# 2023
# 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 programs 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 country, 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. NIPN is implemented by Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The 2023 NIPN Annual Report provides a summary of highlights from the work of the NIPN country teams and the NIPN Global Coordination team during the past year.

Throughout the year, the platform teams attained many achievements through a range of activities. While some platforms prioritised the subnational roll-out of NIPN, or increasing the platform visibility, others concentrated on sustainability efforts of the platform, capacity development, or conducting training sessions on modelling tools. As the newest addition to the NIPN community, Zambia's efforts were primarily dedicated to establishing the foundational structure of the platform.

The year 2023 was full of activities for NIPN Global Coordination. In June the Global Gathering took place in Brussels under the theme 'Communication for informed decision making'. Collaboration with country platforms included capacity development activities in country as well as remotely via the organisation of webinars. An important milestone was the publication of the NIPN contribution study, which evaluated NIPN's impact and provided valuable insights to inform 2024 and beyond. In addition, the NIPN Global Coordination team supported presentations on NIPN at key nutrition events.

### Sustainability

One of the OECD-DAC criteria used in the NIPN contribution study, is sustainability. Technical, institutional, and financial sustainability are priorities for the NIPN platforms. Development of technical sustainability can take the form of trainings, webinars and workshops covering technical areas. Institutional sustainability refers to the integration of NIPN within existing host institutions. Financial sustainability concerns the funding mechanisms that will support the platforms in the long term.

# Global Coordination activities

The Global Coordination team provides ongoing support as identified through regular dialogue and facilitates peer-to-peer learning between platforms.

In 2023, key Global Coordination activities revolved around improving communication and increasing the visibility of the NIPN initiative. One of the key activities was **the 5th Annual Global Gathering**, which brought together over 90 global NIPN partners, stakeholders, and colleagues in Brussels to exchange on the theme 'Communication for informed decision making'. The Global Gathering had a primary goal of improving the communication capabilities of the platforms to effectively reach decision makers, which optimised learning, through a diverse range of methods, with an emphasis in fostering peer-to-peer exchange. The event also served as an opportunity for strategic discussions involving donors, representatives, and implementing partners. This year, Zambia joined the NIPN community of eight platforms, whereby discussions were tailored to accommodate varying levels of implementation experience.

Participants appreciated sharpening their communication skills and the acquired skills to address gender bias. In a parallel lunch session, the capacity development task force confirmed their continued exchange between NIPN colleagues on capacity development learnings. Overall, the Global Gathering provided a valuable reminder of the importance in meeting colleagues in-person from all around the world, to strengthen collaboration and explore new possibilities for platform enhancement.

Throughout the year, three **webinars** were organised in collaboration with the platforms. In January, a webinar on aligning with food and nutrition security priorities by NIPN Ethiopia was organised. In March, a partner's webinar was conducted on integrating gender into NIPN activities. Lastly, in October, NIPN Côte d'Ivoire hosted a webinar on strengthening the monitoring of a national multi-sectoral nutrition plan, and its lessons learned.

Furthermore, NIPN Global Coordination supported presentations on NIPN at **key nutrition events** including the 6th Global Conference of Micronutrient Forum in the Hague, the 51$^{st}$ Committee on World Food Security (CFS-51) in Rome, the European Commission Strengthening National Nutrition Information Systems (EC-NIS) Annual Gathering, which was held in Lao PDR, and the GIZ Sector Network Rural Development Africa (SNRD) conference. Finally, C4N-NIPN Global Coordination commissioned the Nutrition for Development (N4D) group to conduct a **contribution study** to evaluate the performance of the NIPN initiative and to determine the impact of its activities on enhancing the nutrition data environment. Objectives of the contribution study were to evaluate level of accomplishment of NIPN outputs in Phase 1; to gain insights into the contribution of NIPN to changes, whether positive or negative, in the nutrition data environment across countries; and to offer actionable recommendations to guide future implementation of the initiative. A summary of the contribution study is given in the next chapter.

