

2025 Annual Report



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Introduction

Launched in 2015 by the European Union, the National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN) initiative aims to provide support to partner countries within the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement. These countries are dedicated to implementing evidence-based programmes and interventions to enhance human nutrition as part of their commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The main objective of the NIPN initiative is to create country-led and country-owned information platforms to strengthen the analysis of nutrition information and data in countries, and to better inform policies and programmes for nutrition improvement. Currently, platforms are established in nine countries: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kenya, Lao PDR, Niger, Uganda, and Zambia.

Capacity for Nutrition – NIPN (C4N-NIPN) provides global coordination and support to implement the initiative and harmonise technical assistance and capacity strengthening. NIPN is implemented by the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre (CATIE), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The 2025 NIPN Annual Report highlights progress and achievements from a decade of implementation by NIPN country teams. It also provides an overview of the work carried out by NIPN Global Coordination in its final year. Solidifying the NIPN legacy was a crucial theme in 2025, ensuring that NIPN contributions to evidence-based policymaking and improved nutrition outcomes remain impactful beyond the duration of external funding.

Global Coordination

C4N-NIPN provides global coordination and support: it coordinates the initiative within and between countries, builds capacity and provides technical assistance, and links NIPN with SUN and other initiatives to ensure coherence.

Capacity building: Leadership beyond position

In June 2024, C4N-NIPN Global Coordination with support from North-West University delivered a four-day leadership training in Potchefstroom, South Africa, that was attended by representatives from six NIPN country teams.

Recognising that effective leadership goes beyond formal roles, participants learned to lead with influence rather than authority, practiced giving and receiving feedback, and developed personalised leadership action plans to sustain long-term growth. The training successfully strengthened participant's strategic leadership capacities that are critical for advancing nutrition outcomes in addition to technical competencies.

Fostering learning

Throughout the year, the Global Coordination team captured and shared the NIPN platforms' expertise in a range of knowledge products and events.

A NIPN data visualisation tools (DVT) review provided a comparative analysis of the experiences of NIPN countries in developing and managing DVT to enhance the communication of nutrition data for policymaking.

The report examines the objectives, methodologies, and approaches adopted by each platform, offering a valuable resource for future implementation. Main findings were presented at webinar 'Data Visualisation Tools for Nutrition: the NIPN Experience', highlighting lessons on design, government uptake, and long-term ownership, and showcasing Lao PDR's integration of AI to enhance accessibility.

A second webinar featured Guatemala's Ministry of Health-led Nutrition Situation Room, demonstrating successful institutionalisation of an automated system for nutrition monitoring through ministerial endorsement. Together, these initiatives reflect GC's dual focus: reinforcing the sustainability capacities of country platforms while actively disseminating evidence, tools, and lessons learned to strengthen institutional ownership and long-term integration of nutrition data systems globally.

The 7th and final NIPN Global Gathering

NIPN Global Coordination organised the [7th NIPN Annual Global Gathering](#) from 23-25 September in Lusaka, Zambia, under the theme 'Reflecting on progress to maintain nutritional impact'. The event brought together over 60 participants from NIPN country platforms, implementing partners, donors, and technical institutions.

The sustainability of the platforms was at the heart of the discussions. As the second phase of NIPN's external funding comes to an end in 2026, the 2025 Gathering served as a timely space to review progress, share



lessons learnt, and discuss the way forward across institutional, financial, and technical dimensions. The sentiment across all interventions was unanimous: while the formal phase of donor support is ending, the NIPN community remains strong.

NIPN4NIS: lessons from a year of implementation

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 nutrition information systems (NIS) for better informed decision making. NIPN4NIS builds on the technical expertise accumulated through NIPN experience and applies guidance related to all stages of the data value chain.

Throughout 2025, implementation highlighted the wide range of demands and entry points for strengthening national 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. Support to Mali focused on strengthening nutrition governance, improving food security indicators, and formulating subnational policy questions. Finally, Sierra Leone benefited from remote coaching sessions and the development of a nutrition dashboard to facilitate data use and visualisation.

Early experience that NIPN4NIS can facilitate coordination among partners who previously worked in silos. It also highlights the importance of establishing clear focal points and streamlining administrative procedures to further support efficient implementation.

NIPN lessons learnt survey

In early 2026 C4N-NIPN sent out a questionnaire to NIPN Coordinators which included eight quantitative and three qualitative questions. The aim of the survey was to capture Coordinator's thoughts on how the project has been implemented in their country. Feedback captured overall favourable outcomes of NIPN's country-level activities. Some highlights include:

- All respondents rated the alignment of platform activities with national needs positively, with all seven respondents selecting the highest rating.
- Most respondents agreed that activities such as data mapping, indicator definition, and dashboard development have improved the coherence and accessibility of nutrition information for decision-makers.

