



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



EUROPEAN UNION

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
National Information Platforms For Nutrition (NIPN)

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

*Contract Reference No: FOOD/2017/386-671*





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# LIST OF ACRONYMS

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DINU	Development Initiative for Northern Uganda
DNCC	District Nutrition Coordination Committee
EU	European Union
FSNA	Food Security and Nutrition Assessment
GSF	Global Support Facility
HMIS	Health Management Information System
HR	Human Resources
ICT	Information Communication Technology
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
NCA	Nutrition Causal Analysis
NIPN	National Information Platform for Nutrition
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PAC	Project Advisory Committee
PMC	Project Management Committee
SCID	Strategic Coordination and Implementation Directorate
SES	Socio-Economic Survey
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UDHS	Uganda Demographic and Health Survey
UNAP	Uganda Nutrition Action Plan
UNHS	Uganda National Household Survey
UNPS	Uganda National Panel Survey
WHA	World Health Assembly
MOH	Ministry of Health
NIS	Nutrition Information Systems
WHO	World Health Organisation
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
QPM	Quarterly Performance Monitoring
USAID	United States Agency for Development
MCHN	Maternal Child Health and Nutrition
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
MOES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MOLG	Ministry of Local Government

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# PROJECT SUMMARY

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Name of Coordinator of the grant contract	Mr. James Collins Dombo Ag. Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister
Name and title of the contact person	Mr. Joses Tegyeza Commissioner, Strategic Coordination and Implementation & NIPN Project Director - Office of the Prime Minister
Name of the beneficiary (ies) and affiliated entity (ies) in the Action	Beneficiary - Office of the Prime Minister Affiliate - Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)
Title of the Action	National Information Platforms for Nutrition
Contract Number	FOOD/2017/386-671
Start and end date of the Action	January 2018-December 2021
Target country (is) or region (s)	Uganda
Final beneficiaries & or target groups <i>(If different including numbers of women and men)</i>	OPM, MAAIF, MOGLSD, MoES, MWE, MLoG, Trade, NPA, UBOs, MFPED
Final beneficiaries & or target groups <i>(If different including numbers of women and men)</i>	N/A

# 1.

# ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ACTIVITIES

## 1.1. Executive summary

The National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN) is a four-year project of the Government of Uganda, supported by the European Union. NIPN facilitates multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder dialogue on nutrition and supports the use of existing information and data to develop or refine policies and programmes to address malnutrition. Implemented by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in partnership with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) and with technical support from UNICEF,

NIPN contributes to strengthening national capacity of ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) to manage and analyse nutrition information and data from all sectors for evidence-informed decision making. This project is engaged in the establishment of a central nutrition data repository and dashboard within the OPM. The project ensures that nutrition data and information is used to inform the strategic decisions and policies to address malnutrition and its consequences.

NIPN in Uganda seeks to enhance a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder dialogue on nutrition and the use of existing information and data to improve or refine policies and programmes. The NIPN initiative was designed to contribute to strengthening national capacity to manage and analyse information and data from all sectors which have an influence on nutrition and to disseminate and use information so as to better inform the strategic decisions that Uganda as a country is faced with to prevent under-nutrition and its consequences.

The NIPN initiative globally seeks to achieve the under listed objectives;

- To create capacity within national institutions to operate and maintain a National Information Platform for Nutrition;
- To strengthen capacity to track progress in meeting national objectives to prevent under-nutrition and monitor nutrition investments;
- To build the capacity of national policy makers and programme planners to make better use of evidence in designing and implementing nutrition-related policies.
- The approach undertaken by the NIPN project in Uganda seeks to;
- Maximise the analysis and interpretation of existing information and data on nutrition to improve understanding of the factors that influence it, both nationally and locally;
- Identify gaps in information that need to be filled and problems with the consistency and quality of data;
- Build plausible arguments about the effectiveness of interventions, programmes, approaches and investments to prevent malnutrition;
- Contribute to monitoring national and sub-national (local governments) progress in preventing malnutrition;
- Strengthen the accountability of government



and donors to meet their commitments to prevent malnutrition.

The NIPN project in Uganda is implemented within the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan

(UNAP) framework and the auspices of the Scaling Up Nutrition

(SUN) movement under the leadership of the Office of the Prime Minister's Permanent Secretary and the Commissioner Strategic Coordination and Implementation.

### **Analysis of the NIPN project performance in 2020**

At the beginning of 2020, the project team conducted an annual performance review of the project and generated an annual plan for the year, with high impact activities. The plan was later reviewed in July 2020 by the project team after the lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic which affected the implementation of project activities. The NIPN project management unit put in place a number of strategies following the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and government's guidance on the national response to COVID-19. These included; Scaling down of activities that would need convening people in a common space, use of sanitizers, holding virtual meetings on zoom, as well as keeping a limited number of staff in office at 30%, social distancing, limiting workshops and physical meetings and recruitment of a project driver to support the staff movements.

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown that robbed the project of over 6 months' of the project activities' implementation time, the project team was able to adjust and be able to implement and achieve the following:

- The 1st national multi-sectoral nutrition dash board was approved together with UNAP-II by the Policy Coordination Committee (PCC) chaired by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda, as a tool to help in tracking the implementation of UNAP-II.
- The national nutrition information management capacity development plan for sectors was produced by the NIPN project. A training module

on nutrition data handling and management was also produced, and utilised in the training of sectors.

- The project trained 35 staff from the 8 nutrition relevant sectors in Nutrition programming, Nutrition data handling and generation of evidence to inform nutrition policy and programming.
- The NIPN project communications and visibility strategy was completed and is implemented. A number of visibility materials were produced and also the project office was branded.
- The mapping and capacity assessment of the 8 sector's Nutrition Information Management systems was completed and the report produced. The assessment focused at looking at what exists, sectors capabilities to collect and utilise nutrition data and information to inform programming. The report informed the capacity development plan
- Fifteen (15) knowledge products were produced out of the UDHS. The UNPS, FNSA data was analysed by the data analysis unit at UBOS. Out of Fifteen draft knowledge products, Five (5) products are ready for launching and further dissemination.
- The NIPN team produced the national nutrition situation report for 2019/2020 out of the panel survey wave 7&8.
- The NIPN project provided support to the UNAP-II MEAL plan development process including the use of the UNPS as future source of data to track UNAP-II implementation.
- Over 30 data sets from UNPS, FNSA, UDHS have been cleaned, harmonised and analysed ready for uploading in the central nutrition data and information repository.
- NIPN project monitoring and evaluation plan was successfully developed.
- Nutrition data landscape analysis/ data source mapping in the public sector was successfully done, the report finalised and validated.
- The NIPN –Uganda project participated in the global stock-taking exercise, the report was



shared and a retreat of staff (OPM&UBOS) was organised to reflect on the findings and discuss how to take forward the recommendations.

- The project team supported and participated in DINU related activities with the interest of NIPN-UBOS analysis unit seeing how the data collected in these processes and studies could be of quality and later taken into central repository. The activities included: Refining indicators for inclusion in their sub-grantees baseline studies, Mapping of nutrition service providers and stakeholders in the DINU districts, the regulatory impact assessment study for the national nutrition policy, the causal pathways study for anaemia, the national advocacy and communication's strategy for UNAP-II and the Nutrition expenditure review all coordinated by DINU –UNICEF.
- NIPN team engaged and worked with MoH, WHO- Nutrition Information systems strengthening project, as task force members.

- Six regional policy dialogues sessions were successfully held, using the data analysed by the NIPN team, to understand how child related nutrition indicators i.e. Minimum Acceptable Diets (MAD), IYCFP, Dietary Diversity (DD) and Meal Frequency (MF) were fairing amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The idea was to dialogue with district leaders to understand the food situation and feeding practices in the face of the pandemic and generate policy questions and recommendations to government. The Minister of General duties, Hon. Mary Karoro Okurut, took part in these dialogues, and key issues and policy recommendations emerged.

Given the structure of the project that year 1&2 activities were primarily project start up activities and preparatory process activities to lay foundation for the critical project deliverables for institutionalisation which are to be delivered in year 3 & 4. The table below gives a summary of outputs and activities to be accomplished by December 2021<sup>1</sup>.

