Strengthening capacity to analyse data to track progress, inform policies and improve programmes for better nutrition

This initiative of the European Commission aims to support countries with a large burden of undernutrition which are members of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement to create a country-led and country-owned multi-sectoral National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN).

It will contribute to strengthening national capacity to manage and analyse information and data from all sectors which have an influence on nutrition and to disseminate and use information so as to better inform policies and programmes to prevent undernutrition.

The NIPN concept

Policy and programme planners from ministries, development partners and civil society organisations, reporting to an intersectoral body for nutrition

NIPN policy advisory committee

Formulation of questions for analysis and dissemination of results

Questions based on governments’ priorities

Evidence-based decision making is a systematic process of identifying what decision-makers need to know, identifying the evidence to answer their questions using local data and supporting them to make informed choices regarding what nutrition actions to scale-up, and how best to do so.

(Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, SUN in practice n°5, April 2016)

Findings develop plausible evidence of the effectiveness of interventions

Analysis of the nutrition specific/sensitive drivers of changes in malnutrition over time and space

Input data

From routine and ad-hoc surveys, programme monitoring, resource tracking

Outputs

Inform policy makers and improve programmes

Hosted by a national institution such as the central statistics office, also involving ministries and research organisations

The NIPN Global Support Facility

A Global Support Facility (GSF) assists countries and implementing partners to design and operate their national platform; develops common tools and facilitates experience sharing across countries.

The GSF is managed by Agrinatura, the European alliance on agricultural knowledge for development, and is hosted by Agropolis International in Montpellier, France.

An Expert Advisory Group has been set up by the GSF, consisting of specialists and representatives of key organizations in the field of nutrition, to advise on the NIPN process.

The questions for analysis are posed by the NIPN policy advisory committee, based on the government’s priorities and needs

They determine the information to be found or the data required for analysis

Gaps or inconsistencies in data are highlighted and recommendations to improve future data collection are made

The NIPN analysis unit gathers the data in a central repository, performs analysis and interprets the results

The findings contribute to the formulation of new questions for analysis

The findings are translated into policy relevant messages that are disseminated to nutrition stakeholders

They influence policies and programmes to improve nutrition

The number of chronically malnourished children is reduced

The NIPN implementation is being discussed in the following countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Laos, Niger, Uganda, Zambia

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The NIPN Global Support Facility

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