- Most respondents indicated that the platform's work is valued and appreciated by national authorities, although responses were somewhat more varied compared with other questions.
- While feedback remained generally positive, responses regarding coordination among institutions responsible for nutrition data generation and use were slightly more mixed. Respondents broadly agreed that additional efforts are still required to strengthen multisectoral coordination of nutrition data to further improve nutrition policy and programming.

The qualitative responses are included in each country's section further down in this report, and the full quantitative table is included in annex to this report.

Paving the way forward

Since 2015 we've witnessed the start of an ambitious initiative evolve into a global NIPN community. During the past 10 years, 10 countries have overcome silos and built multisectoral coordination, harnessed the power of data to strengthen policy, and learnt from each other. Dozens of webinars, trainings, policy briefs and exchanges, from which the NIPN legacy is a strong community of platform colleagues and partners who share a commitment to evidence-based policymaking. The countries have demonstrated their commitment to the NIPN approach, and many platforms will carry on. The experience of 10 years of NIPN has shown that the initiative has facilitated the establishment of successful country-owned, country-led platforms in diverse contexts.

In April 2026, the GIZ global programme Knowledge for Nutrition, including the action area Capacity for Nutrition, wraps up its global coordination role. The end of C4N-NIPN and Global Coordination does not affect the continuation of the NIPN community, nor is it a definitive end of platform support. The continuation NIPN4NIS support through KPCN/C4N 2.0 will continue to offer capacity building for the NIPN platforms and continue to provide an additional opportunity for additional countries to learn from NIPN to strengthen their own NIS.

NIPN Global Coordination is grateful for the platforms' collaboration, engaged learning, and dedication shared across countries. We are certain 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.

Burkina Faso



Photo courtesy of GIZ

If NIPN was to start all over again, with the knowledge you have now, what advice would you give yourself on day one?

Decentralise the analysis of issues at regional level, enhance visibility, strengthen the collection of primary data, draw up a manual of procedures for managing Phase II, build on the progress made during the various phases, and mobilise and motivate state actors to manage the project (the types of incentives will be described in the manual of procedures).

What is your NIPN platform's biggest achievement in your country?

Strengthening of multisectoral coordination on nutrition

What was the biggest challenge you faced in implementing the initiative in your country?

Availability of microdata.



Achievements and innovation

One of the key advances over the past year has been the inclusion of nutrition in the national budget circular. Although the process, initiated in early 2025, is not yet fully operational, it has already produced important results. In particular, nutrition has been integrated into the budget circular for local authorities for the 2026 fiscal year, and greater consideration of nutrition is now being reflected in budget planning processes.

Strengthening capacity

Several capacity-building sessions on nutrition were conducted for stakeholders involved in the state budget process, including sectoral ministries, local government actors, and members of the committee responsible for territorial authorities. The trainings covered key topics such as fundamental nutrition concepts, the multisectoral nutrition policy and strategic plan, nutrition-sensitive budgeting, methods for tracking domestic nutrition financing, and the Government's budget cycles and procedures. Through targeted workshops, participants strengthened their understanding of nutrition-related issues and improved their technical capacity to integrate nutrition into the budget circular to support the allocation of resources to nutrition.

Sustainability

The sustainability strategy aims for a gradual reduction in the support of technical and financial partners, enabling the Government to progressively assume the technical and financial responsibilities related to the achievements of the NIPN. Implementing this sustainability approach involves carrying out the activities outlined in the sustainability plan while ensuring regular monitoring of commitments related to institutional, technical, and financial anchoring..

Côte d'Ivoire



IN-FOCUS: Reflections



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If NIPN was to start all over again, with the knowledge you have now, what advice would you give yourself on day one?

We need to ensure that the data required to feed the data centralisation platform is available.

What was the biggest challenge you faced in implementing the initiative in your country?

Strengthening multisectoral coordination on nutrition, partnerships, multi-stakeholder and multisectoral dialogue, and centralising data and analysis to inform policymaking.



Achievements and innovation

One of the key achievements over the past year has been the update of the national nutrition data visualisation tool. The new version merges two previous platforms into a single, centralised system with improved navigation and enhanced functionalities. It introduces features such as a data dashboard and a country map, allowing for more interactive visualisation of nutrition indicators, stakeholders, and interventions in Côte d'Ivoire.

This update strengthens the platform's capacity to support the objectives of the National Multisectoral Nutrition Plan (PNMN) by improving data management, accuracy, and performance. As a result, it better supports evidence-based decision-making and helps guide public policies and investments in nutrition more effectively.