Summary of the Annual Planned output for 2021	Activities	Responsibility
<b>Functional, up-to-date and interactive, automated National Multi-sectoral Nutrition Dashboard</b>	Hire a Consultant to design a web-hosting platform and a database for the dashboard (automate the dashboard)	UBOS/OPM
	Refine nutrition indicators to be included in the dashboard	
	Align dashboard to UNAP-II	
<b>Functional Multi-sectoral Central Nutrition Data Repository</b>	Conduct data source mapping of none state actors	UBOS
	Finalize the lay-out and design of the data source mapping report for public sectors	
	Finalize SoPs for the central repository	
	Upload harmonized and cleaned data sets in the central repository	
	Harmonize five datasets (UNPS Wave 4, 5, 8, and UNHS 2016/17, 2019/20)	
<b>Finalize the MEAL Plan for UNAP-II linked to the dashboard</b>	Automate the repository and link it to the interactive national nutrition dashboard	
	Hire a consultant to design the UNAP-II MEAL Plan	OPM
<b>Generate a matrix of Nutrition-relevant policy frameworks to identify key nutrition policy issues indicators</b>	Support data gap filling for UNPS as data source for tracking of UNAP-II implementation	UBOS/OPM
	Generate at least two policy questions for the analysis unit	OPM
	Sector engagement workshop to refine policy questions	

<sup>1</sup> The detailed 2021 work plan is appended to the report in the annexes





	Present the refined policy questions to the PAC for review and approval	
	Support data analysis of the UNPS and generate nutrition situation report	
<b>Capacity building: Skilled sectors in nutrition data handling and use of evidence in nutrition Policy and programming</b>	Training of 8 sectors and 2 MDAs in Nutrition Data Handling and Management using STATA	
	UBOS/OPM	
	Training of 8 sectors and 2 MDAs in use of Evidence to Inform Policy	
	OPM	
	Support government & project staff pursuing further education through scholarships and/or research grants	OPM
<b>Production of knowledge products</b>	Launching and dissemination of the Nutrition Situation Report (UNPS 2020)	UBOS/OPM
	Launching and dissemination of the 5 knowledge products	OPM
	Produce new 6 knowledge products and finalize the old ones	OPM
<b>Functional NIPN project website</b>	Produce an interactive NIPN project website	OPM
<b>Conduct the NIPN project Mid Term Review (MTR)</b>	Finalize and present the MTR report	OPM
<b>Implement the NIPN communications and Visibility strategy</b>	Updating NIPN & OPM social media platforms	OPM
	Publicizing the launch of knowledge products	
	Production and dissemination visibility materials	
	Production of NIPN Newsletter	
	Produce video on the UNPS nutrition situation report	
	Conduct one radio talk show on the nutrition situation in Uganda	
	Conduct one TV talk-show on the nutrition situation in Uganda	
<b>Support the functionality of the project structures</b>	Organize and conduct the project Mgt Committee Meetings (PMCs), Review PACs roles	OPM
<b>Perform the project expenditure review audit</b>	Engage auditors to perform the review	OPM
<b>Produce the project exit and sustainability document</b>		OPM/UBOS

## Sustainability strategy for the NIPN project

The team is committed to working on the above activities by December 2021, a sustainability and exit strategy paper will be developed by the end of the year. However, to fully achieve what the project was intended to achieve in 4 years, a no-cost extension of the project is desired to recover the lost implementation time of a year at the beginning and the time lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic lock down. To fully sustain the project, the no-

cost extension period will intensify activities that will fully institutionalise and sustain the nutrition information platforms in the sectors and other MDAs, and the strategies will include the following among others:

Work more through the nutrition multi-sectoral framework to;

1. Build capacity of local governments –in

- particular DNCCs to build nutrition data management systems at district levels, and utilisation of quality data to inform district nutrition planning, programming and reporting within the UNAP framework, but also to generate data regularly to the central repository and national dashboard.
2. Strengthen Nutrition Information Systems in all the 8 nutrition relevant sectors drawing on the recommendations from the NIPN capacity assessment report but also the drawing from the experiences of MOH-NIS –WHO project. Each sector will be supported to have a functional NIS to ease reporting on nutrition sector specific indicators, and generation of quality data for policy and programming.
  3. Support the data gap filling around the UNPS survey particularly ensuring all the core nutrition indicators are included, in the UNPS for tracking the implementation of UNAP-II and that the UDHS and other data sets and surveys provide evaluation data for UNAP-II.
  4. Intensify the training on the use of the **automated national multi-sectoral nutrition dash board** by the sectors and other stakeholders to track implementation of the UNAP-II and monitor changes in key nutrition outcome indicators in the country.
  5. Introduce and train sectors and other stakeholders in the use **the central data repository**, strengthen mechanisms for contributing data and accessing data for the central repository.
  6. Training public sector and non-state actors in quality research methodologies to ensure quality data on nutrition that will be uploaded to the central repository. Train MDAs in shaping nutrition policy and practice using quality evidence/ data.
  7. Develop partnerships with the academia, especially Universities, to strengthen Nutrition Research at masters and PHD levels, but also nutrition research communication to inform policy and practice in the country.
  8. Develop strong partnerships with nutrition development partners like UN agencies, USAID, DFID etc. to support these project activities after the project life.
  9. Institutionalisation of the nutrition data source mapping as bi-annual practice at UBOS to regularly do the nutrition data landscape analysis, to know what data sets on what indicators exist and of what quality so that they are regularly gathered for inclusion into the central repository.

### Analysis of Technical Assistance to the NIPN Project in 2020

The project majorly received technical assistance from UNICEF through the placement of the Senior Data Analysis Advisor and from C4N. C4N was consistent in the support through Webinars on various topical issues, participation in the stock-taking exercise, discussion of the QPMs and participation in the retreat to discuss the stock-taking report recommendations.

UNICEF technical assistance was partly disrupted by short term contracts that they gave the Senior Data Analysis Advisor and once the contract would expire, it would take long to be renewed. As such, substantial amount of time in terms of technical support was lost in the delays of renewing contracts. Most part of the year, the team relied on internal support and guidance from within UBOS staff. UNICEF was also supposed to recruit a documentation specialist to join the team at OPM to support the communications and policy unit in terms of production of nutrition knowledge products from the various analyses, this position was not filled in the period under review.

The disruptions in the technical assistance from UNICEF coupled with the absence of the Data Manager at the NIPN data analysis unit in UBOS affected the project implementation, for example the webhosting of the dash-board and the central repository directly fell under the docket of the project data manager, which has been vacant for 2 years.



# 2.

## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

### 2.1 NIPN Project Budget Performance

The total budget for the action is Eur. 2,432,231. The European Union (EU) transferred Eur. 594,000 as automatic pre-financing to the Office of the Prime Minister -National Information Platform for Nutrition Project No. 000030088000061 in Bank of Uganda.

Upon submission of the narrative and audited financial report for 2018 and 2019, the forecast for 2020 and the request for further pre-financing payment, the EU transferred Eur. 549,621.4 on 21st September 2020 as a second disbursement on the project bank account. Therefore, a total of Eur. 1,143,621 has been released to support project

activities.

Out of the released amount, Eur. 649,336 has been actually spent on implementation of the action leading to an absorption rate of 57% as at 31st December 2020. However, in December 2020, the project had commitments amounting to Eur. 75,477 for Expenditure verification, Mid-term review and MEAL plan for UNAP2 consultancy. Had these items been paid in December, 2020, the absorption rate would have raised to 63%. The table below gives a summary of project expenditure commitments and performance:

Commitments	Eur.	Comment
Expenditure verification	2,500	Only half of fees paid in 2020
Mid-term review	18,843	Contract issued in Dec 2020
MEAL plan for UNAP2	54,134	Contract issued in Dec 2020
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>75,477</b>	
Project expenditure	649,336	Actual expenditure (ref. Financial report attached)
Total	724,813	
<b>Forecasted absorption by March 2020</b>	<b>63%</b>	

### 2.2 Budget re-allocations (Article 9.4 of the GC)

During the period under review, the project acquired a motor Vehicle-Isuzu double cabin pickup to support project activities. In order to effectively use the vehicle, OPM management recruited a driver for the project and therefore a reallocation of Eur. 4,885 from budget line 1.1.1.5 (data manager) to a new budget line 1.1.2.3 (Project driver) was made to cater for the Driver's salary. This reallocation was made from within the same main budget heading of Human resources (Item 1) in compliance with Article 9.4.

The other re-allocations arising as a result of the need to social distance in light of Covid-19

pandemic are new budget line items 3.2.1.16 (Projector) and 3.2.1.17 (Koniftel 300 wireless conference phone) at Eur. 595 and Eur. 3,069 respectively. These amounts were re-allocated from budget lines 3.2.1.11, 3.2.1.12 and 3.2.1.13. The re-allocations are made within the same main budget heading of Equipment and supplies (item 3) and in accordance with article 9.4 of the Grant Contract.

All other reallocations made have been duly reported in the attached financial report and expenditure verification reports and they comply with article 9.4.

# 3.

## RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

The section below presents the achievements for every key result areas as per the project document.



### KEY RESULT 1: CREATE CAPACITY WITHIN NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A NATIONAL INFORMATION PLATFORM FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION

#### Activity 1.1 Functionality of the NIPN Project Management Unit, Data Analysis Unit and Project Management Unit

*Planned sub-activities of the year 2020:*

- Conduct 2 sessions for NIPN staff performance reviews
- Conduct -1 workshop to orient project staff on Gov't working procedures
- Support the meetings of PMC and PAC
- Develop 3 strategic and implementation partnerships and networks for Nutrition Information and communication
- Provide administration support to the project.

Following the establishment of the project management committee

(PMC), policy advisory committee (PAC), policy Unit, data analysis and project management unit (PMU) in year one of the project, the NIPN project procured project equipment and support materials to ensure the project structures are fully functional in the year under review.

The project team supported and facilitated the meetings of PMC. The PMC sat thrice out of the 4 times planned in the year under review, first to approve the annual report 2019 and the project plan for 2020, then sat again to review the project progress after the COVID-19 lockdown, and approved the adjusted plans and also sat in the 3rd quarter of the project to review progress, and

the last meeting was to support the stock taking exercise via zoom.

However, the PAC sat twice in the year out of the 4 times planned in the year under review. During the 1st quarter, the PAC had a meeting to review the knowledge products which had been developed from the analysis. The 2nd meeting of PAC was hinged on generation of policy questions while the third meeting did not take place due to lack of quorum.

It should be noted that whereas the PMC has done very well in terms of its roles and functions, the PAC still faces a challenge of consistency and hence, the terms of reference (ToR) have to be re-defined. According to the stocktaking report by C4N that partly reviewed the work of the PAC, the committee's functionality was low because their roles were not strategic. The project team, during a retreat to discuss the stock taking exercise findings and recommendations, unanimously agreed that a new set of TOR that are more strategic be developed for the PAC to significantly improve the functionality of the PAC.

