



# The Sustainability Plan for the National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN) in Ethiopia

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NIPN ETHIOPIA

Ethiopian Public Health Institute | Addis Ababa | Email: [ephi.nipn@gmail.com](mailto:ephi.nipn@gmail.com) | <http://www.nipn.ephi.gov.et/>

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## ACRONYMS

AC	Advisory Committee
C4N	Capacity for Nutrition
CNA	Capacity Needs Assessment
DAG	Directed Acyclic Graphs
EIAR	Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
EPHI	Ethiopian Public Health Institute
EU	European Union
FSNRD	Food Science and Nutrition Research Directorate
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GSF	Global Support Facility
HR	Human Resources
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IT	Information Technology
K4N	Knowledge for Nutrition
KTD	Knowledge Translation Directorate
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MER SC	Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Steering Committee
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOWIE	Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy
NCD	Non-Communicable Diseases
NDMC	National Data Management Center
NIS	National Information Systems
NIPN	National Information Platform for Nutrition
FNP	Food and Nutrition Policy
FNS	Food and Nutrition Strategy
NNP	National Nutrition Program
PQF	Policy Question Formulation
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
WHO	World Health Organization

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ethiopian National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN) is hosted by the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI). The NIPN in Ethiopia aims to strengthen national capacity to monitor progress towards the reduction in under-nutrition and to implement more cost-effective and evidence-based nutrition policies and programs. It promotes evidence-based decision making for nutrition and supports the implementation of the National Nutrition Program (NNP) and the Food and Nutrition Policy (FNP).

Sustainability is high on the NIPN's agenda and guides its action plan. For the NIPN in Ethiopia, sustainability is obtained by strengthening the monitoring and evaluation and research capacities of sectors involved in nutrition, responding to nutrition policy research questions, communicating findings to decision and policymakers, working under the national nutrition governance structures, creating visibility of NIPN research outputs, developing strategies, documenting processes, and by ensuring the application of a systematic knowledge sharing approach.

The NIPN is currently fully funded by the European Union (EU) Delegation for Ethiopia (with support from the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office [FCDO] and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation [BMGF]) and the project ends in December 2021. To plan ahead, the NIPN team developed a sustainability plan which describes how the NIPN will ensure its continuity after the project ends. The plan will describe the implementation of the NIPN in Ethiopia, the interventions which foster sustainability, the interventions it will continue in the future and its resources mobilization approach to financially sustain the NIPN's interventions.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. The Global NIPN Initiative

The NIPN is a global initiative launched by the European Commission to support Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) countries that have a high malnutrition burden. It supports the generation of evidence that is used by nutrition stakeholders to develop policy, design programs and to allocate investments. The NIPN initiative is currently implemented in nine countries around the world and is funded by the EU with support from the FCDO and the BMGF. Until early 2020, the global support for the NIPN initiative was provided by Global Support Facility (GSF) based in France. Currently, global support is managed by Capacity for Nutrition (C4N) which is part of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development's Knowledge for Nutrition Programme (K4N) and is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

## 1.2. The NIPN in Ethiopia

The NIPN in Ethiopia was launched in 2018. It is hosted at the EPHI within the Food Science and Nutrition Research Directorate (FSNRD). Technical support to the NIPN is provided by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) under the Ethiopia NIPN Technical Assistance Project (ENTAP) funded by the EU Delegation to Ethiopia.

EPHI assigns full- and part-time staff to the NIPN, provides office space and supports the project and financial management needs of the platform. The Project Manager and Coordinator for the NIPN are the two most senior staff in the FSNRD. Long-term EPHI staff from different directorates also support the NIPN including in finance, human resources (HR), procurement, information technology (IT), logistics and in other technical and research-related fields.

The NIPN works under the umbrella of the NNP and the 2018 FNP and engages with all sectors involved in the national nutrition agenda. EPHI chairs the National Nutrition Program Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Steering Committee (MER SC) which monitors the progress of the NNP and the FNP. This proximity allows the NIPN to reach out to other multisectoral MER SC members during its implementation. The NIPN's integration within the nutrition governance structures strongly contributes to the sustainability of the program.

To ensure its activities are aligned with the needs of the NNP and FNP and its stakeholders, the NIPN applies a dual approach in the oversight of its implementation: 1) The NIPN Advisory Committee (AC) provides high-level advice to the NIPN and supports the uptake of NIPN outputs by decision makers. The AC is formed by a small group of selected advisors with high-level decision-making leverage and close links to ministers. 2) The MER SC provides advice and guidance to the NIPN on operational issues and NIPN implementation. The multisectoral composition of its membership further allows the NIPN to link up with a large number of nutrition, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and research stakeholders in the country. Both committees are complementary, and their involvement ensures each step of the NIPN cycle is completed in a relevant and timely manner.

