



NIPN AT A GLANCE



Issue 4, December 2019.

National Nutrition Conference on “Diets, Affordability and Policy in Ethiopia: From Evidence to Action” Held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



Newsletter Spotlight

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On December 12, nutrition stakeholders from various sectors and institutions came together to participate in a national nutrition conference on “**Diets, Affordability and Policy in Ethiopia: From Evidence to Action**”.

The main purpose of the conference was to present evidence that can be used for the implementation of Ethiopia’s National Food and Nutrition Policy (NFNP) as well as other nutrition programs. The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Policy Studies Institute (PSI), the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), and the Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) program jointly organized the conference.

The conference participants were welcomed by Bart Minten, program leader at IFPRI Ethiopia and the keynote address was delivered by Dr. Assefa

Deressa, a senior researcher and research adviser of the Deputy Director General of EPHI. This was followed by a session during which evidence on patterns in dietary diversity were presented. Other sessions focused on affordability of diets and impacts of policies and programs. Furthermore, one-minute oral poster presentations were delivered by young scientists. The conference concluded with a panel session. In the discussion representatives from policy-makers and practitioners shared their thoughts on what is needed to translate the findings presented into practice.

The agenda of the conference and presentations can be downloaded from the COMPACT 2025 website.

<https://www.compact2025.org/2019/11/14/national-nutrition-conference-in-ethiopia-december-12-2019/>

Message From The Coordinator



Aregash Samuel
(PhD)
Deputy Director,
FSNRD and NIPN

“2019 was a year of great progress for NIPN-Ethiopia, but not without challenges.”

Dear colleagues and partners,

The end of the year is a good time to reflect on progress made as we look forward into the New Year.

2019 was a year of great progress for NIPN-Ethiopia, but not without challenges.

The NIPN advisory committee which consists of six high level advisors from different government ministries and nutrition stakeholder representatives was established in 2019. The establishment of the advisory committee is important to ensure that NIPN activities are in-line with national priorities.

We also initiated the policy relevant question formulation process in 2019. A team from EPHI-NIPN, EPHI- Food Science and Nutrition Research Directorate (FSNRD) and knowledge translation directorate at EPHI identified an initial list of policy relevant questions. The identified questions were then prioritized by multi-sectoral stakeholders in a consultative workshop, organized in September 2019. We plan to answer two of these questions in 2020.

In 2019, NIPN also initiated the nutrition data mapping. As NIPN aims to provide evidence for decision making through the analysis of existing data, it is important to assess availability and accessibility of data among major nutrition actors. We will release the results of this data mapping in 2020.

The NIPN data repository is in its first phase of preparation. To facilitate this process, NIPN has identified a software interface that has been uploaded on the EPHI server. Our next step in this regard will be the operationalization of the data repository for nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific metadata in 2020.

NIPN also finalized its Capacity Needs Assessment in 2019. The capacity needs assessment was conducted in 17 ministries and partner organization. The report highlighted the importance of knowing the human, organizational and institutional capacity development needs for success. NIPN will continue working on the recommended actions from the assessment report. The NIPN dashboard which visualizes core nutrition indicators and determinants at the regional level was also

developed in 2019.

Several outreach activities were undertaken to increase visibility of NIPN. Seminars and exhibitions were some core visibility activities done throughout the year. As a guideline to do a coordinated and organized communication, the NIPN communication strategy, the first of its kind in NIPN implementing countries, has been developed, incorporated and applied in annual communication plans accordingly.

The NIPN website is currently being tested. We are hoping to launch the website in early February 2020. This will definitely increase the visibility of NIPN and will attract various audiences and readers.

In 2020, the NIPN will also be more present on the social media. This will allow us to communicate with a wide audience and to increase the visibility of NIPN.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and leadership at EPHI, as well as IFPRI who provides technical support for EPHI-NIPN and our stakeholders for their active engagement in NIPN activities.

Thank you and Happy New Year!