Strengthening capacity

In 2025, the National Council for Food and Nutrition (CONANUT) conducted a national mapping exercise of nutrition interventions and stakeholders to support the revision of sectoral policies, plans, and strategies. The objective was to generate updated and reliable information on nutrition activities to improve coordination among partners and guide planning and budgeting at both central and decentralised levels. The exercise involved the establishment of consulting and technical teams to manage data collection, stakeholder engagement, analysis, and validation. The results provided CONANUT with a comprehensive database that helps identify who is doing what, where, for whom, and how in nutrition and early childhood development, while also highlighting geographic and programmatic gaps in interventions.

Sustainability

To sustain PNMIN beyond external funding, a sustainability plan was developed with support from C4N-NIPN. This plan focuses on integrating the platform's management unit within CONANUT, retaining staff as state employees, diversifying national funding sources through dedicated budget lines in technical ministries, and enhancing strategic communication to share PNMIN outputs with decision-making bodies and the broader community. Since October 2025, the PNMIN team has been fully operational within CONANUT's planning and M&E service, supporting coordination and the implementation of the 2024-2027 National Multisectoral Nutrition Plan.

Ethiopia



Photo courtesy of GIZ

If NIPN was to start all over again, with the knowledge you have now, what advice would you give yourself on day one?

If NIPN were starting again today, I would focus from the beginning on strengthening government ownership and embedding the platform firmly within the Ethiopian Public Health Institute so that it is fully aligned with national priorities and sustainable over time. I would also engage policymakers early to ensure that there is strong demand for evidence and that the analyses produced are directly linked to policy questions and decision-making needs. In addition, I would prioritize building accessible nutrition data systems and strengthening partnerships with universities and regional institutes to expand analytical capacity. Finally, I would invest early in capacity building and clear communication so that evidence is not only generated but also effectively used to inform policies and programs.

Example, most of our policy briefs that were used directly by the government were those which were prepared as a result of the request from sectors, rather than the briefs we prepared using the routine policy question formulation cycle.

What is your NIPN platform's biggest achievement in your country?

The biggest achievement of NIPN Ethiopia has been its contribution to strengthening evidence-based nutrition decision-making in the country. By generating high-quality analyses and translating them into policy-relevant evidence, NIPN has supported government institutions to make informed nutrition policy and program decisions. Notably, evidence generated through NIPN helped guide government investment in nutrition, contributing to the allocation of significant domestic resources (650 million Birr annually) to priority initiatives such as the Seqota Declaration.

What was the biggest challenge you faced in implementing the initiative in your country?

One of the main challenges faced by NIPN Ethiopia during implementation was low quality nutrition data. Although datasets existed across sectors, they were often fragmented, or not regularly updated, and not interoperable making it challenging to conduct rapid analyses for policy decisions. Another challenge was creating sustained demand for evidence among policymakers, which required continuous

engagement and communication. Limited analytical capacity, particularly at sub-national institutions, also posed challenges during the early phase. Over time, these issues were addressed through capacity building, stronger partnerships with universities and regional institutions, and improved data access through systems established within the Ethiopian Public Health Institute. Administrative and financial management processes also posed challenges, which occasionally slowed the implementation of planned activities.

Achievements and innovation

NIPN Ethiopia prepared five operational cycles and a national guide for Ethiopian School Feeding Menus were produced and embedded within existing government structures, reinforcing the role of national institutions in translating evidence into programmatic guidance and sectoral planning tools. Currently, the implementation of low-cost school menus along with home grown school meals manual will be scaled up with Ministry of Education and GIZ EnDEV project in Addis Ababa and four regions of Ethiopia.

Different NIPN Ethiopia communication materials like brochures, booklets, and posters were disseminated, which presented achievements in the areas of policy questions in different areas of multi-sectoral nutrition knowledge and governance, dashboard, meta-data, etc. The NIPN team presented the NIPN analytical findings and NIPN implementation highlights in Ethiopia during the subnational capacity building training workshops organised in Jinka (for South Ethiopia region), Bonga (for Southwest Ethiopia region), Butajira (for central Ethiopia region) and at EPHI for representatives from the Tigray region health research institute, regional institute of agriculture, and universities in the regions. The event was organised to provide needs-based training for the respective sub-nationals to enhance their NIPN capacities. The team also participated in the training and awareness-raising workshop on the food system transformation in Ethiopia.

Strengthening capacity

As the GIZ support ended, the NIPN team organised a conference, held in Addis Ababa with a theme of 'The Legacy of NIPN Ethiopia: Milestones, Lessons, and the Way Forward'. High level officials and over 60 participants attended the event. The event highlighted multisectoral coordination, integration of NIPN outputs into national programmes such as National Nutrition Programme-II, Food and Nutrition Strategy, and Food Systems Transformation, and capacity-building achievements, including support to PhD students and subregional researchers.