# C4N–NIPN contribution study: looking back to look forward

C4N-NIPN Global Coordination tasked the N4D group to evaluate NIPN Phase 1, review the progress of the ongoing Phase 2 activities, and to provide recommendations to strengthen NIPN. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) criteria were used to determine NIPN's relevance, coherence, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability. Desk reviews and interviews were conducted with stakeholders in all nine NIPN countries, as well as at the global level. Additionally, two deep-dive case studies were carried out in Niger and Kenya, along with an evaluation of NIPN Bangladesh, which closed at the end of Phase 1 (February 2022). The [findings](#) and recommendations will be guiding future NIPN planning and activities. A [podcast series](#) is also available, which features interviews with NIPN platforms.

*Key findings per OECD-DAC criteria of the contribution study*

**Relevance: How relevant is the NIPN approach in driving optimal policy and programme approaches to address malnutrition?**

There is unanimity in the original conceptualisation of NIPN. NIPN shifted from a data-driven to a policy-led initiative, using data analysis to strengthen and inform policy on malnutrition. While NIPN is demonstrating policy and programmatic relevance, it is too early to measure concrete impacts. NIPN can respond to specific country needs through mapping of programmes, convergence indicators, and nexus monitoring. However, NIPN is not yet integrated in the global ecosystem to be able to respond to global policy and programme priorities and needs.

**Coherence: To what extent is NIPN coordinating and collaborating with relevant initiatives and actors to achieve results?**

At country level, NIPN has achieved a high level of coherence with nutrition relevant sectors within governments. However, the degree to which countries collaborate and engage with other actors and initiatives varies between countries. Collaboration with international partners and aligning efforts with initiatives is vital for NIPN. Recognising the significance of effective communication, NIPN places a priority on developing communication and visibility plans at the global and country level.

**Effectiveness: To what degree is NIPN achieving its results?**

NIPN countries feel well-supported by C4N-NIPN. NIPNs integration into government information systems and structures fostered national ownership, laying the foundations for long-term sustainability. Policy question formulation processes progressed successfully and strengthened partnerships between NIPN and numerous stakeholders. The use and updating of NIPN data dashboards and repositories vary between platforms. Capacity strengthening activities increased the understanding of nutrition's role in sector programmes and monitoring systems for implementation. Countries are working on scaling capacity strengthening to the sub-national level.

**Impact: To what extent have NIPN activities implemented in Phase 1 contributed to impact?**

NIPN plays a key role in monitoring national nutrition action plans and nutrition sensitive sector programming. The NIPN dashboards are seen as a 'one-stop shop' for policymakers and researchers. Across various countries, extensive work is happening on sector indicators to align with multi-sectoral plans. The policy outputs generated by NIPN are beginning to inform multi-sector and sectoral plans and priorities. NIPN is also strengthening country ability to track nutrition progress through re-analysis of survey data and through sector surveys. A limiting factor is lack of availability of quality data and difficulties in coordination across ministries.

**Sustainability: To what extent will results be sustained to strengthen national capacities for evidence-based nutrition policy and programming?**

The success of capacity strengthening activities has contributed to technical sustainability. Turnover within government positions poses a risk to the continuity of strengthened capacities. The change in funding in Phase 2, going through GIZ, UNICEF, CATIE constitutes a risk of undermining governmental ownership. Stakeholders in several countries believe external support will be needed for the continuation of NIPN. Therefore, some countries are developing risk mitigation strategies. Despite challenges, there is a strong sense of institutional ownership in several countries. The experience of Bangladesh highlights the importance of national institutional ownership for NIPN to be sustainable. Moreover, scaling NIPN at the sub-national level is important for institutional sustainability.

## Burkina Faso

- The NIPN policy component is hosted by the Nutrition Directorate of the Ministry of Health.
- The NIPN data component is hosted by the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD).
- Technical assistance is provided by Agence Européenne pour le Développement et la Santé (AEDES) and ECORYS.
- Technical and programme assistance is provided by UNICEF.