NIPN project staff underwent an orientation workshop on government working procedures to appreciate the different departments in OPM and how they work. The HR department of OPM took lead and the NIPN staff participated fully in the workshop.

NIPN staff further underwent performance assessment by their supervisors and their



appraisal forms and recommendations were submitted to the HR departments of the respective host entities i.e. OPM & UBOS. It should be noted that all the NIPN staff in UBOS their contracts end in December 2021 and those of OPM staff in March 2021. At UBOS the position of NIPN data manager remained vacant during the year in review. However, interviews for the vacancy were conducted in November 2020 and the identified candidate is reported in February 2021. Unicef was also supposed to recruit a Documentation specialist for the project wasn't done, but will be done in 2021.

The project planned had planned to initiate 3 strategic and operational partnerships with institutions already identified in the project proposal. Whereas this activity didn't go further due to Covid 19, initial discussions with Makerere University, CERIES, Kyambogo University, African Centre for Research and Development (ACADRI) is at initial stages. This will be followed through 2021.

### **Activity 1.2 Participate in meetings, conferences and trainings both international and local that are relevant to NIPN**

*Planned sub-activities for the year 2020: NIPN and Sector staff participation in;*

- Tokyo Nutrition for growth Summit
- NIPN global gathering
- National Nutrition forum
- CPA annual Conference
- Nutrition Research methodology training in India
- General project management meetings and other relevant

The NIPN project had planned to participate in the above mentioned conferences within Uganda and beyond, however, this activity was largely halted due to the effects of COVID-19. However, some meetings were held on zoom and physically, observing the SOPs from the ministry of health. For example:

- The NIPN team participated in 3 Webinars organised by C4N staff. The webinars were on; analysis of investments in nutrition, capacity development and data quality.

- The NIPN management team participated in 3 quarterly performance reviews (QPMs). These quarterly processes that are coordinated by C4N gave the opportunity to reflect on what was planned, achieved and what is not achieved in the quarter versus the annual plan. A lot of issues emerged for the year 2020 especially the disruptions by COVID-19 lockdown that resulted into re-planning and adjusting the whole annual plan by identifying activities that were to be stopped, those to be differed and others to implement with minor adjustments. The QPMs also allowed to identify the new ways of working, and the budgetary implications of the new ways of work. For example, instead of holding one annual big conference, due to social distancing and limitations put conferences due to Covid 19, smaller meetings and workshops were organised targeting fewer people.
- Thirty –Five (35) staff from sectors were trained by NIPN in Nutrition Programming and Nutrition Data Handling & Management which was attended by officials from all the 10 sectors and agencies relevant to nutrition programming in the country. Officials from the sectors were trained on nutrition governance, nutrition data handling and nutrition data communication.
- A meeting to discuss the partnership between NIPN and USAID project Child and Maternal Health activity (MCHN) was held by NIPN staff and MCHN. During the meeting a roadmap on the partnership was proposed and further discussions are to be held to concretise the partnership. Some of the key activities proposed in the partnership were: revitalisation of the multi-sectoral nutrition website at OPM, dissemination of nutrition knowledge products including the nutrition situation report 2019/2020, support to the non- state actors' data source mapping exercise.
- A two-day staff retreat was organised in Entebbe to review the NIPN global stocktaking exercise report findings and recommendations. All NIPN staff, and some OPM staff participated in the retreat that was partly attended by the C4N team through zoom. Feedback was given on the report on the issues of concern for the authors of the report to consider. A road map

was derived to execute the recommendations, and a number of recommendations have since been implemented and others were carried into the 2021 annual work-plan. Other issues that emerged were to be explored further during the NIPN project mid-term review due in early 2021.

- During the year under review, effort to harmonize NIPN and DINU nutrition data related work resulted in a joint workshop in Lira. The workshop was attended by DINU sub-grantees, DINU staff, OPM, UBOS, and the EU. During the workshop, NIPN shared its approach, the core activities and areas of synergy which DINU can tap into, among them were refinement and alignment of nutrition indicators, skilling in baseline studies, M&E and reporting for nutrition. Whereas a lot of efforts in the workshop were geared towards harmonisation of the baseline data from the sub-grantees, the reports and data sets needed strengthening and it was agreed that NIPN provides technical support.
- The project successfully conducted District local governments' data sharing and dialogue sessions on dietary diversity and the COVID-19 pandemic. The activity that was planned to cover 10 districts was launched by Minister of General Duties, Hon Mary Karooro Okurut, in Bushenyi district. The exercise was aimed at meeting district local government leaders on issues of dietary diversity and meal frequency in the face of COVID-19. During the dialogue, key policy concerns were identified and NIPN will generate data and policy briefs based on the policy questions. The officials raised issues of costs of food, school feeding, food processing and general nutrition education, leadership for nutrition and home economics. Journalists from different media houses covered the proceedings of the launch and published stories in print and broadcast outlets.
- The maiden multi-sectoral excel- based national nutrition dashboard was presented to the Policy Coordination Committee (PCC) meeting which was chaired by Rt. Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda. The dashboard was approved by the PCC and the process of automating and loading it on

the OPM and UBOS website is underway. This milestone was shared on OPM's Twitter platform and website. The dashboard will be converted into an interactive web-based dashboard with simplified versions for different audiences.

- The NIPN participated in a meeting with the USAID's MCHN Activity to discuss areas of possible areas of collaboration on 4th December 2020. Dissemination of NIPN analysis findings regionally and through USAID partners were some of the areas of collaboration established. The collaborative virtual dissemination of the panel Nutrition Situation findings was the immediate area identified.

### **Other capacity building activities:**

Capacity building of the policy and data analysis units and for sectors through which capacity assessment of sectors (MAAIF, MoH, MoES, TRADE, GENDER, MLoG), regarding nutrition information management was conducted. An assessment report is available with actionable recommendations to be taken up by the project management unit.

Following the assessment, a capacity development plan for sectors on nutrition information management and a training module on nutrition data management was produced to support training and capacity building of sectors on nutrition information handling and management systems.

The NIPN developed and collated materials to develop a training module for Nutrition Data Management to be used as a guide for capacity building of sectors and stakeholders in nutrition data handling by the platform. Following this development, a capacity building training was conducted for sector officers to enhance their capacities to handle data and analyse information. This activity was held from the 23rd – 27th November, 2020.

Additionally, two NIPN staff, a Public Health Specialist and a Data Editor participated in an International training on Nutrition Research Methods. The course was the 11th Bangalore Boston Nutrition Collaborative (BBNC) short course that was conducted from the 11th to the





24th of January 2020 at St. John's Research Institute in India. This improved their capacity and knowledge in public health nutrition research. After arrival, the team shared knowledge materials and a presentation of the course to other members for their benefit.

Furthermore, one of NIPN's statisticians and Data Editor participated in a 5 - day training on Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) and Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU). The workshop was conducted from the 27th to 31st January 2020 in Jinja. During the training, the staff's skills were built in assessing food insecurity and the use of the food insecurity experience scale, an online application that analyses cleaned data and develops summary statistics.

### **Activity 1.6. Map Sources of data of Interest to the NIPN and Define the Principles for Sharing and Using Data**

*Planned sub-activities for the year 2020:*

- Finalize the data source mapping for the public sector
- Conduct data source mapping for the non state actors
- Write the MoU for data sharing
- Conduct a validation workshop for the public sector data source mapping report
- Dissemination of the data source mapping report

The public sector nutrition data source mapping report validation exercise by the sectors was conducted during this reporting period. A one-day validation workshop was held on 5th November 2020 at which all sectors that participated in the activity were represented. The findings of the exercises were presented and the draft report was shared and validated in the workshop. Annex -1 of this report presents the spread sheet that summarises the findings of the data source mapping. The report was shared internally and with participating MDAs. Further dissemination is planned through sector engagements and dialogue sessions, posting the report on the website among other approaches.

The nutrition data source mapping in the non-state actors was disrupted by COVID-19 lockdown, and

the need to observe SoPs pushed the NIPN project to collaborate with the USAID funded Maternal Child Health Nutrition (MCHN) activity to conduct the data source mapping virtually online. MCHN supported the automation of the data source mapping tool. The data source mapping tool was developed and finalized, and is being converted into an online questionnaire to be used to conduct the activity early in April 2021.

The draft MoU on data sharing was written by the team, it is still under review internally, and will then be shared with stakeholders to support access to nutrition data and information for the central repository.

### **Activity 1.7 Create a centralized repository for data related to nutrition and define mode of operation**

*Planned sub- activities for the year 2020:*

- Finalize the SoPs for the central Nutrition Information and data repository
- Finalize the terms of reference for the Consultant to design the web-based centralized repository
- Upload 3 UNPS, 6 UDHS, 2 UNHS data sets- into central repository
- Clean, harmonize, and validate 3 FSNA data sets

A draft nutrition data repository was designed at UBOS, however, there was a delay in the recruitment of the consultant who would support the webhosting. The ToRs were written, reviewed and approved internally and the recruitment of the consultant will be done in 2021.

The standard operating procedures to guide the use of the nutrition central data repository were drafted and are being reviewed, and whereas the target for 2020 was to upload 3 UNPS, 6 UDHS, 2 UNHS data sets- into central repository as we report now, 30 datasets cumulatively, are available to be uploaded into the repository, these include; UDHS, UNHS, UNPS and FSNA.