Other highlights included organising targeted training courses such as the STATA workshop for researchers and technical staff, strengthening advanced data analysis skills across institutions. The National Nutrition Leadership Training for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Steering Committee and FNTEC members further reflected a strategic investment in governance and coordination capacities. This initiative was inspired by the leadership training model previously organised by Global Coordination for all NIPN platforms and facilitated by the African Nutrition Leadership Program demonstrating adaptation and contextualisation at country level. Rather than focusing on foundational systems, Ethiopia's efforts illustrate a platform transitioning toward refinement and reinforcement, deepening analytical rigor, enhancing leadership competencies, and ensuring sustained functionality of national and subnational dashboards and evidence-generation processes.

Sustainability

Significant progress was made in advancing sustainability. The revised sustainability plan highlighted the integration of NIPN activities into the EPHI annual plan and the renewal of contracts for key NIPN staff within the EPHI HR structure following Phase II closure. Workshops and consultations, including the two-day financial closure conference held in Addis Ababa in November 2025 facilitated discussions on post-Phase II arrangements, including cascading analytical capacities to regional PHIs, embedding outputs into national programs, and securing alternative funding sources after the unsuccessful request for a no-cost extension.

Key next steps from the sustainability plan include continuation of NIPN learnings in different national implementation plans like school feeding, food fortification, national dashboard, integrating meta-data with National Data Management centres, among others. Further, continuation of a NIPN unit in EPHI as part of country-led initiative, continuity of knowledge in GIZ Ethiopia as part of scale-up of school feeding programme. Currently, NIPN is active and functional as NIPN Cell housed in EPHI with reduced staff, budget and activities integrated with Food and Nutrition Science Directorate.

Guatemala



IN-FOCUS: Reflections



Photo courtesy of NIPN Guatemala

If NIPN was to start all over again, with the knowledge you have now, what advice would you give yourself on day one?

Sign an agreement (an inter-institutional administrative document) between the parties (the institutions involved that own the data) to generate, share and analyse data relating to the determinants of nutrition and food security, thereby facilitating the exchange of data and information for decision-making; or, establish a Multisectoral Advisory Committee that does not represent or form part of a national institutional structure, thereby the aim would be to facilitate the exchange of data and information, and during implementation, each institution would submit its data.

What is your NIPN platform's biggest achievement in your country?

The institutions have data dashboards, which are being used, depending on their specific focus (nutrition, health, food security, agriculture) by technical teams, middle management (for monitoring) and senior decision-makers. Technical assistance was provided and the institutions were supported in using IT tools for the processing, analysis and application of the information. Now, the technical teams manage the databases and use the information.

What was the biggest challenge you faced in implementing the initiative in your country?

Overcoming resistance to change when analysing and using administrative nutrition data.



Achievements and innovation

NIPN support to Secretariat of Food and Nutrition Security of the Presidency of the Republic (SESAN) included, technical support for the development of new processes and the management of IT applications, such as the new version of the Food and Nutrition Security Governance Monitoring system; the monitoring system for the Inter-institutional Protocol for Tackling Acute Malnutrition in Areas with the Highest Burden of Morbidity and Mortality; and the virtual training platform. Completion of the multi-sectoral data repository, with access available to SESAN and the option of open sharing subject to institutional decision.

Further contributions to the Ministry of Health covered, IT technical support for the verification and quality assurance of health and nutrition indicators. Development of the Nutrition Situation Room, which strengthens the Ministry's individual and institutional capacities regarding the processing, management, use and analysis of nutrition data generated by health services, through indicator-based dashboards and statistics that illustrate the situation of the population at a given time and place.

The Ministry of Agriculture was able to develop a Geoportal thanks to NIPN support. This is a specialised website that acts as a platform for searching, viewing and accessing geographical information, interactive maps and geospatial services via the internet, as well as other resources for territorial analysis related to food and nutrition security. Technical assistance in

the initial development of the Integrated Intervention Management System of the Vice-Ministry of Food and Nutritional Security, which includes the warehouse module and the Food for Action programme module.

The Municipalities in the Department of Totonicapán received technical assistance with the management of the Municipal Food and Nutrition Security Systems and guidance on the development of various municipal food and nutrition security policies (Momostenango, Santa Lucía La Reforma, San Cristóbal Totonicapán).

Sustainability

Official closing events for Phase II were held on 13 and 25 November 2025 at departmental and national level. The closing aimed to disseminate the progress made between 2021 and 2025 and reinforcing inter-institutional commitment to food and nutritional security in Guatemala.