*The NIPN Burkina Faso delegation at the 2023 NIPN Global Gathering in Brussels.*
*© NIPN Global Coordination*

For the NIPN Burkina Faso team, 2023 was a busy year full of activities. Among these, a key focus was the **midterm review of the Multisector Strategic Plan for Nutrition (PSMN)**. Spanning five months, the review brought together all sectors involved in nutrition-related interventions to collectively assess and take stock of the implementation of the PSMN. The review enabled assessment of the level of physical and financial implementation as well as the level of the various indicators included in the PSMN.

Another notable achievement of the platform was its increased **visibility** through social media channels. In 2023, NIPN Burkina Faso successfully established both a X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn account. Both accounts were highly active, regularly in sharing platform highlights and nutrition tips to engage with their audience.

Furthermore, the first national forum on the nutrition data value chain was organised in December and brought together 120 participants from the multisectoral nutrition platform, including data managers, researchers, civil society, among others. The 19 presentations and discussions helped identify ways of enhancing and improving the collection, processing, and dissemination of nutrition data. Following the discussions, one of the main takeaways was the recommendation to data producers to facilitate access to their data. Another recommendation was to develop a document on existing modelling tools (such as Lives Saved Tool (LiST), Optima, OneHealth, and Investment Care) to ensure the integrated, effective, and efficient use of the tools.

The NIPN Burkina Faso team completed the analysis of the first NIPN nutrition policy question. The analysis focused on factors associated with low dietary diversity in children aged 6 to 23 months in Burkina Faso. The analysis resulted in an examination of the evolution of dietary diversity among children aged of 6 to 23 months from 2013 to 2022. Additionally, it established the profile of children within this age group with low dietary diversity in 2021 and identified associated factors. Following the analysis, a preliminary recommendation for the NIPN team was to carry out a qualitative study to identify the reasons for low consumption of fruit and vegetables, and protein-rich foods, such as meat, fish, milk, legumes, and eggs, among children aged 6 to 23 months.

# Côte d'Ivoire

- The NIPN policy and data components are hosted by the Executive Secretariat of the National Council for Nutrition, Food and Early Childhood Development (SE-CONNAPE).
- Technical and programme assistance is provided by UNICEF.
- NIPN in Côte d'Ivoire works in close collaboration with the EC-NIS project, co-implemented by UNICEF and WHO.



*Brigitte, a 4 year old girl, attending class in the village of Karafiné-Guimbe, in the north of Côte d'Ivoire. © UNICEF/UNI525507/Dejongh*

One of the key highlights for NIPN Côte d'Ivoire was **the renewal of the National Multisectoral Nutrition Plan (PNMN)**, to identify new priorities for the 2023–2025 period. During the process of renewing the PNMN, NIPN played a major role by providing centralised data on the monitoring of the previous plan. Since 2019, the platform has been centralising and publishing the performance of the PNMN; prior to the establishment of the platform, this information was scattered or not available. In addition, NIPN also provided an analysis of the indicators available in the government multisectoral information system. The NIPN team looked in detail at these indicators and identified which ones were collected in different sectors, and which ones were not. This analysis provided a clear picture of the data gaps to monitor the PNMN. Furthermore, NIPN provided a compendium of nutrition-related indicators available in the government system, using the LiST modelling tool, so that they were able to generate a clear analysis

of the impact of the interventions identified in the PNMN. Equipped with the findings of the LiST analysis, policymakers were able to better identify the priorities for the new PNMN and were also able to develop a monitoring framework that closely aligns with the data available in the government information system. The lessons learnt from this experience was captured in a case study and communicated through a webinar organised with Data for Nutrition.

The finalisation of the **Nutrition Stakeholder Mapping** was another highlight of the NIPN Côte d'Ivoire team. The Nutrition Stakeholder Mapping is a tool to help policymakers to identify the actions and roles of various stakeholders and is critical for the effective coordination of interventions of implementing partners in the field of nutrition. It is a very valuable tool which needs regular, resource-demanding updates. The NIPN team was able to provide these necessary resources.