During the last few years, the NIPN team established the platform, created visibility for the NIPN and secured its integration within the national nutrition governance structure. The NIPN involves many nutrition stakeholders in its implementation. This is done through the MER SC, the NIPN AC, the NIPN trainings, the NIPN policy question formulation process, the NIPN policy and research seminars, webinars and conferences, and the involvement of the NIPN research and technical experts in national policy discussions. The NIPN reinforces its visibility through the NIPN website, social media accounts and the quarterly NIPN newsletter. Participation of NIPN staff from EPHI and IFPRI, in national technical working groups and coordination mechanisms contributes to the increased visibility of the NIPN, its technical inputs, its progress, services and outputs. The NIPN has generated strong interest by stakeholders in its ability to identify and to respond to nutrition-related research questions to inform nutrition policymaking. For instance, in 2020, the Ministry of Health (MOH) requested the NIPN to respond to research questions and to conduct a progress analysis of the NNP indicators to inform the new Food and Nutrition Strategy (FNS). In addition, the national M&E framework of the draft FNS clearly mentions the importance of a Food and Nutrition Information Platform in Ethiopia, thereby validating the role of the NIPN. Through these efforts, the NIPN crafted an important space for itself in Ethiopia, which will further enhance its sustainability in the coming years.

## **2. OBJECTIVES OF THE NIPN SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

The overall objective of the NIPN sustainability plan is to describe how the NIPN will continue beyond the project end-date (December 2021) and to ensure its long-lasting impact in the nutrition sector. The specific objectives of this plan aim to describe:

- 1) The NIPN's interventions and specific actions which foster sustainability.
- 2) The future plans for the sustained use of the NIPN and its services.
- 3) The NIPN's fundraising plan to diversify its funding portfolio.

Through these set of objectives, the NIPN will continue to:

- Generate high-quality and reliable nutrition information and evidence in Ethiopia to influence and support decision making related to nutrition policies and programs at national and sub-national levels.
- Build capacity to carry out robust research, including analytical and communication skills of the NIPN team and NIPN stakeholders.
- Ensure NIPN's role in monitoring the progress towards the reduction of under-nutrition in Ethiopia and the progress in nutrition investments to guide and inform the NNP signatory sectors.
- Ensure the use of the NIPN to disseminate research outputs through policy and research seminars, virtual webinars and conferences and to engage researchers, decision and

policymakers and nutrition stakeholders to improve nutrition policy and programs in Ethiopia.

- Increase the NIPN’s communication outputs, and improve the functionality of the NIPN website, Twitter and Facebook feeds, for visibility of its services and research outputs.

## **2.1. NIPN Interventions that Foster Sustainability**

### ***2.1.1 The NIPN’s Proximity to National Nutrition Decision Makers***

The integration of the NIPN within an existing government institution, the FSNRD of the EPHI, is done by design and to ensure the NIPN is country-led and country-owned and to reinforce the sustainability of the platform. EPHI also leverages its place in the nutrition coordination structures in Ethiopia to ensure the involvement of multisectoral stakeholders in the NIPN’s oversight, capacity building and activity implementation.

Having high-level multisectoral staff within the NIPN oversight committees, the NIPN AC and the MER SC, give the NIPN technical clout which is crucial in securing the NIPN’s place within the nutrition sector. The MOH’s request to the NIPN to conduct research and share evidence to inform the FNS and the acknowledgment of the importance of a food and nutrition information platform within the draft FNS, are testament to the multisectoral appreciation of the NIPN and its services and further sustains its role in the country.

### ***2.1.2 Institutional Capacity Strengthening of the NIPN***

#### **Strengthening capacity within EPHI**

To ensure the right level of staff with the needed capacities are available to implement nutrition M&E and policy research in the country, a NIPN capacity needs assessment (CNA) was conducted for EPHI and other ministries and institutions working closely with NIPN. This CNA identified the capacity gaps at the system, institutional and individual level, and provided tangible recommendations to strengthen short-and long-term capacities to sustain the NIPN. Details of the CNA can be found on the NIPN website (<http://www.nipn.ephi.gov.et/resources>).

Ongoing capacity building interventions for the NIPN team include:

- The provision of short-course in-person training sessions on a variety of topics identified by the NIPN team such as: training on how to best analyze survey data from the Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys and the Ethiopian Demographic and Health Surveys; training in the use of statistical software (STATA) and in geographic information systems (GIS); how to communicate research findings to policymakers and to non-research audiences.
- The provision of medium- and longer-term technical assistance to the NIPN team in areas such as: the policy question formulation process; statistical and data analysis



using, among others, directed acyclic graphs (DAGs); scientific and research report writing, development of policy briefs and research notes; the NIPN data repository (on the Harvard Dataverse platform) and the development of the dataset documentation (metadata guidelines and codebooks); outreach events including webinars, seminars, conferences; and communication outputs (writing newsletters, blogs, articles for the NIPN website).