As highlighted in the first section, NIPN Guatemala made significant contributions to various government institutions. Through effective implementation and relationships developed with key stakeholders, activities were successfully institutionalised within government structures, ensuring their continuation beyond NIPN's support. By embedding IT technologies to automate and enhance the processing of administrative data, systems have become more efficient, reliable and allowing entities to independently maintain these processes over time.

Kenya



Photo courtesy of GIZ

If NIPN was to start all over again, with the knowledge you have now, what advice would you give yourself on day one?

Multi-sectoral engagement is very critical for successful implementation. Secure political buy-in as early as possible. Focus on systems capacity strengthening, less consultants and more of systems capacity building. Have a robust communication plan and mechanism.

What is your NIPN platform's biggest achievement in your country?

Establishment of the NIPN web portal and repository that allows access to nutrition data/information. Establishment of NIPN coordination mechanism bringing together multiple sectors on a common platform e.g., to agree on priority policy questions.

What was the biggest challenge you faced in implementing the initiative in your country?

Transformation of fragmented, multi-sectoral data into actionable evidence. Capacity for Advanced Data Analysis. Need to develop the sustainability of the initiative early enough.

Achievements and innovation

In 2025, Kenya's National Information Platform for Food Security and Nutrition (NIPFN) continued its work to strengthen nutrition governance at national and subnational levels. Institutions at county level have increasingly led NIPN activities through nutrition multi-stakeholder platforms dedicated to programme implementation and monitoring in alignment with national nutrition priorities. NIPFN further strengthened its institutional integration by collaborating closely with national technical working groups under the MOH Division of Nutrition and Dietetics.

The platform also enhanced the nutrition information system by integrating digital innovations such as an Open Data Kit (ODK)-based mass screening tool and the establishment of a pilot wasting management database, designed to improve the timeliness and use of real-time data. Moreover, decision-makers in Kenya increasingly relied on its technical outputs to inform policy development and program implementation, notably the Kenya Nutrition Action Plan, county nutrition plans, and the development of a new Nutrition & Dietetics Policy.

Strengthening capacity

During the past year, Kenya's NIPFN has conducted capacity building activities for policymakers and stakeholders across national and county levels. A major innovation was the development of Kenya's first Public Finance for Nutrition (PF4N) training programme, in partnership with the Kenya School of Government (KSG). PF4N was designed to bolster the

ability of national and county governments to mobilise and manage sustainable nutrition financing. The curriculum is now formally housed at KSG, ensuring that the programme remains a permanent fixture in the government's public sector capacity-building framework. At the subnational level, nutrition financial tracking trainings were conducted in the counties of Isiolo and Kilif. This allows to strengthen the link between policy commitments and budget allocations, reinforcing NIPN's contribution to sustainable nutrition financing.

Sustainability

Kenya has developed a draft sustainability plan for the NIPFN, and several actions are underway to ensure the long-term continuity of the platform. These include support for strategic nutrition planning, strengthening domestic financing for nutrition, establishing and operationalising multisectoral coordination platforms, and institutionalising the use of Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) protocols within universities. Collectively, these efforts aim to embed NIPFN functions within existing national systems and institutions, promoting the sustained generation and use of evidence for food and nutrition policy and decision-making.

Lao PDR



Photo courtesy of NIPN Lao PDR

If NIPN was to start all over again, with the knowledge you have now, what advice would you give yourself on day one?

The selection of the NIPN host institution and team is critical to ensuring long-term sustainability and a smooth transition to Government ownership. A well-positioned host will strengthen institutionalisation, enhance policy influence, and support continuity beyond external funding.

To determine the most appropriate hosting arrangement, broader consultation with Government stakeholders is essential. This should carefully assess which agency is best placed to lead nutrition governance, which institution has the mandate and technical capacity for nutrition evidence generation and data analysis, and which body is strategically positioned to influence multi-sectoral policy decisions.

In the context of Lao PDR, leadership in nutrition data analysis and monitoring remains unclear. For example, the Lao Statistics Bureau leads large-scale data collection and national nutrition surveys; however, its mandate focuses primarily on data production rather than ongoing monitoring, coordination, and policy translation. While the Ministry of Health, through the National Nutrition Committee, serves as the formal lead institution for nutrition, coordination and cross-sectoral monitoring functions remain limited. This creates gaps in translating evidence into multi-sectoral action.

Therefore, identifying a host institution for NIPN should consider not only technical data capacity, but also institutional mandate for coordination, authority to convene sectors, ability to influence policy and planning processes, and prospects for long-term Government ownership and financing. A context-specific and consultative approach will be essential to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of NIPN moving forward.

What is your NIPN platform's biggest achievement in your country?