NIPN Côte d'Ivoire also provides relevant nutrition information through a small grant scheme. In 2023, three grants were offered to research national partners to analyse three nutrition research topics that were prioritised during a consultative workshop, namely:

1. The comparative analysis of exclusive breast-feeding and diet diversity in areas of high prevalence of malnutrition vs areas of low prevalence of malnutrition of children aged 0-23 months.

2. The strategic analysis of scientific research in Côte d'Ivoire on nutrition, food, and childhood development.

3. The analysis of diversity and nutrition value of local resources for complementary feeding of 6-23 month old in areas of high prevalence of malnutrition in Côte d'Ivoire.

The results of the analyses were shared with partners during a four-day workshop, a good occasion for researchers and policymakers from different sectors to collaborate and exchange ideas.

# Ethiopia

- The NIPN Ethiopia policy and data components are hosted by Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI).
- Technical and programme assistance is provided by GIZ.
- Technical support on data and research is provided by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
- NIPN in Ethiopia works in close collaboration with the EC-NIS project, co-implemented by UNICEF and WHO.

For the NIPN Ethiopia team, 2023 was an eventful year. Many activities were carried out throughout the year, with a significant emphasis on **capacity development**. Six trainings were conducted in nutrition research, statistics, communications, and gender. In total, over 250 people received capacity development trainings in 2023.

Several training sessions focused on statistics and data visualisation, including two trainings on data visualisation using Power BI. These trainings were aimed at facilitating the NIPN dashboard using Power BI software. Additionally, a foundational STATA training was provided, using public health and nutrition data, which helped the participants to analyse various regularly collected surveys and generate evidence to support evidence-based decisions. Furthermore, a training on conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses, was held, with the goal of enhancing the research skills of participants. The training enabled researchers to identify, select and synthesize available evidence in a manner that is accessible and useful for policymakers and decision makers.

Furthermore, a training on website management was held, as well as a training on resource tracking and partnership management. A training on grant writing, aimed at equipping researchers with essential skills and knowledge for writing potentially fundable proposals, was also conducted. Another highlight was the gender training on practical approaches to integrating gender in NIPN activities and nutrition data management and programming, aimed at creating more awareness and knowledge of the various gender-related concepts.

In addition, several analyses were completed to address pressing policy questions, such as the analysis on the impact of school feeding programs on school performances, and the analysis on the status of adolescent nutrition in Ethiopia. NIPN Ethiopia also participated in several global virtual and in-person events, including the 6th Global Conference of Micronutrient Forum in the Hague.

## Capacity development

Capacity development is a core priority for NIPN, strengthening analytical capacity for nutrition to inform policy and support evidence-based decision-making. Tailored to the specific platform needs, capacity development can take the form of webinars amongst platforms, on topics such as the integration of gender in NIPN activities, or webinars with external experts on modelling tools. Peer-to-peer exchanges on subnational roll-outs of the platform, technical guidance notes on sustainability, or training sessions on data analyses, are other examples of capacity development activities.

# Guatemala

- The NIPN data and policy components are hosted by the Secretariat for Food and Nutrition Security (SESAN) of the Presidency of the Republic of Guatemala.
- The NIPN data component is implemented jointly by SESAN and Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE).
- Technical and programme assistance is provided by CATIE.



*A girl in the arms of her mother is eating corn tortillas fortified with herbs and vegetables in the village of Juil, Quiché, Guatemala. © UNICEF/UNI484355/Flores*

Throughout 2023, the NIPN team in Guatemala participated in key events, showing the importance of data management to achieve better nutritional outcomes, and giving **visibility** to the NIPN project. The NIPN team did this together with its implementing partner CATIE, and in close collaboration with SESAN.

In October, NIPN Guatemala participated in the 20th Congress of the Latin American Society of Nutrition, which took place in Ecuador. Eduardo Say, NIPN Guatemala coordinator, presented the paper 'Data and Information Management: Evidence-Based Decision Making', on behalf of CATIE. The presentation showcased successful experiences of NIPN Guatemala in using available data to facilitate informed decision-making processes in nutrition policies.