This activity was greatly affected by the delay in the recruitment of the Data Manager at UBOS, if the vacancy was filled on time, it would easily accelerate the finalisation of the centralized repository, and uploading the data.





## KEY RESULT 2: STRENGTHEN CAPACITY TO TRACK PROGRESS IN MEETING NATIONAL OBJECTIVES TO PREVENT UNDER-NUTRITION AND MONITOR NUTRITION INVESTMENTS

### Activity 2.1. Create a web interface within UBOS to present statistics from the NIPN

*Planned sub-activities for 2020;*

- Finalise the ToRS for the consultant to design a web-based NIPN dashboard
- Recruit web-design for the nutrition dashboard
- Design the web-based tool to host the dashboard
- Designing of sector specific and regional nutrition dash-boards
- Harmonise and update the dashboard with UNAP-II indicators
- Validation and dissemination of the dash-board

The project team worked with UNAP-II consultant to review, harmonize and update the nutrition indicators and align them to draft dashboard. Whereas this activity was finalised on time with the ToRs for the recruitment of the web-design consultant for the dashboard, the delay in recruitment of the Data Manager who would have offered leadership for the activity, working closely with external support of a consultant (who is yet to be recruited) affected the implementation of this activity. However, preliminary work on the dashboard hosting to make it interactive has started in 2021.

### Activity 2.2 Identify and Prioritize Questions for Analysis and Develop Work Plans

*Planned sub-activities for 2020:*

- Conduct 8 sector specific workshops to generate and refine policy questions:
- Engage the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) on policy questions refining

This activity was greatly affected by the Covid 19 lockdown and restrictions on bringing people into common spaces. The project team couldn't easily engage the sectors through workshops or meetings. However, when the lockdown was

eased, small dialogue sessions on the knowledge products that the NIPN team had already produced were organised. For example, the Nutrition Situation Report 2019/2020, was analysed to generate the policy perspectives, and a policy brief was produced with some policy and programming questions, below are some examples.

- Should the UNPS be adopted as the official tool for generating data on nutrition outcome indicators to help track the implementation of UNAP-II or be a source of data for the UNAP-II MEAL PLAN?
- What needs to be done with regard to the nutrition indicators, UNPS sample size, sampling framework etc. What should NIPN do in this? Can NIPN support both processes the MEAL plan for UNAP-II and Data gap filling for UNPS?.
- What is the performance of school feeding programs, what should change or be strengthened in view of COVID-19?
- Has COVID-19 pandemic affected the dietary quality for different populations. Where is the evidence to aid nutrition programming?
- What is the relationship between COVID-19, maternal and child health, where is the evidence?

Since policy questions generation and analysis are cyclic and at the heart of the NIPN approach, this activity will be fully explored in 2021.

### Activity 2.3 Perform qualitative analysis based on generated policy questions

Sector engagement workshops and stakeholder consultation on priority areas for analysis were affected by the Covid 19 pandemic, the team carried out the qualitative analysis of the Nutrition situation report (UNPS 2019/2020) and produced a policy perspective paper to the report with policy recommendations.



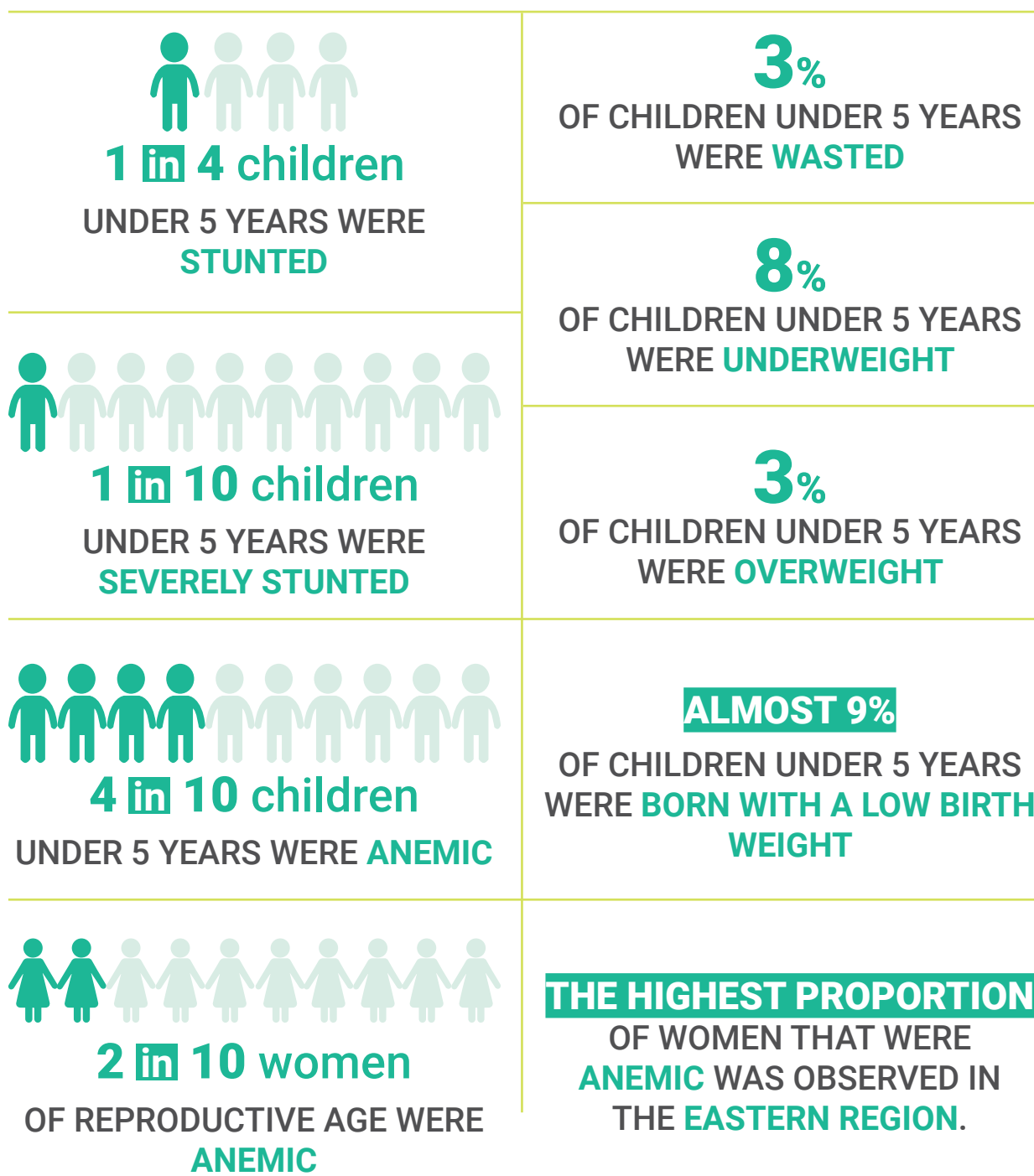
## Activity 2.4 Perform quantitative analysis of data

Planned sub-activities for 2020

- Data cleaning, harmonization and edit data sets (UNPS, UDGAS, FNSA etc)
- Conduct data gap filling studies
- Perform analysis and produce reports

During the reporting period, the NIPN Analysis Unit reviewed, harmonized and analysed 6 datasets of the Uganda National Panel Survey. This data

provided the most recent overview of the nutrition situation in the country regarding the households in the panel. The outcomes of this analysis were the panel Nutrition Situation Report 2019/2020. The analysis established trends in stunting, wasting, underweight and overweight from 2009/10 to 2019/20. For other nutrition related indicators, the analysis established a 2018/19 and 2019/20. The analysis of the findings followed the UNAP II MEAL framework to align findings and make them usable for monitoring the implementation of the UNAP II. Below are the highlights of the findings:



8%

OF WOMEN IN THE  
REPRODUCTIVE AGE (15-49)  
WERE **UNDERWEIGHT**



**2 in 10** women  
WERE **OVERWEIGHT**

15%

OF WOMEN AGED 60  
YEARS AND ABOVE WERE  
**UNDERWEIGHT**

THE REPRODUCTIVE AGE  
GROUP HAD THE  
**HIGHEST PROPORTION**  
OF WOMEN THAT WERE  
**OVERWEIGHT** IN 2019/20

7.5%

OF WOMEN HAVE A  
**RAISED BLOOD PRESSURE**



**2 in 10** men  
WERE **UNDERWEIGHT**

THE **HIGHEST PROPORTION** OF  
MEN THAT WERE  
**UNDERWEIGHT (27%)** WAS  
OBSERVED IN THE **EASTERN**  
**UGANDA**



ALMOST **TWICE** AS MUCH  
MEN WERE **UNDERWEIGHT**  
COMPARED TO **WOMEN**

IN **URBAN HOUSEHOLDS**, THE  
PROPORTION OF MEN THAT ARE  
**OVERWEIGHT** WAS  
**MORE THAN TWICE** AS MUCH AS  
THE RESPECTIVE PROPORTION IN  
**RURAL HOUSEHOLDS**.



THE PROPORTION OF **WOMEN**  
WHO WERE **OBESE** WAS ALMOST  
**FIVE TIMES** AS MUCH AS THE  
RESPECTIVE PROPORTION OF  
**MEN**

THE PROPORTION OF  
**RAISED BLOOD PRESSURE** WAS  
CONTINENTLY **HIGHER IN MEN**  
COMPARED TO WOMEN



The proportion of mother who initiated **early initiation of breastfeeding** declined from **83.5%** to **81.7%**.