Mid Term Review Conducted



The NIPN team conducted a mid-term review with its technical partner IFPRI on Nov 14-15, 2019 at the EPHI training center.

Dr. Teunis Van Rheenen, Head of partnerships, Director General's office, IFPRI Washington Dc and Anne Bossuyt,

senior policy advisor, IFPRI Ethiopia attended the meeting along with the NIPN team.

The aim of the meeting was to assess progress so far and identify challenges and priorities for the remaining two years.

During this NIPN Mid Term Review, EPHI experts and IFPRI staff involved in NIPN, reviewed the implementation between December 2017 and November 2019 and assessed the progress related to the overall outcome and output indicators.

Successes were celebrated, challenges and bottlenecks discussed, and solutions identified. Priorities for joint action were identified.

A Two Days Experience Sharing Meeting Conducted with NIPN-Uganda

The NIPN Ethiopia and Uganda teams organized an experience sharing visit on Nov 25 - 26, 2019 at EPHI. The two teams agreed to maintain communication and support each other to better execute NIPN objectives.

Two delegates from the NIPN-Uganda team, National Senior Policy Advisor, Mr. Patrick Nganzi Apuuli and Finance and Administration officer Mr. Isaac Kyaligonza, visited EPHI and IFPRI.

Both teams exchanged experiences. The Ugandan delegates also met with the acting director of the FSNRD and Senior Policy Advisor for NIPN-Ethiopia Anne Bossuyt.



Seminar on "Reducing Chronic ..." *continued from P4*

In addition, the Bangladesh experience also shows that follow-up discussions with beneficiaries should be built in the communication interventions, with a specific focus on problem solving. As social protections programs are increasing the income of the poor, he also stressed the importance of market access by the program beneficiaries to a wide range of food items in order to increase diet diversity.

This presentation came very timely, considering that Ethiopia is currently designing the fifth phase of the Productive Safety Net (PSNP). This allowed for very lively discussions on how the Bangladesh experiences could be considered for decision making in Ethiopia.

NIPN – Nutrition Policy and Research Seminars Held



A NIPN Policy and Research seminar on **“The fight against micronutrient deficiencies: identification, interventions, strategies and policy”** was conducted.

The National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN) conducted the seminar on Oct 4, 2019 at the EPHI Training center.

In his opening remark, Ato Masresha Tessema, acting director of the FSNRD updated the audience on the initiatives undertaken by FSNRD to combat micronutrient deficiencies.



Following the opening remark, Professor Jacques Berger, from Montpellier University, France, delivered his talk. Professor Jacques shared findings from his research work conducted in Bolivia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Cambodia.

(Professor Jacques Berger)

His presentation encompassed work identifying the magnitude and consequences of anemia to intervention studies that tested effective strategies to treat anemia.

The interventions used in his studies not only focused on supplementation but also fortification of local foods in identifying sustainable solutions.

He emphasized that in order to effectively reduce anemia the contribution of all causal factors should be considered. He also stated that it is important for multi-sectoral teams to work with equal contribution, to address micronutrient deficiencies. Finally, he stressed the importance of translating research to inform policy and programs.

Three panelists, Ato Dilnesaw Zerfu from EPHI, Dr.Kaleab Baye from Addis Ababa University, and Dr. Amare Deribew from Nutrition International, reflected on the implications of these findings to Ethiopian nutrition context and on evidence needs in this area. They emphasized the importance of recognizing global recommendations and translating these recommendations in to the local context.