In November, NIPN Guatemala in coordination with SESAN, and its municipal and departmental branches Comisiónes Municipales de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional and Comisiónes Departamentales de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional, held the first annual multi-sectorial action plan meeting related to food and nutrition security in the Totonicapán department.

NIPN Guatemala presented a detailed situation analysis of the municipal public expenditure in food and nutrition security in the country. The study aimed to answer questions from decision makers on the budget and investments for food security and nutrition at municipal level. In the study, municipalities with good results were identified, as well as those encountering challenges with efficiency indicators, budget credibility, sufficiency of public spending, and public management indicators. This study will frame the future national and municipal policies to fight poverty and food and nutrition insecurity in the coming years.

# Kenya

- The NIPN policy component is hosted by the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA).
- The NIPN data component is hosted by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS).
- Technical and programme assistance is provided by UNICEF.



*The NIPN Kenya delegation at the 2023 NIPN Global Gathering in Brussels. © NIPN Global Coordination*

The National Information Platform for Food Security and Nutrition (NIPFN) team in Kenya, put their priority on **capacity development**. Workshops were held during the year to build capacity on a range of subjects, bringing together representatives from Ministries of Health, Education, Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation; Labour and Social Protection; The National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya and the National Drought Management Authority. One of the aims of the platform is to build the capacity of government in policy formulation and the generation of evidence for improving national food and nutrition security status. A key deliverable of the project is to undertake policy research to inform policy on food security and nutrition. For this reason, NIPFN Kenya held a workshop in October to develop NIPN Policy Research Papers, to be able to respond to identified nutrition policy questions for NIPN Phase 2. The research papers covered sectors such as education, agriculture, water and sanitation and their impact on nutrition.

Furthermore, a workshop on the Public Policy Making Process for the Kenya Nutrition Action Plan (KNAP) was held in December. The aim of the workshop was to equip the participants with the necessary skills to develop the third multisectoral KNAP.

Over the course of 2023, the NIPFN Kenya team published policy briefs on various topics, including the eligibility criteria for child nutrition improvement programmes in Kenya; stunting of children under five in Kenya; and the effect of household sanitation on child growth.

To provide government officers with training on research methods and statistical software, the NIPFN Kenya team held a workshop on STATA software and applied policy research methods. The main objective of the workshop was to build the capacity of the staff of the implementing and participating institutions with interest in nutrition and food security on the application of STATA software and applied policy research methods.

NIPFN Kenya is part of a peer-to-peer exchange group with the NIPN teams in Ethiopia and Lao PDR. This exchange group regularly meets to discuss the challenges and successes of the subnational roll-out of NIPN. In December, a workshop on the NIPN subnational roll-out in Kenya was held, bringing together representatives from the seven pilot counties: Nairobi, Isiolo, Mandera, Kakamega, Meru, Kilifi and Turkana. The aim was to develop county-level NIPN workplans, coordination structures and sensitise counties on NIPN. The workshop culminated with the development of NIPN county work plans and coordination structures.

# Lao PDR

- The NIPN policy component is hosted by the Socio-economic Policy Research Institute, Lao Academy of Social and Economic Sciences.
- The NIPN data component is hosted by the Development Research Institute, Ministry of Planning and Investment.
- Technical and programme assistance is provided by UNICEF.
- NIPN in Lao PDR works in close collaboration with the EC-NIS project, co-implemented by UNICEF and WHO.



*The NIPN Lao PDR delegation at the 2023 NIPN Global Gathering in Brussels. © NIPN Global Coordination*

The start of the **subnational roll-out of NIPN** was a highlight for NIPN Lao PDR in 2023. In September, an orientation workshop was held to introduce the NIPN concept, targets, and objectives to the subnational teams, to build a common understanding and have a shared vision of the scale-up. The workshop was organised with the Socio-Economic Policy Research Institute, Lao Academy of Social and Economic Sciences and the Development Research Institute, Ministry of Planning and Investment, UNICEF, and the European Union Delegation to Lao PDR. The second phase of NIPN focuses on solidifying the progress made and improving the ownership of the NIPN process in Lao PDR. Capacity development efforts will be extended to the sub-national level, as part of the government's decentralisation process.