In addition, to ensure institutional capacity building, long-term technical staff from the FSNRD and other directorates support the NIPN core team. For instance, strong collaboration was established with the EPHI Knowledge Translation Directorate (KTD) for the NIPN policy research question formulation process, with EPHI National Data Management Center (NDMC) for Health in the establishment of the NIPN data repository, and with the EPHI IT unit to support the content management on the NIPN website.

### **Strengthening Capacity of Multisectoral NIPN Stakeholders**

As NIPN is a national platform, its implementation and capacity building initiatives involve many Ethiopian institutions. Long-term capacity for the NIPN is built in several ways:

- Funding Ethiopian PhD students to complete their doctoral studies ensures strong research skills are created to further the NIPN's reach, nutrition M&E and research capacity in-country.
- The NIPN builds in-house capacity within EPHI, but also the analytical and interpretation capacities of key sectoral ministries and research institutions. These include members of the national nutrition MER SC, relevant directorates of the MOH, Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), and Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MOWIE) as well as the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), and other national and regional institutions, including young researchers from national universities. These institutions have been asked to participate in various NIPN capacity strengthening trainings and consultative workshops and requested to further cascade the trainings down within their institutions. This multisectoral capacity strengthening will contribute to building a large number of nutrition researchers who can collaborate with NIPN in the future and generate comprehensive nutrition evidence for decision and policymaking.
- NIPN also engages researchers from national and regional institutions to contribute to NIPN research activities including the nutrition data mapping exercise, research and policy seminars as well as to deliver trainings. For instance, in December 2019, a national conference on "Diets, Affordability and Policy in Ethiopia" was organized in Addis Ababa and students from all national universities were invited to submit high-quality poster presentations. A short training was provided to those selected on how to communicate their findings in a concise and capturing manner to a mixed audience. This initiative not only exposed research and other institutions to the NIPN's work but promoted interest in nutrition research in the country.

- The NIPN works with other NNP sectoral ministries and universities to respond to nutrition policy research questions. For example, for the question related to the drivers of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), inputs were sought from a group of technical and research experts from other institutions and sectors. Through this initiative, NIPN established a strong foundation for sustainable multisectoral collaboration. During the first few years, sectoral collaboration was initiated with the agriculture, health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sectors and which is gradually expanding to other government ministries and universities.
- The MER SC, NIPN AC and multisectoral institutions also supports the NIPN to identify and support the formulation of policy questions, to facilitate and provide access to data and to contribute to the dissemination of messages within their respective sectors.

### *2.1.3 Documenting Approaches to Serve as Guidance Documents*

For the NIPN program to be sustained, it is important to strengthen existing systems, to document approaches and strategies to serve as reference and guidance documents for use by NIPN members, researchers and key NIPN stakeholders. As such, the NIPN team developed several guidance documents and strategies and documented key interventions in its program cycle. These are summarized in the list below.

**The NIPN communication strategy.** The strategy describes the relevant communication challenges, maps out the NIPN activities which require communication, links those activities to specific audiences, defines the key messages and proposes the different communication channels for each audience. This strategy is accompanied by an annual communication activity plan with timelines of planned communication activities.

**The guideline for rapid literature reviews.** This document provides guidance on how to conduct good quality rapid literature reviews and was developed to respond to a capacity gap and to support the policy question formulation processes. Why is this important? Rapid literature reviews are useful to identify global evidence and to guide national policy analysis, it can help to refine policy questions or can even help answer some policy questions. It is expected to be used by NIPN colleagues, members and researchers.

**NIPN capacity needs assessment.** The CNA were conducted to identify needs and recommend strategies to strengthen capacities for nutrition M&E, policy research, data, and knowledge sharing. Seventeen government institutions were targeted with this assessment and based on the gaps identified, recommendations were made and a capacity strengthening plan developed.

**Review of the nutrition policy landscape.** A dedicated nutrition policy review was conducted to provide a better understanding of overall policy landscape and processes and to demonstrate which policies are available and how evidence was used during policymaking. The report includes practical recommendations for researchers on how to influence the policymaking process.

**Policy question formulation process (PQF).** As part of the NIPN project cycle a PQF process was undertaken to help government ministries and the NIPN identify key nutrition policy questions which need to be answered to inform policy revisions, strategy development and program implementation. This process was elaborate; it included literature reviews, interviews with key stakeholders and several consultative meetings. It resulted in consensus on 12 policy questions. This PQF report, describes the process NIPN undertook to identify the nutrition policy questions, to validate them through the two committees (NIPN AC and the MER SC), and includes lessons learned. This report will be useful for NIPN staff as they conduct future PQF processes.

