

NATIONAL INFORMATION PLATFORMS FOR NUTRITION

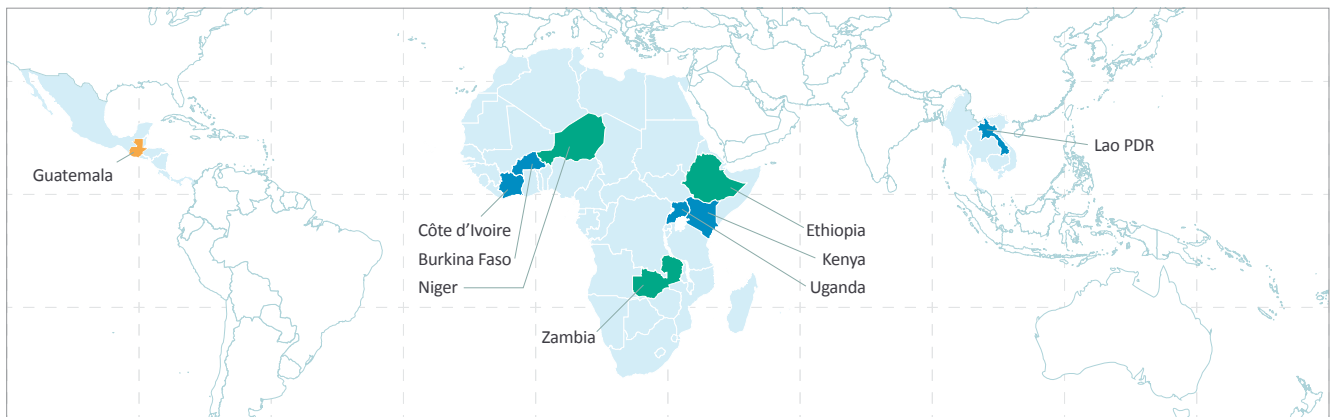
STRENGTHENING EVIDENCE-BASED NUTRITION POLICIES

GOOD TO KNOW

National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN) is an initiative of the European Commission (EC) launched in 2015. NIPN strives to support countries in strengthening their information systems for nutrition and ultimately to improve the analysis of nutrition data to support evidenced-based strategic decisions and policy development. NIPN is aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 2.2: to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030. As of 2024, NIPN is implemented in nine countries:

Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Kenya, Niger, Uganda, and Zambia. Three implementing partners exist, **CATIE** in *Guatemala*, **GIZ** in *Ethiopia, Niger, and Zambia*, and **UNICEF** in *Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Lao PDR, Kenya, and Uganda*. At the global level, a NIPN Global Coordination unit is hosted by Capacity for Nutrition (C4N), a joint action between the EC and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

NIPN DISTRIBUTION OF THE IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



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NIPN APPROACH AT COUNTRY LEVEL

NIPN is a national arrangement of multisectoral stakeholders who work across sectors to bring together national experts and institutions which contribute to outcomes for nutrition, statistics, agriculture, education, WASH, and public health with the aim of ending all forms of malnutrition. Each NIPN is **embedded within national structures** to strengthen the national multisectoral nutrition environment. NIPN helps generate **demand for evidence-based decision making and policy dialogue** to guide the development of national multisectoral nutrition policies and action plans. To achieve this, a NIPN begins by aggregating

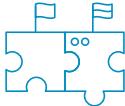

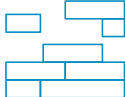
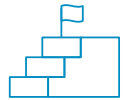


and **analysing existing nutrition-related data** from a variety of national sources. It analyses cross-cutting nutrition data to answer strategic questions based on the government's priorities and pressing nutrition-related challenges. The findings are then turned into **evidence-based recommendations to inform policy makers** and programme planners to improve policies, programmes, and investments for better nutrition. What makes NIPN unique is that each platform is entirely adapted to its host country's context, is iterative by design and facilitates multisectoral stakeholder policy dialogue in nutrition.