NIPN Lao's roll-out targets six provinces: Phongsaly, Oudomxay, Khammuane, Savannakhet, Saravane, and Sekong. The workshop coincided with the handover of essential equipment and supplies to the target provinces, aiming to augment their capacity to track nutrition interventions and gather nutrition data in their respective provinces. NIPN will build on the support provided to the health information system by the EC-NIS initiative which resulted into strengthened nutrition data.

### Subnational roll-out of NIPN

NIPN is largely focused on the national level. However, to achieve greater influence and impact and support the longer-term relevance, coherence, and sustainability of NIPN, one of the key recommendations of the NIPN contribution study is to extend NIPN to the subnational level. This entails devolving NIPN to counties, regions, districts within the NIPN countries. Currently, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kenya, and Lao PDR are in the pilot phase of this process. In countries that are beneficiating from the support of the EC-NIS initiative, NIPN will build on the improved nutrition data coming from the health system.

# Niger

- The NIPN policy component is hosted by the Secretariat of the presidential initiative 'Les Nigériens nourrissent les Nigériens' (I3N) under the leadership of The High Commissariat of 3N (HC3N).
- The NIPN data component is hosted by the Institut National de la Statistique (INS).
- Technical and programme assistance is provided by GIZ.
- In July 2023, the political context in Niger has forced the NIPN to reorient its support toward the civil society and the SUN movement.



*The NIPN Niger delegation presents at a group session at the 2023 NIPN Global Gathering in Brussels.*
*© NIPN Global Coordination*

Following the coup d'état in July 2023, NIPN Niger has had to restructure their intervention to adapt to the new political context to still enable NIPN Niger to achieve the implementation objectives. The collaboration for data analysis and capacity development with the university have been broadened and new channels for the dissemination of evidence produced by NIPN have been established with the civil society network of the SUN movement.

The training on the **Lives Saved Tool (LiST)** modelling tool (see the information box below), was a key activity for NIPN Niger from 2 to 12 May, 2023. The training was supported by NIPN Global Coordination. Thirteen participants from INS, HC3N, the Ministry of Humanitarian Action, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, were trained to use the modelling tool and to give future trainings to others. The aim of the training was to assess the impact of the interventions planned in the Multi Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan on stunting and survival of children under five. The analysis of the impact of the interventions planned in the Multi Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan on stunting and survival of children under five, led to policy recommendations and a better understanding of the real impact of key interventions to prevent malnutrition and child mortality.

Another highlight by the platform team in Niger, was **collaboration strengthening**. NIPN Niger strengthened its collaboration with the SUN civil society platform through a formal partnership with Tous Unis en faveur de la Nutrition (TUN), which is a coalition of NGOs and associations working on nutrition and food security. Through this partnership, TUN will conduct capacity development activities for nutrition information and will act as a link to civil society by communicating on the information produced by NIPN. NIPN Niger also strengthened its collaboration with University of Abdou Moumouni through increased contribution and cooperation on the professional training curriculum on nutrition information.

The NIPN Niger team worked on the official validation of their 2023-2024 Data Analysis Plan. Taking stock of their previous experience, the platform fast-tracked their process to prioritise three nutrition policy questions:

1.  What are the level and determinants of diet diversity and nutrition intakes of women of reproductive age and adolescent girls in Niger? Are there regional disparities? What are the potential explaining factors?

2.  How can a sustainable nutrition system be built in the context of climate change?

3.  How does the fruit and vegetable value chain contribute to a healthy diet in terms of availability, access, and consumption? How is seasonality affecting the access to fruits and vegetables in Niger?

In 2023, the data analysis unit worked intensively, and two of the three reports are ready to be validated in early 2024 by the technical partners.