**20.55%** of children were given something other than breastmilk in the first **3 days** of life and **94.5%** of children in were **ever breastfed**

The proportion of children who were **fed from a bottle** with a nipple **declined** from **15.4%** in 2018/19 to **12.9%** in 2019/20.

Overall, **11.4%** of **children** received the required minimum **dietary diversity**, **53.8%** met the required minimum **meal frequency** and **8.0%** met the required minimum **acceptable diet**.

The proportion of **women** of reproductive age (15-49) that met the minimum **dietary diversity** **declined** from **14%** in 2018/19 to **11%** in 2019/20.

The proportion of **children** (6-23 months) that received **Vitamin A** supplementation **declined** from **76.9%** to **75.8%**.

Overall, only **5 in 10** of **children** between 12-59 months in the panel were **dewormed**.



The proportion of households that had **two meals per day** including breakfast **declined** from **39.1%** to **37.5%** in 2018/19 and 2019/20 respectively.

A **reduction** in the proportion of **households** that faced a situation where they didn't have enough **food** to feed the households **declined** from **15.9%** in 2018/19 to **14.1%** in 2019/20 respectively.

The **highest** proportion of food **expenditure** was towards **staple foods** (cereals, roots and tubers) at **41.7%** in 2018/19 and **40.8%** in 2019/20

The proportion of **children under 2 years** that had **diarrhoea** 2 weeks preceding the survey **declined** from **17.3%** and **11.3%** in 2018/19 and 2019/20 respectively. An **increase** in those that were given **oral rehydration solutions** and **zinc** was observed **45.1%** in 2018/19 to **48.9%** in 2019/20.

A slight **decline** in the proportion of **children** that had **fever** from **26.1%** in 2018/19 to **25.2%** in 2019/20 respectively was observed. Among these, **95.6%** and **94.1%** in 2018/19 and 2019/20 were sought **advice** or **treatment** for management of the fever.

The proportion of **children** that slept under a **mosquito net** slight **reduced** from **83.2%** in 2018/19 to **81.2%** in 2019/20.



The proportion of household with access to an **improved drinking water** source **increased** from **80.9%** to **83.4%** in 2018/19 and 2019/20 respectively.



Overall, the proportion of households with **handwashing facilities** that had **soap** and **water** **reduced** from **6.5%** in 2018/19 to **5.0%** in 2019/20

A noticeable **decline** in the proportion of households whose **wait time** that was **less than 20 minutes** at the main **source of drinking water** was observed from **66.0%** in 2018/19 to **51.1%** in 2019/20 respectively



The proportion of **children** that received **meals at school** was **47.5%** and **46.3%** in 2018/19 and 2019/20 respectively. The proportion of **children** that received **meals at school** was **higher** among **urban households** compared to rural households.

The proportion of households whose distance to the **nearest water source** was **less than 200m** remained similar between 2018/19 and 2019/20 at **40.9%** and **40.2%** respectively.



Data gap filling is a critical activity, but it was not possible to conduct actual studies. However, in 2021, the data gap filling activities are going to focus on the improving the UNPS survey to be an effective source for data to help in tracking the implementation of UNAP-II.

A recode manual of the cleaning process of the UNPS 2018/19 and 2019/20 datasets was developed. The limitations of the data were discussed for further improvement of the next UNPS as 2019/20 marked the end of the current panel survey.

A narrative of the gaps and challenges identified during the cleaning and harmonization of FSNA data was developed and shared with UNICEF to aid the process of redesign and improvement of future FSNA data collections.

### **Activity 2.6. Provide Reports on Data Analyzed with Interpretation, Conclusions and Recommendations**

*Planned sub-activities for 2020;*

1. Produce 1 knowledge product per sector
2. Produce one analytic report
3. Produce 1 policy brief, 1 fact sheet, 1 technical paper
4. Produce 5 knowledge products aligned to global events

During the period under review, the team managed to produce 1 analytic report, The Nutrition Situation Report 2019/20 from the panel survey 2018/19 & 2019/20. The situation report presents fundamental information for nutrition programming and a stimulant for policy attention towards nutrition in the country. The report also represents the most recent findings of the nutrition status of the country and aims to leverage and inform nutrition stakeholders' decisions.

A policy brief and a policy perspective paper was produced by the NIPN team from the secondary analysis of the nutrition panel survey report 2019/2020, and a fact sheet that summarises the key findings from the survey per nutrition indicator.

Whereas there was plan to produce knowledge products that are aligned to global events, due to Covid 19 pandemic and the cancellation of the most these events, the products were equally not produced.

### **Activity 2.7. Build Capacity of Government Staff to Analyze data, Interpret analysis and Report Findings**

*Planned sub-activities for 2020;*

1. Produced standardized survey tools, manuals and guidelines for training on FSNA data handling
2. Complete the sector capacity development plan on nutrition information and data management
3. Design training module and conduct training for sectors on nutrition programming and data handling

The capacity development plan for sectors on Nutrition Information Management and a training module was developed. Using the training module, the NIPN team conducted a Nutrition Programming and Nutrition Data Handling 5 - day session at which 35 Staff from the 8 ministries were trained. During the training session, the Nutrition Situation findings were presented and the implications were discussed. In addition, the legal, policy and planning contexts for nutrition and the UNAP II, Data source mapping findings, introduction to nutrition data handling and communication sessions were also held.

The other activities were not accomplished due to the Covid 19 pandemic.





## KEY RESULT 3: BUILD THE CAPACITY OF GOVERNMENT STAFF TO MAKE BETTER USE OF EVIDENCE AND DATA TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT NUTRITION-RELATED POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

### Activity 3.1 Design and Implement a Communication and Visibility Plan

The NIPN communication and visibility strategy was developed to support one of the key organizational functions. The strategy aims to promote the nutrition impacts of NIPN and advocate to improve the nutrition situation in Uganda among multiple stakeholders. The strategy also covers visibility and branding of NIPN, information creation, packaging and dissemination.

Overall, the goal of the strategy is to guide information creation and dissemination in a bid to influence policies on nutrition and mitigate the adverse effects of stunting and malnutrition.

Some of the visibility materials that were developed during the year in review include calendars, branding of the office, pens, bags, flash disks, business card holders, umbrellas, corporate shirts, stickers and pens. The materials were disseminated to stakeholders.

During the year in review, 8 stories were aired on Radio, 4 on television and 5 in the hard print media. These were drawn from the dialogue sessions and the training of sectors on nutrition data handling. Some stories may be accessed following these links. <https://scalingupnutrition.org/news/uganda-to-prioritise-nutrition-in-new-development-plan/>, <https://www.ntv.co.ug/ug/news/national/gov-t-trains-civil-servants-on-nutrition-standards-3214242>,

Activity 3.2 Share Findings of Analysis and Disseminate information in a Format Suitable for their Intended Audiences

Fifteen (15) knowledge products were produced. However, Five (5) knowledge products (policy briefs) were reviewed and completed for the launch and dissemination. These are:

- A policy brief on infant and young child feeding amidst COVID-19.

- A policy brief on anaemia in children
- A policy brief on exclusive breastfeeding
- A policy brief on stunting
- A policy brief on anaemia in women
- A nutrition situation factsheet was integrated within the UNPS factsheet and shared with stakeholders during the panel presentation after the statistics week.

A recode manual documenting the process of harmonization and cleaning of the UNPS 2018/29 and 2019/20 datasets was developed. The NIPN also provided documentation of the challenges and gaps discovered from the harmonization of the FSNA datasets. This aimed to support the redesign of the FSNA data collection tools and methods.

Furthermore, NIPN held three dissemination events of the panel Nutrition Situation Report findings. The first dissemination activity was both virtual on zoom and physical through conference dissemination held at the UBOS Conference Hall on in November 2020. The second dissemination was held on the 24th November 2020 during the multi-sector Nutrition Programming and the Nutrition Data Handling Session. The third dissemination was held virtually in December 2020 in collaboration with USAID's Maternal Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) Activity.

### Activity 3.3 Develop national expertise in formulating evidence-based nutrition policies in all sectors

This activity was highly disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to lockdown and social distancing. However, the NIPN team initiated processes identifying potential partnerships Universities / Capacity Building institutions to support the trainings and information generation that feeds into policy review, formulation and implementation. This process is still ongoing and most of the work will be done in 2021.





### Activity 3.4 Implementation of the NIPN project M&E plan

During the year in review, NIPN hired a consultant who developed the M&E plan and tracking tool. The plan focuses on guiding monitoring and assessment of NIPN activities in order to contribute to the achievement of the NIPN objectives and performance targets.

The M&E plan's specific objectives are; to define the mechanisms for assessing NIPN performance, and offer guidance on how to collect timely, accurate and complete information and also to support result-based management by facilitating timely evidence-based decision-making, policy development, advocacy, and learning.

The Project Mid Term review is planned for the end of the year 2, the consultant has been hired and the work is on-going. The report is expected early 2021, and this will help to adjust the project accordingly.

#### NIPN Global Stock Taking Exercise:

One other process aimed at improving the effectiveness of the project was the NIPN global stock-taking exercise that was conducted successfully. The exercise was influenced by the following factors;

- The overall mid-term review (MTR) of the NIPN initiative was conducted two years ago in 2018 before NIPN in Uganda had become operational.
- Capacity for Nutrition (C4N) has now assumed the responsibility of the former Global Support Facility (GSF) to NIPN (since January 2020) which provides an opportunity to understand the type of technical and management support required at country level.

