainability of the NIS and data value chain; for the 'minimum viable NIS', clarify the essential data, tools, and governance elements required for basic functionality to guide countries with limited resources. • Conduct an indicator mapping and prioritization exercise at national level, including review of national plans to identify indicator gaps and overlaps as well as regional indicators, e.g., indicators from the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) or the SDGs. • Support existing platforms instead of creating new ones (e.g., NIPN, national statistics offices) • Develop guidance on how to improve coordination in different settings: a) when government is legitimate and strong b) when government is legitimate but weak and c) when there is no government.

Pillars	Key actions
	• Explore investments in electronic nutrition information systems. • Create a repository/catalogue for all public humanitarian and development data, like Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX), but for more indicators and also repositories at national level, also highlighting where data is missing and where new initiatives are needed. • Strengthen/support a global community of practice and/or country technical working groups on strengthening NIS to encourage government-led prioritization of data that serves programmatic and policy needs and ownership and encourages sharing across the HDP nexus, particularly national statistical office staff participation. • Support the creation of subnational coordination mechanisms to improve data use, accountability, and response planning. • Advocate for capacity building for resource mobilization and make an investment case for NIS. • Develop guidance and tailored support for countries on how to integrate humanitarian NIS into national development systems, tailor NIS based on country context, prioritize indicators, and coordinate with national government, including integration of NIS in national multisectoral nutrition action plans for coordination and accountability across actors. • Ensure disaster risk reduction (DRR) bodies serve as a link between humanitarian and development partners, which was an original purpose for the DRR. • Develop guidance and recommendations on how to incentivize collaboration. • Strengthen coordination of donors/funders across the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus. **Multisectoral focus** • Strengthen coordination across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus stakeholders and beyond nutrition. **Financing** • Develop concrete guidance on financing strategies, including approaches such as pooled funds, catalytic donor financing, or earmarked national budget lines.
Primary data collection	**Recalibrate primary data collection priorities** • Answer the questions: Who needs What data When for What Action; take stock of data needs and reprioritize. • Reflect the needs at global and local level and contextualize data needs for the local setting. • Develop guidance with a minimum set of indicators to be collected at the local level to support frontline workers with daily actions. • Identify a minimum set of indicators needed to allow for global progress monitoring.

Pillars	Key actions
	Explore new sources for primary data • Define what we mean by primary data, e.g., traditional survey data versus remote data collection, satellite data, maps, and/or data from phone surveys, purchases, and social media. • Set up a task force/working group to develop the expanded sources of primary data. **Design more cost-efficient primary data collection approaches** • Prepare a technical note on primary data collection options and their strengths/limitations (including, e.g., remote data collection systems [mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM), computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI)]; new data sources for nutrition [e.g., social media, satellite/maps]) and how to triangulate the data. • Design sampling to reduce respondent burden while still obtaining representative data, with a focus on stratification and general, less precise but more granular estimates to drive local-level decision-making. • Incorporate nutrition indicators in LSMS surveys, considering layering modules/questions, including modules/questions in subsamples to decrease participant burden, statistics to fill gaps, and scale up LSMS to support more countries, strengthening local capacity in LSMS use for NIS. • Consider more cost-efficient micronutrient survey designs (e.g., collaboration with national/regional research partners and laboratories). • Explore private sector partnerships by assessing the value of data collected by private companies and the potential to collect commercially valuable data or samples through surveys to generate income.
Leveraging routine and administrative data	**Stocktaking at global, regional, and national levels** • Recognize data losses and uncertainty in fragile and crisis-affected settings and limited visibility on which data is being collected, where, and by whom. • Prioritize exploring the use of routine and administrative data given funding cuts. • Develop guidance on the best use of administrative data for public health purposes and include guidance/tools on data interpretation across sectors. • Document data quality in routine and administrative data (e.g., infant and young child feeding data in DHIS2). **Build cross-sectoral integration and minimize duplication** • Establish a conceptual framework to connect nutrition data with sectoral information systems. • Build on political and technical momentum to break silos between humanitarian and development platforms (e.g., WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR databases).

Pillars	Key actions
	• Strengthen multi-sectoral data capacity through joint training, quality assurance, and collaborative analysis. • Harmonize and integrate or link indicators across platforms to streamline analysis, reporting, communication, and use, prioritizing use of existing national platforms, e.g., health surveillance systems, DHIS2, scorecards, and dashboards, rather than building new parallel systems, as feasible, and document experiences, e.g., DHIS2 nutrition module indicators and adaptability across different country contexts. • Conduct research to compare administrative and/or surveillance data with assessment findings to assess data quality, identify gaps, and build trust in its use. • Embed routine and administrative data into national coordination and governance platforms, clarifying institutional roles and responsibilities for nutrition data across sectors, and advocating for enabling policies that promote responsible data sharing and integrated analysis. • Consider leveraging infectious disease surveillance data, especially for biomarker assessment.
Metrics, methods/ approaches, and tools	**Stocktaking** • Document what already exists/is underway for different approaches, experiences, and lessons learned; what is good versus not good enough for needs; and transparency in assumptions, level of uncertainty, and limitations; considering country consultations with users of the methods/approaches and possibly producing a review paper. **Facilitate harmony, integration, and uptake of existing tools, metrics, and methods** • Utilize existing tools, metrics, and methods. **Novel development, e.g., Innovative tools, metrics, methods** • Develop hybrid approaches that combine qualitative and quantitative data. • Experiment with data aggregation and triangulation using AI and modeling tools (including Large Language Models – LLMs) for low-access or data-sparse settings. • Conduct implementation research about data collection and data use, e.g., using AI to predict wasting or to calculate severe acute malnutrition (SAM) caseload and required inputs for treatment; proxy indicators for micronutrient status such as crop micronutrient status; and validate findings. • Develop innovative sampling methods and efficient field techniques. • Revisit the Nutrition Modeling Consortium and its efforts to bring modelers and data users together to create consistency, transparency, clarity, and consensus across methods, metrics, approaches, and tools; ensure that data meet user needs; and build trust.

Pillars	Key actions
	Guidance • Develop user-friendly guidance to promote widespread adoption and harmonization of approaches, ensuring clarity for end users (e.g., governments) on use of novel methods, when are the methods/tools necessary, what are the necessary skills and capacity, how to interpret the data, and presentation for policymakers, using a bottom-up approach focused on local needs, and ensuring data sources, as applicable, are fairly and accurately cited. **Cost** • Conduct costing and review trade-offs and value for money and cost effectiveness. **Crosscutting** • Plan around ownership, validation, trust, and the expertise needed for each action to be effective and ensure we do not reinvent the wheel. • Continuously refocus on integrated, collaborative, and consultative processes so that we align across different stakeholders in the chain.

Source: European Commission Joint Research Centre (2025) [2]

[2] European Commission Joint Research Center, National Information Platform for Nutrition, Data for Decisions in Nutrition, Nutrition for Development, World Food Program, UNICEF, and World Health Organization. 2025. *Breaking Down Silos: Unifying Humanitarian and Development Efforts through Nutrition Information Systems. Workshop Report and Roadmap.* Ispra, Italy.