Existing nutrition data are increasingly discussed beyond the health sector, contributing to a more enabling environment for nutrition policy dialogue. Understanding of nutrition analysis and the consequences of malnutrition has expanded, particularly among nutrition-sensitive sectors, strengthening cross-sector engagement.

Nutrition issues are now more regularly addressed across Government line agencies, which has positively contributed to the development of the National Nutrition Strategy and the National Plan of

Action for Nutrition in subsequent stages. The NIPN platform has demonstrated its value as a strong coordination and evidence mechanism, with its government-appointed team effectively serving as the data and monitoring arm to inform and support the strategy development process.

What was the biggest challenge you faced in implementing the initiative in your country?

The Government restructuring exercise has delayed implementation of planned activities and created uncertainty in institutional roles. Revisions to staff terms of reference and adjustments in institutional mandates are affecting continuity and operational efficiency. The reassignment of the Development Research Institute to reduce its role in social research and place greater emphasis on fiscal and economic analysis poses a potential sustainability risk for NIPN. This shift may weaken the institutional anchoring of nutrition-related research, policy analysis, and evidence generation functions.

In addition, government leadership on nutrition data remains unclear. While the health sector formally leads nutrition, overall, the coordination of multi-sectoral nutrition data across government institutions is not well defined. Although nutrition sits under the Ministry of Health, data coordination capacity is constrained by competing sectoral priorities. This limits effective cross-sectoral collaboration and the timely use of nutrition data for informed decision-making.

Achievements and innovation

In 2025, NIPN Lao PDR expanded access to nutrition data and improved analytical tools within the national nutrition information system. A key achievement was the launch of online data dashboards for six provinces (Phongsaly, Oudomxay, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Saravan, and Sekong). These dashboards enable local authorities to visualise and use localised and contextualised nutrition data in their decision-making processes.

The platform also began integrating artificial intelligence tools to improve knowledge management and facilitate quicker access to nutrition evidence. These innovations were supported by trainings on data quality, analysis, and reporting to officials at the provincial level, to ensure effective use of the new tools. Meanwhile, national institutions (the Lao Statistics Bureau and the Department of Economic, and Fiscal Policy under the Ministry of Finance) are responsible for the ongoing technical updates and maintenance, ensuring the sustainability of the tools.

Strengthening capacity

Capacity building remained a central pillar of NIPN in 2025, focusing on strengthening data analysis, advocacy, use of nutrition markers, and research methodologies. At the provincial level, collaboration between the Nutrition Information System and NIPN strengthened DHIS2 data analysis, consolidating nutrition data quality, reporting, and use for local decision-making.

A major milestone of 2025 was the dissemination of newly generated nutrition evidence during the 10th National Nutrition Forum 'Financing Nutrition and Accelerating Data-Driven Actions' in March. This high-level advocacy event resulted in stronger commitment to evidence-based policy development, increased public financing for nutrition, and improved integration of National Nutrition Action Plan interventions into sectoral plans and strategic documents. Research findings were also disseminated to provincial authorities, supporting the development of context-specific action plans addressing nutrition-specific, nutrition-sensitive, and enabling environment priorities.

Sustainability

Sustainability was one of the most significant achievements of NIPN in 2025. A comprehensive and costed Sustainability Plan was developed through extensive consultation with relevant government institutions and development partners. The plan clearly defined roles and responsibilities and received formal endorsement from the NIPN Advisory Board. Importantly, key ministries and institutions made formal commitments to sustain evidence generation and evidence-based policy processes beyond project support. Following endorsement, the plan began implementation using domestic resources, demonstrating strong national ownership and commitment to institutionalising NIPN functions within government systems.

Niger



Photo courtesy of GIZ

If NIPN was to start all over again, with the knowledge you have now, what advice would you give yourself on day one?

Maintaining the PNIN team to capitalise on the experience gained throughout the implementation of the PNIN. Strengthening the information centralisation system (data, anonymised databases, reports and strategic documents) by improving the information reporting process through the modernisation of the PNIN website and by continuing to build the capacity of sectoral teams. Strengthening the PNIN team's capacity regarding innovative tools incorporating the use of artificial intelligence. Assigning a leading role to the PNIN in the monitoring and evaluation of the new National Nutrition Security Strategy.

Supporting the process of gradually ensuring the PNIN's sustainability through the activation of co-financing processes.

What is your NIPN platform's biggest achievement in your country?

One of the greatest achievements has been the internalisation of the process for drafting the PNIN Framework Analysis Plan. There is also the PNIN website, which remains an important tool for sharing information in Niger. We can cite capacity building with a wide range of stakeholders, including the PNIN team, which has benefited from short-, medium- and long-term training, notably the long-term master's programme in nutrition and several certificates in human nutrition in collaboration with the Faculty of Science and Technology at Abdou Moumouni University in Niamey. Finally, the communication strategy, which has highlighted the importance of disseminating information produced at PNIN level.