- An opportunity to reflect on achievements to date and to make recommendations for the way forward which can in turn contribute to the NIPN Uganda mid-term review (MTR) to be conducted later in 2020; and
- Take account of the implications of COVID-19 both on the situation of nutrition in Uganda as well as the operational commitments of NIPN during 2020.

A report with key findings and recommendations was made to the project and below are the highlights of the findings:

- Restructure and separate roles at the NIPN – PMU, the coordinator role should be separated from the Policy advisory roles.
- The need to restructure the PAC roles and improve its functionality as one of the project governance structures.
- Prioritize capacity building government ministries, agencies and departments in terms of nutrition data management.
- Capacity challenges in the project, where the project coordinator plays 2 roles, is overwhelmed and the need to separate roles.
- Strengthen the documentation capacity and production of knowledge products
- The report to be used as one of the resources during the MTR, to explore further the findings, and validate them.
- A retreat to reflect on recommendations in the report was held and a set of actions were agreed upon and they are being implemented.

# NIPN PROJECT CHALLENGES

- The technical assistance by UNICEF was provided through short term contracts that would expire and take long to be renewed, and this would affect the project implementation. The Senior Analysis Advisor's technical support contract lasted 3 months and technical support to NIPN during his tenure was affected by the initial circumstances around the COVID-19 lockdown. The Analysis Unit was unable to fully benefit from technical support due to his delayed contract renewal. We recommend early and more long-term renewal of his contract for the benefit of the analysis unit and UBOS.
- Covid 19 pandemic highly affected the project implementation to the magnitude of losing about 6 months project implementation time . This had implications on the actual deliverables for 2020
- Delays in the recruitment of the Data Manager at UBOS and a Documentation Specialist at OPM by UNICEF affected the delivery of the project activities especially the dashboard and central repository completion and producing of the knowledge products.
- The double role played by the project coordinator resulted in limited attention to the policy part of the project.



# ANNEX 1: PROJECT PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT THROUGH PROJECT RESULT CHAIN

RESULTS CHAIN	INDICATORS	TARGET	PROGRESS & REMARKS
Key Result 1: Create capacity within national institutions to operate and maintain a National Information Platform for Food and Nutrition	Availability of a centralized nutrition repository	(Year II) A centralized nutrition data repository established	<b>Progress: <u>On track:</u></b> <b>Remarks:</b> A centralized nutrition data repository is complete and includes key datasets. SOPs for the centralized data repository have been developed. The data landscape exercise for government sectors was completed. A data sharing agreement was developed. Key datasets (UDHS, UNHS, UNPS and FSNA) are being harmonized, catalogued and included in the draft repository. <b>Remarks:</b> The web-based Centralised Nutrition Data Repository was completed.
Key Result 2: Strengthen capacity to track progress in meeting national objectives to prevent under-nutrition and monitor nutrition investments	Number and type of analytical outputs produced by NIPN	At least 4 knowledge products from NIPN (Scientific publications, policy briefs, project newsletter, situation analysis, disaggregated analysis, financial tracking analysis developed)	<b>Progress: <u>On track:</u></b> <b>Remarks:</b> 15 drafts knowledge products and 5 completed (Policy/Technical Briefs) developed and are under review by OPM, UBOS and UNICEF. <b>Remarks:</b> Nutrition Situation Analysis Report was finalized by March 2020.
Government and NIPN project staff in UBOS, OPM and ministries (MoH, MAAIF, etc.) trained in the management and statistical analysis of data Requests for data or information made to NIPN	At least 25 governments and other NIPN project staff benefit from training, on the job support and coaching activities with support from the Advisor. Draft policy questions are existent	<b>Progress: <u>On-track</u></b> <b>Remarks:</b> In total, 35 governments and NIPN project staff benefitted from training, on-the-job support and coaching activities. This training included basics of management of data, policy question formulation and data source mapping. Participants were also oriented on the nutrition dashboard.	Government and NIPN project staff in UBOS, OPM and ministries (MoH, MAAIF, etc.) trained in the management and statistical analysis of data Requests for data or information made to NIPN
Result Area 3: Build the capacity of government staff to make better use of evidence and data to design and implement nutrition-related policies and programmes		Ministry members of staff actively participate in the NIPN activities. Stakeholders involved in nutrition at country level acknowledge the role of NIPN Printed documents are produced The NIPN web pages are regularly fed	<b>Progress: <u>On track:</u></b> Status: During the nutrition data and information handling training and the nutrition multi-sectoral workshops, at least 35 ministry staff participated. <b>Progress: <u>On track:</u></b> <b>Remarks:</b> The process of hiring a consultant to develop NIPN Uganda's webpage begun.

<b>Result Area 1: Create capacity within national institutions (OPM and UBOS) to operate and maintain the NIPN</b>				
	<b>Planned Activity per Result Area</b>	<b>Implementation status 2020</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
	A1.1	Set up a NIPN Project Management Unit within the OPM	Achieved	The Unit is functional and capacity building activities for staff will continue to strengthen it to deliver the project activities.
	A1.2	Set up the NIPN Policy Unit within the OPM	Achieved	The NIPN Policy Unit is fully functional and works closely with the Policy advisory committee of the project and other policy and planning units to generate policy questions.
	A1.3	Establish the NIPN Policy Advisory Committee under OPM leadership	Achieved	The policy Advisory committee is in existence albeit challenges of functionality. The ToR of the PAC are to be revised, given the recommendation from the stock taking exercise.
	A1.4	Set up the NIPN Analysis Unit within UBOS	Achieved	The NIPN Analysis Unit is functional within the Directorate of Socio-Economic Surveys at UBOS. The Data Manager position is yet to be filled. Also, the procurement of computers and furniture was accomplished.
	A1.5	Establish the NIPN Project Management Committee under OPM leadership	Achieved	The NIPN Project Management Committee (PMC) is functional and playing its oversight role in project implementation. Its meeting quarterly and the minutes are well documented,
	A1.6	Map sources of data of interest to the NIPN and define the principles for sharing and using data	Partially Achieved	The data source mapping of existing data in all public sectors of relevance to nutrition was conducted and the report is out. However, data source mapping for non-state actors is to be completed in 2021.
	A1.7	Create a centralised repository for data related to nutrition and define mode of operation	Partially Achieved, on track	This activity is dependent on a number of preliminary activities for example, the development of SOPs for the centralized repository for data. 30 data sets related to Uganda Demographic and Health Survey, Uganda National Panel Survey, Uganda National Household Survey and Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA) have been compiled. The

## Result Area 2: Strengthen capacity to track progress in meeting national objectives to prevent under-nutrition and monitor nutrition investments

		Planned Activities	Implementation Status 2019	Description	
Activities	A2.1	Create or support a web interface to present summary statistics from the NIPN	On-Track	The dashboard developed is still hosted on MS Excel. However, a consultant is being sought to develop a web-based program for hosting the dashboard, and make it automated. The dash board was approved by the PCC.	
	A2.2	Identify and prioritise questions for analysis and develop annual work plans	On-Track	The 1st round of policy questions were generated from sectors and presented to PAC for consideration. However, a number of other processes were engaged to generate policy questions for analysis, these included dialogue sessions on the knowledge products, and a review of reports like Nutrition situation report 2019/2020 with different stakeholders. This is a continuous activity.	
	A2.3	Perform qualitative analysis of information	On Track & On-going	During the year under review, one qualitative analysis and review was done to generate policy perspectives and recommendations of Nutrition Situation UNPS Report 2019/2020.	
	A2.4	Identify sources of data to address questions, ensure data quality and upload data sets	On-going	Data source mapping was conducted in the public sector, and the report has been validated. 30 datasets related to the Uganda Demographic and Health Survey, Uganda National Panel Survey, Uganda National Household Survey and Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA) were collected and cleaned.	
	A2.5	Perform quantitative analysis of data	On-going	Quantitative analysis was done on UDHS and UNHS datasets to produce summary statistics that were used to populate the dashboard. In addition, an extended analysis was done on UDHS 2006, 2011, 2016 for the nutrition situation analysis in the country. More quantitative analysis was done on UNPS data wave 7&8, and produced a national nutrition situation report -2019/2020.	
	A2.6	Write reports on data analyzed with interpretation, conclusions and recommendations	Achieved	15 knowledge products were produced and reviewed by multi-sectoral technical teams. 5 are ready for launching the 10 are still under review.	
			A best practice article was also written and submitted to EU in the course of the year.	Achieved	The article / best practice was about the maiden nutrition multi-sectoral dash board.
	A2.7	Build capacity of government staff to analyze data, interpret analysis and report findings	On-going	A capacity assessment and development plan was developed and completed in 2020. The NIPN also conducted a Nutrition Programming and Nutrition Data Handling 5 - day session at which 35 Staff from the 8 ministries were trained. During the training session, the Nutrition Situation findings were presented, and the implications were discussed. In addition, the legal, policy and planning contexts for nutrition and the UNAP II, Data source mapping findings, introduction to nutrition data handling and communication sessions were also held.	
A3.1.	Design and implement a communication and visibility plan	Achieved	A communications and visibility plan was developed and implementation is ongoing.		

## ANNEX 2: CASE STUDY OF NIPN AMIDST COVID-19

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Project implementation was highly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The NIPN project management team analyzed the impact of COVID-19 on the project implementation of critical activities; adapted the activity plan was developed with coping strategies presented to the PMC and heads of department at OPM. The lock down due to the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the implementation time loss of over 6 months. Nevertheless, the project devised coping mechanisms / strategies and actions in the short and long-term to ensure that the project remains functional and that the results are achieved. Actual project implementation in 2020 was about 6 months. The project staff were supported with the zoom software, high speed data routers, and airtime to ensure communication and other activities continue.

