



NIPN AT A GLANCE

Bringing Evidence to Decision Makers



Issue 2, June 2019.

NIPN First Appearance at the 4th Health Congress Exhibition



News Letter Spotlight

- **Message**
- **NEWS**
- * NIPN Exhibition at the fourth Health Congress
- * NIPN Advisory Committee Established
- * MER SC Meeting
- * The Sixth NIPN Seminar
- * Policy Question Formulation Desk Review Conducted
- * Capacity Development Trainings

NIPN Activities were displayed at the 4th Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) Health Congress Exhibition. The Health Congress was held from May 6 to 8, 2019 in which many dignitaries and respected government officials attended the opening.

H.E Dr. Amir Aman, the Minister of Health, and other high government officials visited the NIPN exhibition.

Dr. Amir was briefed on NIPN core and planned activities.

Following the visit of the Minister, many other attendees of the exhibition visited the NIPN booth.

A suggestion box was displayed in order to gather any relevant policy gaps that people had in mind. At least 15 ques-

tions and suggestions were dropped in the box.

The main area of concern revolved around the issue of diet and nutrition.



The NIPN Advisory Committee Established on May

The NIPN Advisory Committee (AC) has been established to provide strategic guidance to the implementation of the NIPN. The Advisory Committee is respon-

sible for reviewing and providing opinion and providing high level expert input and strategic advice in relation to the key operational elements. (Continued on P3)





“As we long to see the NIPN mission accomplished, we believe that more efforts are needed from the sectors and implementers.”

(Ato Solomon Eshetu, NIPN coordinator, EPHI)

Message From The Coordinator

It feels great to witness that NIPN is in its full cycle implementation stage and clearly focusing on the right track. The NIPN project is getting more serious about activities and starting to see practical results.

NIPN is looking for a multi sectoral engagement in which sectors, implementers and partners will create a meaningful coordination for better results. To support this need the NIPN Advisory Committee (AC) has been established for better guidance.

A key activity completed thus far is the Capacity Need Assessment (CNA)

which was carried out in 17 institutions. The CNA has been finalized and a review has been conducted. The assessment results will definitely benefit many institutions in identifying internal and external capacity gaps and help strive to search for solutions. Additionally, the NIPN team has started the process of identifying potential policy question formulations. The team is also reviewing different documents in a desk review. As one outreach activity, NIPN also successfully conducted its sixth seminar aiming to build bridges among researchers and policy makers.

As we long to see the NIPN mission accomplished, we believe that more efforts are needed from the sectors and implementers.

We should keep in mind the fact that NIPN will finally be a national asset for serving many partners, sectors, academia and government planners, in which all will benefit from the NIPN outcomes.

Hence a concerted effort of ministries, academia, partners and research institutions and their active and proactive involvement will have a very significant role for the fulfillment of the NIPN vision.

The National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN) in partnership with EPHI and IFPRI hosted the sixth Nutrition Policy and Research seminar on the topic **“Nutrition Research, Evidence for Decision making.”**

The May NIPN seminar was organized as part of the fourth Health Congress which was hosted by EPHI.

The EPHI deputy director general, Dr. Getachew Tolera, gave an opening speech on the national nutrition research agenda and FAO country director delivered a brief introduction about the FAO activities.

NIPN Nutrition Policy and Research Seminar Held on May 7, 2019



During the NIPN seminar, audio and skype presentation was delivered by Dr. Patrick Kolsteren, from Ghent University in Belgium on the topic of **“Nutrition Research Quality: Research duplication and quality, what researchers should do?”**. The presentation focused as to how quality research can

contribute in producing evidence and as such contribute to policy decision making.

The second presentation was delivered by Dr. Stephen Vosti from the University of California, Davis, on **“Identifying and Cost-Effectively Addressing Micronutrient Deficiencies: The MINIMOD Tool Applied to Vitamin A Deficiencies in Young Children in Ethiopia.”**

The National Nutrition MER SC Meeting Discussed Various Issues



The National Nutrition Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Steering Committee (MER SC) meeting was held in Bishoftu on June 14-15, 2019.

