



NIPN AT A GALANCE

Bringing Evidence to Decision Makers



Issue 3, Septmeber 2019.

The Policy Question Formulation Workshop: A Discussion on Initial Policy Questions



The Policy Question Formulation stakeholder's consultative workshop was held on September 24th, 2019 at the EPHI training center.

Ato Masresha Tessema, Acting Director of the Food Science and Nutrition

Research Directorate (FSNRD) gave opening remarks. During his speech he stressed the significance of stakeholders involvement in supporting the policy question formulation as well as the decision making process. He urged the active participation from all stakeholders attending the workshop.

Dr. Aregash Samuel, vice director of the FSNRD gave introductory remarks on the NIPN and the activities

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Newsletter Spotlight

Message From The Coordinator

News

- **Policy Question Formulation Workshop**
- **Seminar**





“The NIPN team has been working hard to effectively meet the NIPN objectives.”

(Ato Solomon Eshetu)

As we are entering into the final quarter of the year, it is time to evaluate the progress of 2019 and present an update on NIPN’s activities.

The NIPN team has been working hard to effectively meet the NIPN objectives. A lot of activities are in the pipe-

line. Support and technical advice from IFPRI and the GSF has greatly helped the team to track and adjust its activities.

So far, the Capacity Need Assessment (CNA) has been done in 17 institutions are moving to significant step, that

is the process of developing a CNA strategy in which a consultant is going to be hired and develop the strategy .

The NIPN team is working hard at work to the development of significant policy relevant question which will impact the country’s decision making process with regards to nutrition.

The Sixth NIPN Seminar Held With The Topic “Remoteness, Urbanization, and Child Nutrition”.

The National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN) has conducted its sixth Nutrition Policy and Research seminar on the topic “Remoteness, urbanization, and child nutrition” on September 6 at the EPHI Training Center.

The seminar was opened by Ato Masresha Tessema, the acting director of the Food Science and Nutrition Research Directorate,



where he made the key note address mentioning the government’s programs to address nutrition issues and the NIPN approach in supporting evidence-

based decision-making processes. He also mentioned the efforts done by NIPN in identifying relevant policy question formulation and stressed the importance of establishing a data repository.

He added that such seminars enable to connect researchers, decision makers and stakeholders that can influence policy makers at a high level.

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Policy Question Workshop — cont. from P1



Conducted so far and gave a brief description as to how the 22 policy questions were categorized. Dr. Aregash, expounded that each question was chosen thoughtfully and carefully in 4 categories: trends and distribution; diet diversity, programming and interventions and lastly nutrition sensitive interventions.

With each question linked to a theme, she requested the group to ponder on the feasibility, importance and answerability of the questions on existing data. She added that the questions should also be evaluated on whether the problem was addressed by a relevant policy/program, any gaps in evidence witnessed, whether it provide a timely output and whether it lead to an actionable recommendation and/or decision. (Cont. to P4)

He added that such seminars enable to connect researchers, decision makers and stakeholders that can influence policy makers at a high level. The seminar presentation was delivered by David Stifel from Lafayette College, USA. He explained the disparities in nutritional health between

urban, rural and remoteness as far as accessibility to markets and urban centers, and their linkages between child nutrition. In addition, the presentation reviewed how this nutritional disadvantage is affected by wealth, education and health. Child under nutrition is an extremely costly public health burden in developing countries. It accounts for 45 percent of child mortality, and can also be linked to the impairments in cognitive development, reduced school attainment and lower

According to Professor Stifel, an analysis of DHS for 23 countries showed that children in rural communities have more compromised linear growth and dietary outcomes compared to urban children.



Panelists Dr Getachew Addis from EPHI, Dr Cherinet Abuye from Save/GTN, Mr Peirre_Luc from EU delegation to Ethiopia reflecting on "what does this evidence mean for Ethiopia nutrition program implementation" and "what evidence gap are remaining and could NIPN look at"

However, when controlling for education, wealth, social/infrastructural services these relationship disappears. These trends were also maintained when analysis was done for Ethiopia separately.

Message cont. from P2

After completing an extended desk review and interviewing multi sectoral stakeholders, the team has formulated a set of initial policy relevant questions.

The final identification of

a prioritized set of nutrition policy questions to be answered requires multi sectoral stakeholder consultation. Thus, a stakeholders consultative meeting was conducted recently in which a great deal of

input and active participation was corroborated from various nutrition stakeholders.

The end result will be selecting a question that will be delivered to the high-level decision makers.

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The end result will be a question that will be delivered to the high-level decision

Policy Question—cont. rom P2

Ato Dessalegne Kuche, EPHI researcher, explained the policy question formulation steps and progress that the NIPN team accomplished so far. He asked the participants to review each question with a keen eye and in a new perspective.

Lastly, Anne Bossuyt, Senior Policy Advisor at IFPRI, explained the assessment of the initial questions. She encouraged the active participation of the group and challenged them to come up with 12 relevant questions. Prior to making that determination participants had to walk around the room evaluating each question. Deeming the questions as relevant, somewhat relevant or not relevant. Then the participants were placed into groups and discussed the questions in detail. The exercise proved to be a lively and fruitful conversation.

The Information collected during the group work and discussion will be shared in a second consultative meeting. This will assist NIPN to select a detailed and answerable question.

Following the workshop, the NIPN team will search for detail data availability on the selected questions and analyze the questions,

then NIPN will call on stakeholders for further collaboration, once that is established an action plan for analysis, development and stakeholder follow up session will be conducted.

More than 50 participants ranging from researchers, academics, donors, UN and national and international NGOs taking part in the workshop.



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Message cont. from P3

In addition, a regular outreach activity of NIPN, a monthly seminar, was held aiming to build bridges among researchers and the policy makers. This trend will benefit those who are keen to contribute to the country's nutrition programs and policies for a better outcome.

As we enter the last quarter of the year, I think we have to move and finalize key planned activities for 2019.

I hope that the active multisectoral engagement and the team spirit will help us meet our goals for the year.

The sixth Seminar cont. from P3



Following the presentation, a discussion ensued where three panelists specializing in nutrition issues shared their brief remarks as to how these evidence and gaps could be addressed by NIPN.