The NIPN project team carried out some activities in response to COVID-19 and below is one of the case studies:

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic is believed to have further aggravated the challenge of malnutrition due to the lockdown where household incomes were affected. It is to this effect that NIPN organized and held dialogues in four regions including; Ankole, Kigezi, Rwenzori/ Tooro, Busoga, Buganda and Bunyoro. The overall objective of the dialogues was to provide a platform for district level stakeholders to re-emphasize the importance of using up-to-date nutrition data and information to promote infant and young child feeding practices. The dialogues also aimed at addressing issues of breast feeding, meal frequency and dietary diversity amidst the COVID-19 pandemic at district level.

This was in a bid to inform nutrition policy and programming by not only the national level stakeholders but also the regional and district leaders, especially in the COVID-19 era, so as to generate impactful actions which would remedy the nutrition challenges. Thus, holding the dialogue

sessions that were officiated by the Minister for General Duties, Hon. Mary Karoro Okurut, who is also the Coordinator of Nutrition and COVID-19 taskforce. **The objectives were;**

1. To share the analysis done on the key nutrition outcome indicators so as to build a regional/ district understanding of the nutrition situation in the region and the district.
2. To orient the district leadership on the nutrition situation of the country, especially that of children, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. To share and discuss the issues raised in the nutrition knowledge products generated by NIPN, including the products on child anemia, Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices (IYCFP), Dietary Diversity and Breastfeeding.
4. Discuss and dialogue on the situation of dietary quality including anemia, low dietary diversity, Meal frequency and poor IYCFP amidst COVID-19, and generate policy and programming questions on IYCFP and Dietary quality for further analysis by NIPN and generation of knowledge products.

A multi-sectoral approach was applied to make invitations to stakeholders. The District Nutrition Coordination Committees (DNCCs) where the entry points for the dialogue sessions. An interactive semi-workshop approach was adopted to the field work where nearby districts were clustered together and others were visited individually. PowerPoint presentations were made and a reflective process involved different interest groups (stakeholders) to discuss the nutrition challenges of the district amidst the COVID-19 pandemic with regard to 3 critical nutrition indicators namely, anemia, and low meal frequency & dietary diversity, to build consensus on how to improve infant and young child feeding practices amidst the challenges of COVID-19. Identification of more policy issues and questions for further analysis, learning and



for production of knowledge products to inform or influence policy /programmatic actions amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Guided by the overall objective of NIPN to create a platform to bring together and analyze existing information and data from all sectors to support the development of evidence-based policies and programs to improve human nutrition in the country, the NIPN data analysis revealed the poor nutrition indicators from the UDHS 2016,

- Five out of every 10 children aged below five years are suffering from lack of enough blood (Child Anemia)
- Low dietary diversity and low meal frequency: Out of 100 children aged 6-23 months, 85 do not get the right number of food varieties (Low diet diversity) and the right number of feeding times (poor meal frequency)
- Out of every 100 children aged below five years 4 suffer from acute malnutrition (are too thin/wasted away)
- Out of 10 women able to bear children (Women of reproductive age) 3 do not have enough blood (Women Anemia)
- For every 100 Women of reproductive age, 24 suffer from Overweight

### Key emerging issues on COVID-19 and Dietary Quality;

- In regions and districts visited, it was unanimously agreed that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to loss of human life and continues to cause unprecedented social-economic disruptions that are sending many people into extreme poverty, while the number of undernourished people is on the increase in all districts of Uganda.
- Members agreed that many businesses and enterprises face closure threats and those which resumed after total lockdown are struggling to keep afloat. Nearly half of the workforce in the formal and informal sectors is at the risk of losing their livelihoods, save for those in the public sector. For those who retain their jobs, the salaries are cut by 40-50%.

Informal workers are particularly vulnerable because the majority lack social protection and access to quality health care and have lost access to productive assets. Without the means to earn an income during the lockdown, many people are unable to feed themselves and their families. For most, no income means no food, or, at best, less food and less nutritious food especially in urban areas.

- The pandemic has not only affected the nutrition sector but the entire food system, for example, border closures, trade restrictions and confinement measures during lockdown have prevented farmers from accessing markets, including access to agro-farm inputs and selling their produce, from harvesting crops, thus disrupting domestic and regional food supply chains and reducing access to healthy, safe and diverse diets.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has decimated jobs in the nutrition related sectors and placed millions of livelihoods at risk. The food security and nutrition of millions of women and men is under threat, particularly the most marginalized populations, like refugees, children, women, the disabled, the elderly, the urban poor etc.
- Informal sector workers are vulnerable, because they face risks in their transport, working and living conditions. They struggle to access support measures put in place by governments. Guaranteeing the safety and health of all agri-food workers – from primary producers to those involved in food processing, transport and retail, including street food vendors, as well as better incomes and protection will be critical to saving lives and protecting public health, people's livelihoods and food security.

The Food and Nutrition program of government should;

- a. Focus on the situation of women who are over-represented in low-paid jobs and care roles.
- b. Provide different forms of support such as cash transfers than just food distribution, pay child allowances to mothers, strengthen the



school feeding programs especially by providing regular healthy school meals for all children, innovative support for employment retention and recovery program for informal sector workers and financial relief for businesses, including micro, small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises.

- c. The COVID-19 task forces in the districts should offer leadership in the implementation of these initiatives together with the DNCCs to avoid over centralization of these services in Kampala.

In conclusion, the COVID-19 crisis is damaging the nutritional status of vulnerable groups through multiple mechanisms and affecting key indices like dietary diversity, meal frequency, dietary quality etc. The decline in dietary quality stems from the income losses related to the COVID-19 lockdown, as well as from the slowing down of food transfer schemes such as school feeding programs and the breakdown of food markets due to both demand shocks and supply constraints.

Malnutrition is on the increase due to healthcare system challenges, i.e. the health care system is already strained and forced to divert some resources from nutritionally important functions, including antenatal care, micronutrient supplementation, prevention and treatment of childhood diarrhea, infections, and acute malnutrition, towards combating COVID-19.

The Government of Uganda, should work at national and local government levels to strengthen and broaden multi-sectoral nutrition structures to ensure that actors in different sectors work as effectively as possible to prevent a full-blown nutritional crisis because of COVID-19. It is now more critical than ever that multi-sectoral nutrition working groups advocate and support key actions to protect nutritionally vulnerable groups in line with NDP-3, UNAP-2 and Vision 2040;

The following are some of the policy recommendations:

- **Support to keep Agri-food systems functioning.** Support farmers to continue farming, traders to continue trading, agro-input dealers, and food sellers etc., even if

they are informal, to continue functioning but observing SoPs. Implement social distancing and improve hygiene measures along the value chain, but keep local and regional food markets working.

- Support and facilitate food system innovations. Given that social distancing and mobility restrictions may be in place for many months, governments, development partners, and microfinance institutions should search for ways to stimulate innovative and safe food delivery systems, for example, especially those that create jobs.
- **Support enhanced homestead food production** to increase access to nutrient-rich vegetables, fruits, and eggs and improve diet quality. These programs are consistent with social distancing, can use surplus household labor, including women, and will increase consumption of nutrient-rich foods.
- **Find innovative ways to stimulate demand for nutrient-rich foods.** Leaders and national media should mobilize the population to keep consuming healthy diets. Multi-media messaging should be used to stimulate demand for protective nutrient-rich foods and to encourage appropriate infant and young child feeding practices, including optimal breastfeeding and diet diversity practices.
- **Use social safety net programs to improve dietary quality, not just quantity.** Food transfers are often focused on staples, and where available. Government should consider bio-fortified or industrial fortified (micronutrient-rich) crops/ foods. Cash transfers or voucher schemes linked to innovative food delivery systems should also be considered to keep the economy going and stimulate demand for fruits and vegetables, dairy, and other nutrient-rich foods. School feeding programs should also adopt new modalities to safely distribute food during school closure.
- **Strengthen the delivery of basic maternal and child health services.** The health sector must find ways to maintain basic preventive and curative healthcare services in all district



local governments, especially for mothers and young children, through remote consultations, nutrition education, nutrition counseling (using mobile messaging or radio) or COVID-19–safe home visits and delivery of essential medications and supplements. Key to meeting this challenge is increasing access to protective equipment for all healthcare workers.

- Invest in expanding water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programs coverage, this is a win-win for preventing contagion of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases that affect maternal and child health and nutrition. Increased access to handwashing stations in communal places. Public announcements and mobile messaging can raise awareness and encourage individuals into practice more hygienic routines.
- **Mobilize support for community-based management of acute malnutrition.** With the expected rises in acute malnutrition, it will be important to boost safe community-level screening and referral of children with acute malnutrition, maintain appropriate

stocks of life-saving supplements, and ensure appropriate staffing and availability of protective equipment. Regular monitoring and surveillance will also be needed to assess the emergence of acute malnutrition among newly vulnerable populations.

- **Protect women and children.** Economic stress and social distancing will increase the risk of domestic violence and psycho-social stress. Social protection and other relief programs need to prioritize women and children and explore novel ways to support individuals and communities in the context of prolonged social distancing.
- **Set up or scale up food and nutrition surveillance systems.** These systems help in identifying the scope and scale of nutritional crises, especially fast-moving crises. Innovations in phone and web-based surveillance systems offer new tools for timely monitoring of vulnerable populations to improve targeting and program design in a time of unparalleled uncertainty.