Mrs. Aregash Samuel, Deputy Director of the Food Science and Nutrition Research Directorate of EPHI, welcomed the participants and encouraged the active engagement and commitment from the participants.

The workshop focused on the review of the 2018 National Nutrition Program performance and score card, in addition to this, nutrition stakeholder mapping draft report, the capacity need assessment preliminary results, along with the principles and practices of the capacity development, the NIPN activity update, the Food Based Dietary Guideline and the Household Income Consumption and Expenditure Survey (HICES) analysis were discussed.

The participants discussed how to strengthen the guidance and leadership role of the MER SC and the importance of planning. The Capacity Needs Assessment and the development of the Capacity Strengthening Strategy was discussed thoroughly.



Discussions were conducted on the formation of policy questions, the opportunity of initiating policy questions within universities and research institutions.

Advisory Committee ...continued from P1

The AC also provides guidance on evidence synthesis advocacy and utilization of evidence generated. As applicable and, appropriate, it supports the uptake of key messages of NIPN outcomes by high level politicians.

Additionally, the NIPN AC will be linking upward with the Ethiopian multi-sectoral nutrition governance structure such as, the National Nutrition Technical Committee and Coordination Body and ministries, as needed The Advisory Com-

mittee, which is comprised of a group eight high level experts with one secretary, has been established in a launch meeting held on May 20, 2019 at Nexus hotel

The Advisory committee includes high level experts from Ministry of Health, Agriculture, Education, Women, Water, Irrigation and Energy ministry,



« Since nutrition-related activities largely demanding a multi-sectoral approach, the establishment of the Advisory Committee is a significant step to provide strategic guidance to the implementation of the NIPN. »

(Dr. Getachew Tolera, DDG of EPHI)



A Desk Review Conducted to Identify Potential Policy Questions



An internal desk review has been conducted by the NIPN team and policy translation unit of EPHI to identify nutrition related policy questions.

The review is one process of a NIPN activity in which policy questions were identified and further explored for analysis. The review was conducted in a meeting held on May 14-18 in Bishoftu.

The main aim of the meeting was to gather documents from an open accessible data and to review policy, strategy and planning documents, research findings and other reviewed reports.

The topics covered during the desk review were urban nutrition, pastoral nutrition, nutrition and financial tracking and social protection.



PQF Review Team

Trainings Provided to the NIPN Team

- **April 8,2019 - Setting up Data Repository, What does it Entail?**
- **May 16,2019 - Getting Data in to the Repository- Things to Ponder.**

Advisory Committee...continued from p3

Seqota Declaration, donor representative and EPHI assigned as a secretary. The Advisory Committee includes high level experts from Ministry of Health, Agriculture, Education, Women, Water, Irrigation and Energy ministry, Seqota Declaration, donor representative and EPHI assigned as a secretary. During the launch of the AC, the deputy director of EPHI, Dr. Getachew Tolera, explained the fact that despite great progresses, malnutrition remains a concern in Ethiopia. The country is addressing this by implementing the National Nutrition Program, and more recently, by validating the National Nutrition Policy.



It is important to consider that the implementation of the policy needs to be supported by evidence-based decision making and NIPN can support this process. In addition, NIPN will promote making better use of existing and underutilized data to overcome the challenges of existing data sets and reports. Since nutrition-related activities are largely demanding a multi-

sectoral approach, the establishment of the AC is a significant step to provide strategic guidance to the implementation of the NIPN. He appreciates those who joined the AC committee and commit their time and expertise to the accomplishment of the NIPN objectives. Following the key note address the AC members discussed the roles, responsibilities and accountability structure of the NIPN AC.



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NIPN Seminar-Continued from P2



(Dr. Stephen Vosti from the University of California, Davis)

He explained the Vitamin A intake among the non-breast feeding children in Ethiopia and concluded that fortification of edible oil with Vitamin A would reduce the prevalence of VA inadequacy among young children across the different regions although the impacts varied by region.