**Causal path diagrams for data analysis.** To respond to one of the research questions (What are the drivers of NCDs i.e., overweight/obesity, hypertension and diabetes in Ethiopia?), NIPN embarked on a new approach for data analysis. The approach uses causal path diagrams otherwise known as ‘directed acyclic graphs’ (DAGs) which have been constructed as part of the methodological framework underpinning the analysis. This approach is being used by the NIPN data analysis team. It has been described in an article in the June 2020 NIPN Newsletter and will be documented and used as a reference tool for future analysis and by Ethiopian researchers.

**Data repository.** The NIPN team developed a guideline on dataset documentation which includes metadata guidelines and codebooks for use by the NIPN team and other NIPN stakeholders when sharing metadata on available multisectoral nutrition dataset for the data repository. The NIPN data repository is established on the Harvard Dataverse platform. It will provide information for data users (researchers, program implementers, policymakers) on available datasets. As data documentation is completed, it will be included in the NIPN data repository which will also be available via the NIPN website.

**Policy and research seminars, multisectoral collaboration.** NIPN also documented implementation processes to ensure they remain common knowledge for current and future generations of experts working with the NIPN. Examples include the review of the policy and research seminars and documenting multisectoral collaboration.

**Guidelines and checklists for implementation.** To guide the implementation of key activities, the NIPN team developed operational guidelines and implementation checklists. For instance, checklists were developed for the organization of seminars, webinars, conferences and trainings. This ensures that knowledge on the “how to do” specific events and activities will not remain with one individual but is shared with a wider group of NIPN experts. In addition, NIPN always requests feedback from participants at NIPN events which the team documents and uses to improve the content and quality of its events and trainings.

**Sharing of files across the NIPN core team.** The NIPN team considers operational knowledge sharing as important to stay up-to-date and ensure access to working documents and files. NIPN has a shared Google drive which one person manages, but which all staff can access. Similarly, a shared Drop box folder was created for documentation related to NIPN,

including literature review and analysis completed for the two policy research questions. Meeting notes are uploaded on both these shared folders for the team to access easily.

**NIPN sustainability plan.** This plan is prepared as a road map to guide the continuity of NIPN beyond the project period.

## 2.2. Future Plans

The NIPN aims to strengthen national capacity to monitor progress towards the reduction of under-nutrition and to implement cost-effective and evidence-based policies. The current strategic focus of the government is to address under-nutrition through the NNP and the FNP which provides opportunities for the NIPN to generate evidence-based nutrition data for policymakers. For instance, in 2020, the MOH asked the NIPN to conduct a progress analysis of the NNP II indicators and to respond to additional research questions to inform the draft FNS. The MOH also invited the NIPN to participate in the development of the FNS' M&E plan and framework. These were great feats which underscore the importance of the NIPN in the nutrition M&E and research field. The NIPN will build on this work and its established reputation to advocate for additional use of its services in the coming years. It will also keep supporting the multisectoral efforts to finalize the M&E plan and framework for the FNS. This will be a key activity to sustain a strong M&E system in the country for the future. The NIPN will continue to provide support to the government and partners to implement the FNP and its FNS and to monitor implementation of the nutrition services and nutrition targets and to realize Ethiopia's nutrition objectives.

The NIPN CNA identified problems including lack of data management and data repository systems, national data-sharing principles are not systematically being implemented, and lack of adequately skilled staff. As a response, the NIPN team is taking the lead to centralize, screen and index data and findings from available nutrition research datasets into the NIPN data repository on the NIPN website. This work will continue in the coming years.

The NIPN created a NIPN website and social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter) to share updates, events blogs, newsletters and research outputs with the wider nutrition community both within Ethiopia and externally. The coming years will see the content management system and the website updated and streamlined for ease of use not only by external visitors but also by the NIPN and EPHI teams themselves.

Outreach through NIPN research and policy seminars or webinars is a means for the NIPN to share nutrition research and evidence with the larger nutrition community. The NIPN will continue to play the role as the leading platform through which interesting and up-to-date data is shared and discussed to influence nutrition policies and programs in Ethiopia.

Learning and capacity strengthening is a key element to sustain the NIPN. The NIPN will therefore continue to identify capacity gaps and provide capacity building to the NIPN team and to its multisectoral partners, including national universities, through trainings, technical assistance, mentorship and participation in a wide range of NIPN activities.

The MER SC, the NIPN AC and multisectoral institutions will continue to support the NIPN to identify policy questions, to facilitate and provide access to datasets and to contribute to the dissemination of messages within their respective sectors.

The NIPN team will also work closely with the new EU-funded National Information Systems (NIS) Project which is implemented by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF in support of the Ethiopian Government. This project, still in its inception phase, aims to strengthen the existing information systems to collect routine nutrition M&E data. The NIPN will be part of the steering committee guiding the implementation of the NIS project. In the next few years, as reliable multisectoral routine nutrition M&E data comes available, the NIPN will support the NIS and multisectoral partners to analyze data and share trends with policymakers, decision makers and stakeholders.