## ANNEX 3: NIPN PROJECT WORK PLAN 2021

Process Activity	Target / output	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Responsibility
<b>A1.1 NIPN Project Management Unit, Data Analysis Unit and PMU are fully functional</b>														
Conduct NIPN staff performance management processes	1-session	*					*							OPM/UBOS
Recruit the data manager	Data Manager recruited		*											UBOS
Capacity gap filling/ technical assistance –Policy / documentation at PMU				*	*									OPM
Organize project Quarterly PMC and PAC meetings		*			*				*				*	OPM
Review the PAC ToRs to make them strategic				*										
<b>A1.2 Participate in meetings, conferences and trainings both international and local that are relevant to NIPN</b>														
NIPN staff participation in conferences and workshops on nutrition	NIPN global gathering 2021			*										OPM
	Nutrition-related international conferences and workshops				*				*				*	OPM
<b>A1.3 Support capacity building actions for staff and sector partners</b>														
Support staff/sector partners to attend externally organized relevant trainings	3 trainings / IDS policy training			*			*			*				OPM
Organize one training on evidence generation for policy	Two trainings conducted					*			*					OPM
Nutrition data communication training for sector staff, media and sectors	Two trainings conducted						*				*			OPM
Support government/staff pursuing further education through scholarships and/or research grants	Formal training with Universities (PhDs, Masters, short courses)			*										OPM
<b>A1.6 Map sources of data of interest to the NIPN and define the principles for sharing and using data</b>														
Conduct the data source mapping for non-state actors	Non-state actors data source mapping report			*										UBOS

Process Activity	Target / output	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Responsibility
<b>A1.7 Create a centralized repository for data related to nutrition and define mode of operation</b>														
Recruit a consultant to design the data repository	Consultant recruited				*									UBOS
Finalize and approve the SOPs for the nutrition central repository	SOPs approved			*										UBOS
Upload nutrition data to the repository	Data upload into the repository			*			*			*			*	UBOS
Support data gap filling / improving of the UNPS -methodology/ sampling/							*	*	*	*				UBOS/ OPM
Harmonize five datasets (UNPS Wave 4, 5, and UNHS 2016/17, 2019/20)	5 datasets harmonized			*			*			*			*	UBOS
<b>A2.1 Create and support a web interface to present summary statistics from the NIPN</b>														
Develop partnership to support the nutrition dashboard web-design and hosting	Partner engaged/ Automated dashboard				*	*	*	*	*	*				UBOS
Update the dashboard data with all additional available data	Updated dashboard			*	*	*								UBOS
Develop the subnational (and/or sectoral) dashboards	Subnational dashboard developed				*	*	*	*						UBOS
Develop indicator definitions for the dashboard	Indicator definitions report	*	*	*	*	*								UBOS
<b>A2.2 Identify and prioritize questions for analysis and develop annual work plans</b>														
Generate a matrix of Nutrition-relevant policy frameworks to identify key policy issues	Finalize policy mapping exercise				*									OPM
Conduct Sector engagement workshop to generate policy questions	Sector engagement workshop conducted			*					*					OPM
Present the policy questions to the PAC for refining, review and approval	Approved refined policy questions				*									OPM
<b>A2.3 Perform qualitative analysis based on generated policy questions</b>														
Perform at least two qualitative analyses based on questions from the Policy Unit	2 qualitative analyses provided					*				*				OPM

Process Activity	Target / output	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Responsibility
<b>A2.6 Write reports on data analyzed with interpretation, conclusions and recommendations</b>														
Develop at least 2 technical knowledge products and 1-analytic report	Technical reports and knowledge products		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		UBOS
<b>A2.7 Build capacity of government staff to analyse data, interpret analysis and report findings</b>														
Conduct two capacity building session on nutrition data handling	Two capacity building sessions completed					*						*		UBOS
Capacity building of sectors on the use of national dashboard and central repository	Sector engagement dashboard workshop conducted										*			UBOS
<b>A3.1 Design and implement a communication and visibility (C&amp;V) plan</b>														
Approval of the C&V plan by the Permanent Secretary	Approved C&V Plan			*										OPM
Develop and launch NIPN website	Launch of the dashboard													OPM
Regional dialogues on Nutrition				*				*				*		OPM
<b>A3.2 Present the findings of analysis in a format suitable for their intended audiences and disseminate information by different means</b>														
Producing and disseminating visibility materials						*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	OPM
Produce NIPN Newsletter	4 Newsletters produced					*						*		OPM
Produce a video on the UNPS nutrition situation report 2019/2020	One video produce				*									OPM
Conduct one radio talk show on the nutrition situation in Uganda	Radio talk-show					*								OPM
Conduct one TV talk-show on the nutrition situation in Uganda	TV talk-show					*		*						OPM
Produce two newspaper feature articles	Newspaper article				*									OPM

Process Activity	Target / output	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Responsibility
<b>A3.4 Implementation of the NIPN project M&amp;E plan, accountability processes</b>														
Implement the stock taking report recommendations					*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		OPM
Support to the MEAL plan development for UNAP-2			*	*	*									OPM
Support the MTR process		*	*	*	*									OPM
Fill in the QPM tool		*			*			*			*			OPM/UBOS
Conduct a baseline survey for UNAP-II MEAL plan (data gap filling)					*	*	*							UBOS/OPM
Finalize the annual report 2020 and write annual report 2021			*										*	OPM
Support the audit process for 2020 and 2021			*	*									*	OPM
Generate a NIPN sustainability concept paper/ Phase -II										*	*			OPM

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James Collins Dombo,  
**Permanent Secretary/OPM**

.....  
Josés Tegyeza,  
**Project Director & C/SCI**





# BENEFICIARIES AND AFFILIATES

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## 1. How do you assess the relationship between the beneficiaries/affiliated entities of this grant contract (i.e. those having signed the mandate for the coordinator or affiliated entity statement?) Please provide specific information for each beneficiary/affiliated entity.

- Uganda Bureau of statistics (UBOS): There is a very good working relationship between UBOS and OPM –Project management unit. The project staff that form the data analysis unit sits at UBOS while the policy unit sits at the OPM. The project team regularly holds meetings to review progress and participate in planning and trainings together. The leadership of both institutions is fully engaged in the project implementation.
- UNICEF: UNICEF provides technical assistance to the project through a placement of the Data analysis advisor in the NIPN data analysis unit. UNICEF has been supportive to the project beyond the technical assistance role, and has participated in PMC and PAC meetings, trainings and other project leadership meetings.
- Nutrition relevant sectors and agencies, mainly Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Ministry of Education (MoES), Ministry of Trade and Industry; Ministry of Gender/ Labour and social development, Ministry of Local government, National Planning Authority, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Water and Environment actively participated in the meetings and trainings that the NIPN project conducted in 2019. The sectors contributed to their specific nutrition related policy questions which the project analysis unit will be working on in the coming year.
- OPM: The NIPN project has enjoyed sufficient support from OPM departments. The Heads of Departments at OPM have received the products from NIPN project with a lot of interest especially the Nutrition dash board which they

view as a tool when completed for accessing data and information for their work.

- The NIPN team participated in the following activities supported by the OPM and UNICEF:
  - Review and finalisation of UNAP-II
  - The Nutrition Policy Regulatory Impact Assessment
  - Nutrition Advocacy and Communications strategy development
  - NDP-III development (Nutrition Component)

## 2. How would you assess the relationship between your organisation and state authorities in action countries? How has this relationship affected the action?

NIPN has good working relations with other government sectors and agencies. All relevant sectors have participated in important national policy level activities, for example, contributing data and information to the development of NDP-3 and participating in the development of UNAP2. NIPN was also asked to support the design of the MEAL plan for UNAP II.

## 3. Where applicable, describe your relationship with any other organisations involved in implementing the action

- Associate (s) if any
- Contractor(s) if any
- Final beneficiaries and Target groups
- Other third parties involved (including other donors, other government agencies or local government units, NGOs, etc.)

N/A

## 4. Where applicable, outline any links and synergies you have developed with other actions.

The NIPN project works closely with the Northern Uganda Development Initiative (DINU) in OPM and the UNICEF supported DINU project focusing on Nutrition Governance. The project has shared

information data with all their sub-grantees, participated in the methodology designs for the various studies and NIPN will use some of the products to generate knowledge products to inform nutrition programming and policy work in the country.

Other relationships are planned for 2021, especially with the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC), Centre for Research and Information Systems

(CERIES) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

**5. If your organisation has received previous EU grants in view of strengthening the same target group, in how far has this action been able to build upon/complement the previous one (s)? (List all previous EU grants)**

N/A

## VISIBILITY

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NIPN has adhered to the EU visibility guidelines and has recognised EU's contribution to the implementation of the NIPN initiative. During the year in review, branded bags, banners, calendars, pens, business card holders, stickers and flash disks were produced and disseminated to NIPN's

stakeholders. For every major activity, videos and photographs were produced and shared on the social media platforms. Journalists were invited to cover the data handling training from which they wrote different stories in the press and aired reports on their media channels.



**Name of the contact person for the action:**

Mr. James Collins Dombo, Ag. PS - OPM

**Signature:**



**Location:**

Plot9-11, Apollo Kaggwa Road, P.O. Box 341, Kampala, Uganda

**Date report due:**

31. 01. 2021

**Date report sent:**

30. 03. 2021



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