NIPN GLOBAL COORDINATION

“ The NIPN Global Coordination team is composed of GIZ advisory staff based in Brussels and expert consultants with extensive experience in nutrition data governance as well as policy, and programming. The role of NIPN Global Coordination is to connect NIPN teams, promoting a culture of exchanges, mentoring, peer-to-peer interactions, as well as to connect NIPN to external partners (donors, similar data initiatives, global platforms) to ensure NIPN products are visible, used, and aligned with global nutrition priorities with the ultimate goal of informing policy to facilitate nutrition action. We also support capacity building through trainings, technical guidance notes, and advice on strategic challenges. ”

Laura Barrington, NIPN Global Coordination Coordinator

PRINCIPLE DRIVEN APPROACH

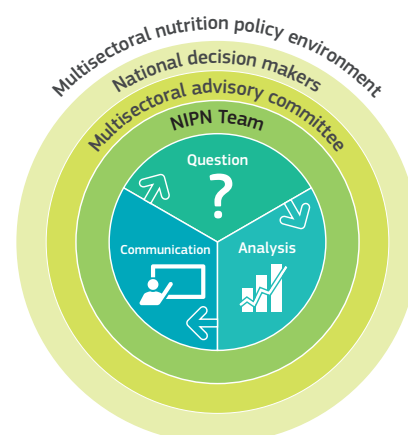
NIPN PRINCIPLES	EXAMPLES FROM NIPN COUNTRIES
 <p>COUNTRY OWNED</p> <p>Technical execution (data and analysis) and multisectoral policy steer components of the platforms are embedded within national structures.</p>	<p>NIPN in Guatemala is country owned through full alignment with the Secretariat of Food and Nutrition Security of the Presidency of the Republic policies ensuring that findings are integrated as closely as possible within the national system, including the system for accessing and visualising data and information.</p>
 <p>SENSITIVE TO CONTEXT</p> <p>Analysis generation and findings support each country's needs and priorities in line with the national nutrition agenda.</p>	<p>For the last several years, NIPN in Niger has prioritized being sensitive to context by embedding the operationalization of the humanitarian development nexus, in short, medium, and long-term synergies to break-down traditional silos across the nutrition and humanitarian sectors.</p>
 <p>BUILDS UPON WHAT EXISTS</p> <p>Makes the best use of current information systems and existing multisectoral nutrition coordination mechanisms.</p>	<p>NIPN in Côte d'Ivoire built upon what exists by supporting the improvement of the national monitoring and evaluation system by tapping into the convening power of SE-CONNAPE to improve the monitoring and evaluation of the National Multi-Sectoral Plan of Action for Nutrition.</p>
 <p>STRENGTHENS CAPACITIES</p> <p>Supports the skills, means, and analytical methods to achieve objectives, at individual levels.</p>	<p>NIPN Burkina Faso implemented a score card activity to monitor the National Strategic Nutrition Plan indicator progress across all nutrition sectors. To strengthen national capacities, representatives, representatives from each sector were selected and trained in using the score card technique to understand and course correct as needed if the trend isn't moving towards the target, and take evidence-informed action.</p>
 <p>ADDS VALUE</p> <p>Complements or is synergistic with other initiatives, avoiding the duplication of efforts.</p>	<p>In Lao PDR, NIPN synergised with the UNICEF, and European Commission Strengthening National Nutrition Information Systems (EC-NIS) initiative. With NIPN Lao PDR's implementing partner, UNICEF, were involved in the planning of EC-NIS from its start and maintained effective communication and coordination ever since. Such partnerships add value to all sides by avoiding duplicative efforts and facilitating complementarity.</p>
 <p>ENHANCES MULTISECTORAL EFFORTS</p> <p>Generates evidence to understand progress in achieving national and international targets and informs national multisectoral policies and plans for better nutrition.</p>	<p>In Ethiopia, NIPN is chairing the national multisectoral Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Steering Committee, an important part of the implementation arrangements for the Food and Nutrition Strategy. Thus, NIPN is integrated in an important multisectoral coordination and cooperation platform and can support it as well as receive specific guidance and requests from it, which creates easy opportunities for advocacy of evidence.</p>

THE NIPN MULTISECTORAL POLICY ENVIRONMENT

At country level NIPN is rooted within existing institutions and the national multisectoral nutrition policy environment. A multisectoral advisory committee guides the NIPN team, validates its work, and ensures linkages between NIPN and national decision makers.

The NIPN initiative envisages a three-step iterative process, for a NIPN to achieve its overall objectives: prioritise relevant nutrition questions, collate and analyse existing data, and communicate and disseminate findings to policy makers and programme planners.

<https://www.nipn-nutrition-platforms.org>



Published by
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
April 2024
Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Programme
Knowledge for Nutrition
(K4N)
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publication.

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