To summarize, the NIPN plans to achieve its goal and ensure sustainability through a series of interventions. These include:

- Strengthening analytical capacities and skills to generate evidence-based data for effective decision making.
- Increasing stakeholder's satisfaction and maintaining high attendance in its research and policy seminars, webinars and capacity building interventions.
- Generating reliable data and information for evidence-informed multisectoral decision making.
- Capacitating staff to institutionalize strong planning, M&E activities and to optimize operations among stakeholders.
- Enhancing stakeholder engagement and capacity building to implement NIPN activities.
- Encouraging stakeholders to promote and use NIPN outputs.
- Collaborating closely with the NIS project, ministries and stakeholders to establish and improve M&E systems in all nutrition implementing sectors to collect timely routine data and information.
- Building strong partnerships that strengthen multisectoral and partner involvement in the NIPN over time.
- Enabling the NIPN to secure financial resources.

### **2.3. Fundraising Plan**

For the NIPN to be sustained in the future, it will strongly coordinate with its current donor to continue its support to the platform whilst identifying and mobilizing additional external and internal funding for the platform.

### ***2.3.1 Continuous Support from the EU Delegation***

Currently, the NIPN is fully funded by the EU Delegation in Ethiopia and it is unable to independently sustain its implementation when the project ends. EPHI and the NIPN will therefore advocate for continuous support from its donor for the “second phase” of the NIPN, starting January 2022. As such, in the first quarter of 2021, the NIPN will host a meeting with the EU Delegation, leadership of the NIPN, EPHI and IFPRI to discuss the future options of the NIPN in Ethiopia, share the NIPN’s vision, annual and future plans and its sustainability plan, and to determine the timelines and next steps for the “second phase”. Based on the outcomes of the meeting and with guidance from the EU Delegation, the NIPN Ethiopia will prepare the necessary program description documentation, a results framework, and a budget for the second phase. To sustain the strong and professional relations between the NIPN and the EU Delegation, EPHI and NIPN will implement its 2021 work plan and ensure that fund disbursements are in full compliance with the EU rules and regulations. The NIPN will also continue to foster engagement and trust by showcasing NIPN’s achievements, results, success stories and the valuable returns on the donor’s investment in this platform through its research outputs, seminars, training initiatives, social media postings, newsletters and other communication activities.

### ***2.3.2 Fundraising for New Potential Donors***

In 2021, during 2022 (when the anticipated “second phase” is to start) and beyond, the NIPN will search for other new potential donors to cost-share interventions with the EU Delegation in support of the NIPN’s activities. This will require the establishment of a fundraising committee to lead the fundraising and resources mobilization efforts. The committee will be comprised of NIPN, IFPRI and EPHI staff, members of the NIPN AC and selected members of the MER SC. Specific activities for this committee will include, but will not be limited to, developing a fundraising plan, conduct a donor landscape analysis, conduct high-level advocacy in support of NIPN’s sustainability, identification of and outreach to potential new donors, training NIPN and EPHI staff in fundraising and proposal development, and allocating time for proposal writing.

### ***2.3.3 Co-financing through Internal Sources***

As the FNP and the draft FNS include an important focus on research and evidence-based data to inform the policy and implementation of the strategy, the NIPN will have an important role to play during the FNS implementation. Therefore, in addition to mobilizing external resources, the third strategy to diversify its funding will be to advocate for the institutionalization of the NIPN within EPHI and have funds allocated to it. The advocacy efforts for its institutionalization will be led by the NIPN and EPHI management and members of the NIPN AC to ensure linkages with high-level decision makers and influencers. Institutionalizing the NIPN with an accompanying budget will ensure EPHI have the staff and capacity to control, implement and sustain NIPN activities in the future.

### 2.3.4 Action Plan and Timetable for Fundraising

Plan Component	Action Steps	Timeframe	
		2021	2022
Sustainability Plan Information Sharing with EU Delegation and NIPN AC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share the NIPN Sustainability Plan with the EU, NIPN AC members and other interested parties.</li> <li>During the bi-annual NIPN AC meeting, determine the composition and actions of the NIPN fundraising committee.</li> </ul>	X	
Discussions with EU Delegation and C4N regarding NIPN's future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host a meeting with NIPN, EPHI, IFPRI leadership and the EU Delegation in Ethiopia to discuss the future of the NIPN in Ethiopia (including the anticipated "second phase")</li> <li>Develop needful documentation based on outcomes of this meeting.</li> <li>Continuously engage with the EU Delegation in Ethiopia and plan for the "second phase" of the NIPN.</li> <li>Regularly engage with the EU Delegation on NIPN progress, events, future steps and plans.</li> <li>Ensure NIPN contractual deliverables and reports are shared timely with the EU Delegation.</li> <li>Engage with C4N and other NIPN countries on their approaches for sustaining their NIPN.</li> <li>Actively participate in all C4N organized webinars and events.</li> <li>Develop justification for a possible no-cost extension and submit request to the EU Delegation.</li> <li>Develop concept note, program description, results framework and other needful documentation as shared by the EU Delegation for the "second phase" of the NIPN.</li> </ul>	X	
Establish NIPN fundraising committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare key notes for discussion and hold individual consultations with NIPN, IFPRI, EPHI, NIPN AC members to promote the establishment of a NIPN fundraising committee comprised of selected members.</li> <li>Invite NIPN, IFPRI, EPHI, NIPN AC members and selected members of the MERSC to a meeting to establish the NIPN fundraising committee with terms of reference and an action plan.</li> <li>The NIPN fundraising committee meets regularly to follow up on action plan.</li> </ul>	X	
Implementation of the fundraising action plan (illustrative actions until	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue engagement of NIPN Staff in development of the M&amp;E Framework and Plan for the FNS</li> <li>Continue engagement of NIPN staff in key national working group meetings to share and showcase achievements and research outputs.</li> </ul>	X	X