Panelists from left to right, Dilnesaw Zerfu(EPHI), Dr .Kaleab Baye(AAU) Dr.Amare Deribew(NI)

Seminar on “Reducing Chronic Under nutrition Through Nutrition Sensitive Social Protection”



Professor John Hoddinott

EPHI organized another successful NIPN-Nutrition Policy and Research Seminar on November 7, 2019. During this seminar, evidence was brought on **“Reducing Chronic Under nutrition through Nutrition Sensitive Social Protection .”**

Dr.Aregash Samuel, the deputy director of the FSNRD welcomed the audience, explained the key objectives of the NIPN and the importance of providing decision makers with timely

information. Subsequently, Professor John Hoddinott (Cornell University, USA) explained in detail how the Bangladesh social protection program was able to influence nutrition outcomes and described the implications of this evidence for Ethiopia. He specifically stressed the importance of linking behavior change communication with social protection interventions and mentioned that the effectiveness of these interventions could be enhanced through frequent interactions. *(Continued to P3)*

DHS Training Given To Nutritionists



A training on analysis of Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data was given from Oct 28 – Nov 1, 2019 at the EPHI training center.

The five-days training aimed to develop analytical capacities of NIPN stakeholders to use existing data, collected through the DHS, for further analysis. The training encompassed both theoretical and practical sessions.



Dr. Kalle Hirvonen, a senior research fellow from IFPRI gave the training.

Thirty participants from EPHI, Mekele, Bahir Dar, Haramaya University and University of Gonder, Tigray and Amhara regional public health research institutes, Oromiya and Southern, Nations, Nationalities and People (SNNP) regional health bureaus, and from Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) attended the training. EPHI-NIPN organized the training in collaboration with IFPRI.

ARC-GIS Training Given to NIPN Team, EPHI Staff and Partners

An introductory training on Geographical Information System (GIS) was given to researchers from Dec 23 to Dec 27, 2019 at the EPHI training center.

The purpose of the training was to contribute to the fulfillment of the overall NIPN objectives and increase capacities of NIPN stakeholders to use Arc-GIS to visualize data.

Ato Masresha Tessema, acting director of the FSNRD welcomed the participants and encouraged the trainees to cascade the training to their respective organizations.

The training provided an introduction to Arc-GIS, and will enable trainees to integrate datasets with different geographical location, visualize data on a map, and carry out interpretation and reporting of data.



These skills will be used to show the result of analysis for the policy relevant questions that will be answered by NIPN.

Researchers from EPHI, Tigray, Amhara and SNNP regional health Bureaus attended the training.

The training was co-organized by EPHI-NIPN and IFPRI.

Training Given on Research Communication

Effective communication of research findings to a non-academic audience is an important skill which allows to influence decision makers.

Christopher Rue, Senior Program Manager of the Compact 2025 Initiative at IFPRI provided two short trainings on communicating research findings to non-research audiences in the EPHI training center, respectively on December 9 and December 11, 2019. During the first training session, staff from the EPHI-FSNRD, the Public Relations department, the Ethiopian Institute for Agricultural Research (EIAR) and from IFPRI attended the training.



Mr. Christopher Rue



In the second training session, organized on December 11, various young researchers from universities all over the country, were taught how to communicate their research findings to decision makers, and how to present their research project in one minute. This training was jointly organized by EPHI and IFPRI as part of the NIPN Capacity Strengthening agenda.

The NIPN Global Support Facility organized a nutrition leadership training in Ethiopia

Global Support Facility (GSF), which gives technical support to the 10 NIPN implementing countries, in collaboration with EPHI-NIPN conducted a “leadership capacity and functional skills” training from Nov 18 to 22, 2019 at Bishoftu town Asham Hotel.

Over 21 participants from eight NIPN implementing countries, attended this training, including 3 team members of EPHI. Through a proactive and intense program, the leadership and functional skills of NIPN program managers were enhanced.

To get more information on the training, follow the below link.

<http://www.nipn-nutrition-platforms.org/NIPN-training-session-on-functional-skills>

We are on the Web!!

Visit us

WWW.nipn.ephi.gov.et

Contact us

**Ethiopian Public Health Institute
(EPHI)**

Food Science and Nutrition

Research Directorate(FSNRD)

**National Information platform for
Nutrition (NIPN)**

Tel - 0112756310

Email: ephi.nipn@gmail.com

Website :WWW.nipn.ephi.gov.et



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