What was the biggest challenge you faced in implementing the initiative in your country?

The disbursement of funds took a long-time following call for contributions. The interruption of funding following the military coup of 26 July 2023. The fact that contract amendments take a long time to be signed.

Achievements and innovation

The advancement of the NIPN operational cycles during Phase II illustrates both technical progress and the nature of completing the full cycle, from policy question formulation to analysis and dissemination. In Niger, the fourth NIPN Operational Cycle, which commenced in September 2024, has been completed, bringing the total number of concluded cycles in Phase II to three. Eight policy questions were validated, with formulation and prioritisation completed. Within the 2025/2026 PCA, the first two questions have been answered and validated, while a third sub-question of the second question was addressed as a synthesis of earlier sub-questions and therefore did not require separate validation. This progression demonstrates both sustained demand for policy-relevant evidence and a commitment to completing analytical processes within the cycle framework.

Strengthening capacity

Capacity development remained a cornerstone of technical enhancement for the NIPN platforms and Global Coordination throughout the reporting year, reflecting a deliberate effort to consolidate analytical capacity, strengthen governance, and promote sustainability. In Niger, the platform invested in strengthening national expertise in nutrition data analysis through targeted training of doctoral students at the Faculty of Science and Technology of Abdou Moumouni University on statistical data analysis, regional hands-on workshops to operationalise its renovated web portal in Maradi and Agadez. Further an indicators consolidation workshop to improve coherence in monitoring frameworks produced beneficial results. The capitalisation and advocacy workshop, bringing together sectoral ministries, academia, journalists, civil society and technical partners, along with the dissemination of the FRAT/R24H survey results, underscored a strategic shift toward enhancing multisectoral ownership and the practical use of food data for evidence-informed decision-making.

In Niger, despite the absence of the former multisectoral steering committee, engagement with NIPN outputs continued through alternative structures. Phase II capitalisation workshops and the Nutrition Café facilitated discussion of nutrition analyses and lessons learned, strengthening understanding of national nutrition priorities and enhancing stakeholder capacity to use evidence in advocacy and policy formulation. With eight policy questions received in the reporting period and three prioritised for analysis, NIPN Niger focused on consolidating ongoing processes, ensuring quality analysis, and reinforcing institutional structures for continued use of outputs.

Additionally, a diagnostic report on nutrition information systems and monitoring mechanisms was developed, alongside two policy briefs addressing food fortification and dietary quality assessment, contributed to strengthening sectoral reflection on data use, quality, and policy relevance.

Sustainability

Sustainability efforts had to be adapted following the military coup in July 2023. The PNIN developed a one-year perspective document with an estimated budget outlining operational needs beyond project closure, which has been endorsed by senior management. Core activities for 2026 have been incorporated into the INS Priority Activities Plan and are largely financed under the World Bank-supported PHASAO project. Next steps from the sustainability plan include positioning the PNIN as a central tool for monitoring and evaluating the Politique Nationale de Sécurité Nutritionnelle (PNSN). Additional plans include to develop a multi-year financing plan aligned with the PNSN, combining national resources and support from partners, to strengthen institutional embedding of NIPN outputs.

Uganda



IN-FOCUS: Reflections





Achievements and innovation

Over the past year, NIPN Uganda has strengthened its role in evidence-informed policymaking. The platform has continued applying analytical tools such as LiST to directly inform major national frameworks, including the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan III (2026–2030) and the revised Food and Nutrition Policy. An important innovation has been the integration of digital data systems, particularly the use of Open Data Kit, to enable real-time nutrition reporting across 15 district local governments, which has significantly improved data availability and timeliness. In parallel, NIPN has enhanced knowledge communication through accessible outputs such as policy briefs, infographics and analytical reports. It has also supported high-level advocacy platforms such as the National Nutrition Forum and the National Nutrition Dialogue ensuring that evidence reaches decision-makers effectively.

Sustainability

Uganda has been implementing NIPN since 2018. The long-term impact of the program relies significantly on the sustainability of its activities and outputs. Building on its integration within the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Technical Coordination Committee, NIPN Uganda has advanced efforts to secure long-term sustainability. A Sustainability Action Plan was drafted and under process of validation through stakeholder workshops. Key proposals include the creation of additional civil servant positions at Office of Prime Minister and Uganda Buro of Statistic to institutionalise NIPN functions within the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan Secretariat. Efforts are also underway to develop a Uganda Nutrition Portal, strengthen training systems through standardised materials and Train the Trainer methodology, and leverage Lives Saved Tool analysis to inform cost-effective priorities in UNAP III. Implemented

Zambia



IN-FOCUS: Reflections



Photo courtesy of GIZ

If NIPN was to start all over again, with the knowledge you have now, what advice would you give yourself on day one?