fundraising plan is endorsed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop key messages for advocacy, demand creation and NIPN sustainability.</li> <li>• Key members of NIPN fundraising committee continue advocacy for sustainability of the NIPN.</li> <li>• Plan for, conduct a donor landscape analysis, produce a report and share with the fundraising committee.</li> <li>• Develop a NIPN vision statement and visibility materials highlighting NIPN achievements, research outputs and vision for its future and its interventions.</li> <li>• Identify potential donors to support NIPN implementation.</li> <li>• Conduct individual meetings with potential donors, discuss NIPN’s outputs and future plans and share visibility materials.</li> <li>• Train NIPN and EPHI staff in proposal writing and development.</li> <li>• Keep track of grant and contract opportunities on local and international websites.</li> <li>• Develop concept notes for potential donors and respond to grant/contract proposals.</li> </ul>	X  X  X  X  X  X  X	X  X  X  X  X  X  X
NIPN visibility and demand creation for its services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share visibility materials (achievements, research outputs, future plans) with NIPN stakeholders.</li> <li>• Invite NIPN stakeholders and potential donors to NIPN events.</li> <li>• Keep NIPN stakeholders engaged in NIPN activities (through visibility materials, newsletters, events, website, social media, participation in national working group meetings) for demand creation.</li> <li>• Continue advocacy, individually with NIPN stakeholders, for NIPN sustainability.</li> </ul>	X  X  X  X	X  X  X  X
Advocacy for Institutionalizing the NIPN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NIPN, EPHI, NIPN AC members develop advocacy strategy for institutionalizing the NIPN.</li> <li>• Develop key messages for advocacy and engage with Director of EPHI, key leaders in MOH to drive institutionalization of the NIPN.</li> <li>• During the meeting with parliamentarians in 2021 share key messages to advocate for the NIPN.</li> </ul>	X  X  X	X  X  X



### 3. ANNEX AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

#### Annex 1. Logical framework of the NIPN project

	Results chain	Indicators	Baseline (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
<b>Overall objective: Impact</b>	To contribute to the global reduction of chronic under nutrition to meet the World Health Assembly 2025 targets	Numbers of stunted children reduced	EDHS 2016: Stunting: 38.4% Wasting: 9.9%	NNPII targets for 2020: Stunting: 26% Wasting: 4.9%	NIPN reports NNPII end-line survey EDHS 2021	Government and Partners are contributed to support for conducting the NNP II end-line survey  Contribute to the global reduction in the numbers of stunted children due to chronic under nutrition in alignment with the World Health Assembly 2025 targets and the Sustainable Development Goals
<b>Specific objective (s): Outcome (s)</b>	Strengthened national capacity to monitor progress towards under nutrition reduction and to implement more cost-effective and evidence-based policies	Increase in the average annual reduction rate (AARR) in the prevalence of stunted children as a result of improved planning and effectiveness of nutrition policies and interventions  Country's ability improved to monitor and analyse nutrition specific and sensitive inputs, outputs, outcomes and impacts at national and sub-national levels  Use of NIPN to inform policy and decision making in all sectors that influence nutrition	Average annual reduction rate of stunted children (1.2%)  No NIPN in 2015	AARR projection +5% by end of project  NIPN is set up by the end of 2017  NIPN is operational by the end of 2018  NIPN database is created by the end of 2018  NIPN tracks progress towards under-nutrition reduction from the end of 2019  NIPN outputs are used by policy makers by the end of 2019	WHO stunting tracking reports  MoUs for establishing NIPN  NIPN reports and outputs  NIPN policy advisory committee meetings  SUN stage of preparedness reports	Effective utilization of NIPN findings results in better use of resources and management of programs  Ability of the Government to adequately support (and eventually co-finance) NIPN  Support from key institutions in the country, particularly with regard to sharing data and using country information  No major shocks or changes undermine efforts to improve nutrition outcomes