### Lives Saved Tool (LiST)

LiST is a modelling tool developed by the Institute for International Programs at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. The tool is designed to estimate the impact of scaling up on maternal, newborn, and child health, and nutrition interventions in low- and middle-income countries. It can be used to advocate for specific programmatic areas or certain interventions by quantifying their potential impact on mortality or intermediate outcomes. The modelling tool can also be used in programme evaluations, and in strategic planning, to decide on where to invest efforts and resources. More information on the LiST tool can be found here: https://bit.ly/3SUlX57

# Uganda

- The NIPN policy component is hosted by the Office of the Prime Minister.
- The NIPN data component is hosted by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics.
- Technical and programme assistance is provided by UNICEF.
- NIPN in Uganda works in close collaboration with the EC-NIS project, co-implemented by UNICEF and WHO.



*Primary school pupils in Abim district smile through their class window. © UNICEF/UNI520825/Tibaweswa*

A big priority for NIPN Uganda in 2023 was ensuring the **sustainability** of the platform. To work towards this goal, the NIPN Uganda team conducted a five-day training on nutrition governance for all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) implementing the Uganda National Action Plan II (UNAP II). The UNAP II is the overarching policy mechanism that governs multi sectoral nutrition priorities including NIPN. The training focused on the roles of the different MDAs in the fight for better nutrition, and on performance tools & coordination structures.

Aiming for the sustainability of the platform, all NIPN activities are now fully embedded in and contributing to the UNAP II secretariat. NIPN has provided inputs to the UNAP II action plan, communication strategy and capacity development plan.

Furthermore, NIPN Uganda identified 15 priority districts to decentralise the NIPN approach at district level. The

Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) conducted an in-depth assessment of the capacities of these districts to understand:

1.  the nutrition related data available in each district;

2.  the flow of information from communities to district offices; and 3) the capacity of the district staff to analyse and report on nutrition information.

In 2023, the platform contributed to the data cleaning, data harmonisation and analysis of the nutrition component of the Demographic and Health Surveys and Uganda Household Incomes Survey. As a result, the NIPN dashboard is now fully accessible, and a data source mapping was completed for both state and non-state actors.

# Zambia

- The NIPN policy component is hosted by the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC)
- The NIPN data component is hosted by Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats)
- Technical and programme assistance is provided by GIZ.
- NIPN in Zambia works in close collaboration with the EC-NIS project, co-implemented by UNICEF and WHO.



*A volunteer teaches the importance of nutrition and eating a balanced meal using locally produced food.*
*© UNICEF/UN0664039/Schermbrucker*

Zambia joined the NIPN community in 2023. Over the past year, NIPN Zambia has registered some significant progress in terms of **defining and setting up NIPN entities**, their composition, and respective roles. The NIPN policy component is hosted by the NFNC, and the data component is hosted by ZamStats. The NIPN platform will be led by a Steering Committee comprising of different government bodies[1], such as the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as Civil Society and partners[2]. The Executive Director of NFNC

will chair the Steering Committee, with the Statistician General as co-chair.

To facilitate the formation of NIPN Zambia, a capacity development workshop on the NIPN structure and operational cycle for the NIPN core team and its partners, was organised in August. Aims of the workshop were to define NIPN Zambia entities and their composition, building the policy question capacity of the NIPN Zambia team to formulate nutrition policy questions, engage

1   The Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation, Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, Ministry of Finance and National Planning, Office of the Vice President – Disaster Management & Mitigation Unit and Resettlement, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ministry of Education, Office of the President

2   Academia and research institutions, Civil Society Organisations working in the field of nutrition and data analysis, private/business network, Cooperating Partners, United Nations network, GIZ, NFNC Executive Director, ZamStats Statistician General, European Union Delegation, German Embassy

relevant sectors in identifying nutrition policy questions and data sources, and to develop NIPN Zambia's first operational cycle work plan.

As a result of the workshop, the NIPN Zambia Core Team developed a set of 12 nutrition-relevant policy questions, which will be submitted to the NIPN Steering Committee validation and prioritisation, to progress with the next steps of data analysis and formulating of actionable messages. Additional steps in the establishment of NIPN Zambia, resulting from the workshop included setting up the steering committee, completing the set-up of the NIPN core team, and finally, reviewing and completing the NIPN Zambia workplan.