From onset, sustainability issues should be discussed and taken care of unlike thinking about sustainability midway or at the end of the project support

What is your NIPN platform's biggest achievement in your country?

The biggest achievement was supporting Zambia's Strategic Planning for stunting reduction, a Lives Saved Tool analysis. The analysis demonstrated that all intervention scenarios results in declines in stunting prevalence, though at varying magnitudes. At the national level, stunting among children under five year is projected to reduce from 32.1 percent in 2026 to 26 percent by 2030 under the most ambitious scenario. The analysis further provided the other realistic scenarios of reducing stunting from the current 32.1 to 31.1 and 29.3 percent by 2030.

What was the biggest challenge you faced in implementing the initiative in your country?

The biggest challenge was that the NIPN Project in Zambia started very late to operationalise due to administrative issues between the coordinating institutions and funding partners.

For the Zambian case, we wish we could be given more time to implement the activities planned since we did not start the implementation on time like other countries.



Achievements and innovation

In 2025, NIPN Zambia strengthened its approach to generating policy-relevant evidence. The NIPN team developed a 'National Evidence Demand Map' that helps align evidence needs with government priorities. Policy questions have been systematically linked to decision-making levels, policy windows, and emerging government priorities. As an example, following the policy directive by the Secretary to the Cabinet to reduce stunting to 15% by 2030, NIPN prioritised modelling and costing analysis to estimate the investment needed to achieve this goal. This approach has increased the relevance, visibility, and demand for NIPN evidence within government processes.

NIPN also strengthened evidence for decision-making by moving beyond national averages to conduct provincial-level analysis of stunting determinants, enabling more targeted and context-specific programming and budgeting aligned with Zambia's decentralised planning system.

Strengthening capacity

Another key advance of NIPN Zambia has been linking capacity development directly to tangible outputs, such as analytical reports, policy briefs, and contributions to national policy discussions, ensuring that training translates into practical policy-relevant

messages and government products. Activities for capacity building included trainings in Lives Saved Tool (LiST) modelling and costing, Power BI for dashboard development, and STATA for trend analysis of stunting determinants, combined with ongoing mentoring and collaboration with communication units. These efforts enabled national analysts to conduct independent analyses, and policy and communication products such as the National Nutrition Dashboard.

Sustainability

While NIPN Zambia has not yet developed a formal sustainability plan, it has integrated sustainability considerations into its workplan and activities. In 2025, key stakeholders, including the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC) and the Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats), took part in a dedicated workshop to assess institutional capacity to continue core NIPN functions, and identified priorities for long-term sustainability. The discussions highlighted strong institutional anchoring of NIPN within government structures and growing demand for nutrition evidence. However, they also identified the need to further institutionalise analytical capacity by defining formal roles and retention mechanisms, and to secure dedicated national funding, as financial sustainability remains the primary risk for continuing evidence generation and analysis.

Annex

Please select from the drop-down list: to what extent do you agree with the following statement:

1. Strongly disagree 2. Disagree 3. Neutral 4. Agree 5. Strongly agree

QUESTION	RESPONDENT 1	RESPONDENT 2	RESPONDENT 3	RESPONDENT 4	RESPONDENT 5	RESPONDENT 6	RESPONDENT 7	RESPONDENT 8	RESPONDENT 9	AVERAGE SCORE
The activities implemented by the platform (data mapping, indicator definition, dashboard development, or M&E support) were well aligned with national needs and capacities.	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	NA	5,0
Activities such as data mapping, indicator definition, and dashboard development or other data visualisation tools improved the coherence and accessibility of nutrition information to decision makers.	5	4	4	4	5	5	5	4	NA	4,5
The NIPN platform strengthened the analysis and use of existing national nutrition data to inform policy.	5	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	NA	4,8
The initiative strengthened the visualisation and use of existing national nutrition data.	5	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	NA	4,6
The NIPN initiative improved coordination among institutions responsible for nutrition data generation, analysis, and policy use.	5	4	1	5	4	5	5	4	NA	4,1
NIPNs work is valued and appreciated by national authorities.	5	4	1	4	4	5	5	5	NA	4,1
There is still much more work to be done to strengthen the multisectoral coordination of nutrition data to improve nutrition policy and programming in my country.	4	2	4	5	5	4	4	4	NA	4,0
Gender sensitive approaches are now better integrated in NIPN teams and processes	4	4	3	4	4	3	3	3	NA	3,5