	Results chain	Indicators	Baseline (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
<b>Outputs</b>	Result 1: National host entities (EPHI and sectoral ministries and partners contributing to the NNP-II) have the capacity to operate and maintain the NIPN	Degree of achievement of the implementation plans agreed with the NIPN policy advisory committee, according to the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and their annual targets	NIPN will define research questions until end of 2017	NIPN work plan is defined by the end of 2017  80% progress against NIPN plan KPIs by the end of 2020	NIPN country project coordinator reports	Readiness and capacity among national institutions to support NIPN preparation, management and operations
		Number and quality of nutrition specific & sensitive datasets obtained by NIPN	Preparation for central nutrition data repository in 2017	A central data repository is created by the end of 2018	NIPN data repository hosted at EPHI	
	Result 2: Ethiopia tracks progress in meeting its national objectives on undernutrition reduction and in monitoring nutrition investments to guide and inform the NNP-II implementation and contributing sectors (at minimum health and agriculture)	Requests for data or information made to NIPN	Research question formulation process will start in 2017	Questions are raised through the NIPN advisory committee	NIPN advisory committee meeting reports	There is a good cooperation and data sharing between institutions and the NIPN by all sectors and at all levels
		Outputs produced by the analysis unit	No outputs in 2017	NIPN releases an annual report from 2018 and other regular outputs	Technical reports and related outputs from NIPN	
		Government staff trained in the analysis of data	Need based training related to NIPN will start in 2017	At least 50 staff members benefit from training activities by the end of the project	Number of staff benefiting from training each year (annual project report)	
	Result 3: Ethiopia is able to translate NIPN findings into nutrition related policies: NNCB and sectoral senior officials/decision makers in nutrition have a better understanding and are making better use of evidence generated through this project for strategic and	NIPN is known by national stakeholders and visible	Visibility plan of action will be developed in 2017	Ministry staff actively participate in the NIPN activities Stakeholders involved in nutrition at country level acknowledge the role of NIPN	Number of staff from ministries participant in NIPN activities Feedback from stakeholders on the value of the NIPN	The government is committed to take over NIPN project output in order to improve nutrition related policies in all sectors and to disseminate findings at a higher level
		NIPN outputs are effectively disseminated and reach their targets and utilized for program and policy revision	No outputs in 2017	Annual dissemination event from 2018 Printed documents are produced	Attendance to annual event Number of printed documents distributed	

	programmatic decision making			The NIPN web pages are regularly fed	Hits on the NIPN web pages	
		Government staff trained in the formulation of evidence-based nutrition policies	Identifying trainee and training areas in 2017	At least 50 staff members benefit from training activities by the end of the project	Number of staff benefiting from training each year (annual project report)	
<b>Result 1: National host entities (EPHI and sectoral ministries and partners contributing to the NNP-II) have the capacity to operate and maintain the NIPN</b>						<b>Main means</b>
<b>Activities</b>	<b>A1.1</b>	<b>Set up the NIPN project management unit within EPHI</b>	<i>The organisation managing the grant will assign a project director and hire a project admin. &amp; finance manager, a liaison/procurement officer and a project assistant to ensure efficient project management, support, follow-up and reporting. Office space will be allocated for this project management unit (PMU) and computers, software and equipment will be obtained.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local staff</li> <li>Equipment and supplies</li> <li>Local office costs</li> <li>Vehicle costs</li> <li>Kick-off workshop</li> </ul>	
	<b>A1.2</b>	<b>Establish the NIPN advisory committee</b>	<i>The NIPN director will be responsible for setting up the NIPN advisory committee of policy makers from sectors and, with the support of the policy unit and the PMU, develop terms of reference and convene meetings.</i>		Start-up workshop	
	<b>A1.3</b>	<b>Set up the NIPN analysis unit within EPHI</b>	<i>The NIPN analysis unit will be created. Staff of EPHI will be assigned: a director, data analysts, statisticians, IT manager or programmer. The following staff will be recruited on contract: a database manager, 2 statisticians, an epidemiologist and a nutritionist, as well as data cleaners. Office space will be allocated. Computers, software and equipment will be purchased.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local staff</li> <li>Equipment and supplies</li> <li>Local office costs</li> <li>Vehicle costs</li> </ul>	
	<b>A1.4</b>	<b>Map sources of data of interest to the NIPN and define the principles for sharing and using data</b>	<i>The NIPN analysis unit will map sources of existing data in all sectors of relevance to nutrition, based on objectives and work plans, with support from contracted experts and M&amp;E staff of ministries. It will also define the principles for data sharing the use of data by the NIPN, and sign MoUs with data providers.</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vehicle costs</li> <li>Services of consultants</li> </ul>	
	<b>A1.5</b>	<b>Create a centralised repository for data related to nutrition and define mode of operation</b>	<i>The NIPN analysis unit will set up a system and working procedures to create and maintain an up-to-date centralised data repository.</i>		Equipment and supplies	
	<b>A1.6</b>	<b>Build capacity of EPHI, EIAR and ministries staff to analyse data, interpret analysis, report findings and use evidence to formulate nutrition policies in all sectors</b>	<i>The NIPN analysis unit, including technical staff of ministries, will be trained to build their analysis, interpretation and reporting skills. This will be done by the senior analysis advisor from IFPRI, by organising internal training sessions, by participating in external training and by support from the global support facility (GSF). The members of the NIPN advisory committee will be trained to build their capacity to better use information for the formulation of nutrition policies in all sectors. This will be done by the</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Costs for training sessions</li> <li>Services of consultants</li> <li>Allowances for gov. Staff</li> <li>International travel and per diem</li> </ul>	

			<p>senior policy officer from IFPRI, by organising internal training sessions or by participating in external training sessions and with support from the GSF.</p> <p>Stakeholders participating in the NIPN will have the opportunity to attend meetings and conferences to share experiences, including an annual meeting organised by the GSF.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration fees for courses and conferences</li> </ul>
<b>Result 2: Ethiopia tracks progress in meeting its national objectives on undernutrition reduction and in monitoring nutrition investments to guide and inform the NNP-II implementation and contributing sectors (at minimum health and agriculture)</b>			<b>Main means</b>	
Activities	A2.1	Identify and prioritise questions for analysis and develop annual work plans	<p>The NIPN director will convene regular meetings of the NIPN advisory committee to develop questions for analysis, with support from the senior policy advisor from IFPRI. An annual retreat of the NIPN advisory committee will be organized to define priorities and annual work plans for the NIPN.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Costs for organizing meetings</li> <li>Allowances for Gov. staff</li> <li>Local per diem</li> <li>Local transportation</li> </ul>
	A2.2	Identify sources of data to address questions, ensure data quality and upload data sets	<p>Based on the analysis framework and on the data landscape, the NIPN analysis unit and members of the NIPN advisory committee will identify sources of information and data to use for analysis. The NIPN analysis unit will be responsible for collecting the data sets, ensuring their quality and uploading them in the central repository. It will also identify and report on data gaps.</p>	Costs for publications
	A2.3	Perform qualitative and quantitative analysis of data	<p>Based on priority questions raised by the NIPN advisory committee, the NIPN analysis unit will first perform a review of published literature on the topics identified.</p> <p>The NIPN analysis unit will be responsible for performing quantitative analysis of data, with support from technical staff of ministries and contracted expert advisors. As part of the data analysis activity, the project will set up a small grant scheme to support research organisations and/or NGOs in conducting small research projects, surveys or pieces of analysis. The small grant scheme will be managed by the PMU.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Costs for publications and grant scheme for Ph.D. program</li> <li>Costs for undertaking studies</li> </ul>
	A2.4	Write reports on data analysed with interpretation, conclusions and recommendations	<p>The NIPN analysis unit, including technical staff of ministries and expert advisors, will write technical reports on their activities to describe the results, findings and conclusions of their analysis. The reports will be reviewed by contracted experts and the GSF.</p>	Costs for publications
	A2.5	Specific support to EAIR and sectoral ministries to undertake the questions – data – analysis – interpretation – dissemination cycle	<p>M&amp;E units of sectoral ministries will be supported to identify sources of data, provide data for analysis, analyse data, interpret results and disseminate information.</p>	Services of consultants
<b>Result 3: Ethiopia is able to translate NIPN findings into nutrition related policies: NNCB and sectoral senior officials/decision makers in nutrition have a better understanding and are making better use of evidence generated through this project for strategic and programmatic decision making</b>			<b>Main means</b>	
Activities	A3.1	Design and implement a communication and visibility plan	<p>A communications officer will be employed by EPHI. A communication and visibility plan will be developed and implemented by the communications officer under oversight from the NIPN director and with support of the senior policy officer from IFPRI.</p>	Local staff Services

	A3.2	<b>Create or support a web interface to present summary statistics from the NIPN</b>	<i>EPHI will create a dedicated NIPN page on its website to present the project outputs and will provide summary statistics for existing dashboards.</i>	Services
	A3.3	<b>Present the findings of analysis in a format suitable for their intended audiences and disseminate information by different means</b>	<i>The communications advisor will work with the NIPN analysis unit and the NIPN advisory committee, with support from the senior policy advisor from IFPRI, to present findings of analysis in a format suitable for their intended audience and develop a strategy for the disseminate of outputs such as printed documents, online documents, presentations in meetings.  In particular, an annual NIPN event will be organised to present NIPN findings to national stakeholders.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Costs for publications</li> <li>● Costs for event organisation</li> <li>● Allowances for Gov. staff</li> </ul>