NiPN-Ethiopia

National Information Platform for Nutrition

The NIPN Policy Question Formulation Process January 2019 to March 2020

Documenting NIPN Implementation Processes

May 27, 2020

Documenting the NIPN policy question formulation process between January 2019 and March 2020

Addis Ababa, May 2020

This document was prepared at the request of the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) and based on information provided by EPHI NIPN staff (through key informant interviews with current and previous EPHI staff) , through a review of NIPN document provided by EPHI (presentations, emails, implementation plans, short reports and meeting minutes, where available) and the review of the GSF Global Meeting reports and guidance notes. This information was collected between December 3, 2019 and January 15, 2020. This document was drafted by Ursula Truebswasser, with inputs from Anne Bossuyt and Tirsit Genye (International Food Policy Research Institute [IFPRI]).

Disclaimer: This document was produced by the NIPN with financial support from the European Union (EU). The opinions and contents contained herein are the sole responsibility of the NIPN in Ethiopia and do not reflect the views of the EU, IFPRI nor those of EPHI.

Table of Contents

Abbreviations **4**

1. Background 5
    a. The objectives of the policy question formulation 5
    b. The scope of the Policy Question Formulation process 5
    c. Organizational responsibilities 6
    d. Capacity building on the approach 7
2. The overview of the process 7
3. The implementation steps 8
    a. Preparatory work 8
    b. Step 1: Identify nutrition policy demand and initial questions 9
    c. Step 2 – Formulate policy relevant questions: key informant interviews 12
    d. Step 3- Refine questions to be answered with available data and capacity 12
    e. Step 4: Finalize and validate questions (January 2020) 14
4. Lessons and reflections on the process 15

List of annexes

Annex 1 – Initial Action plan for policy question formulation (March-June 2019) 16

Annex 2. - List of key informants interviewed in July-August 2019 18

Annex 3 -NIPN Key Informant Interview Guideline 19

Annex 4 - Criteria for question prioritization 21

Annex 5 - Summary of individual rating of questions, Workshop (September 2019) 22

Annex 6 – Summary of group rating of questions, Workshop September 2019 26

Annex 7 – List of reformulated questions, after Consultative Workshop (September 2019) 35

Annex 8 – List of 10 NIPN Policy Questions (October 2019) 38

Annex 9 – Sample of a data analysis framework provided by GSF 39

Annex 10. - List of 12 questions shared with the NIPN AC and the nutrition MER SC in January 2020 40

Annex 11. - Question Summary presented to the NIPN AC and the Nutrition MER SC (January 2020) 42

Annex 12. Extract from the minutes of the meeting with the NIPN AC: Discussions around the validation of the prioritized policy relevant questions to be answered by NIPN 43

Annex 13 New questions raised by the NIPN AC following the meeting of January 30, 2020 44

Annex 14. List of additional policy questions for NIPN submitted by the MOH in March 2020 45

Annex 15. Format used to extract information from research documents 46

Abbreviations

AC	Advisory Committee
EDHS	Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey
EIAR	Ethiopian Institute of Agriculture Research
ENTAP	Ethiopia NIPN Technical Advisory Project
EPHI	Ethiopian Public Health Institute
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation (to Ethiopia)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FNP	Food and Nutrition Policy
FSNRD	Food Science and Nutrition Research Directorate (EPHI)
GSF	Global Support Facility
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
KTD	Knowledge Translation Directorate (EPHI)
MER SC	Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Steering Committee
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoH	Ministry of Health
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIPN	National Information Platform for Nutrition
NNP	National Nutrition Program
PQF	Policy Question Formulation
STPA	Senior Technical and Policy advisor (IFPRI)
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

1. Background

The National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN) was set up in 2018 aiming to support evidence-based decision making for nutrition. From the analysis of available and shared data, NIPN generates evidence that is used by decision makers for developing policies, designing programs and allocating investments. To do so, the NIPN implementation cycle consists of three operational elements: the policy question formulation, the identification and analysis of data, and finally the communication and outreach of research findings. In addition, the NIPN also maintains a national nutrition data platform, which allows depositing various datasets, reports and other documents, useful for further nutrition analysis.

In Ethiopia, the NIPN is housed at the Food Science and Nutrition Research Directorate (FSNRD) in the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) and provides evidence to guide decision-making for nutrition supporting the national Food and Nutrition Policy (FNP) and the National Nutrition Program (NNP). During the initial years of NIPN, EPHI has been supported by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

The NIPN policy question formulation (PQF) is one of the starting points of an evidence-informed policy dialogue between decision makers and the NIPN. The PQF uses a participatory approach that allows the NIPN stakeholders to narrow down broad policy demands to answerable questions. The NIPN Global Support Facility (GSF) developed a guideline for NIPN countries on how to define policy relevant questions. Elements of this guideline were presented during a webinar in December 2018. However, the full guideline did not become available until February 2019, when the GSF provided three-day training on implementing the PQF process in Ethiopia.[1]

In 2019, EPHI decided to adapt the guidelines provided by the GSF to a country specific approach, which combined elements of the approach suggested by the GSF and the methodology already applied and tested by EPHI's Knowledge Translation Directorate (KTD). Some steps of the GSF Guideline were not applied, while other steps were being added. This document describes the NIPN PQF process as applied by EPHI from January 2019 until February 2020.

a. The objectives of the policy question formulation

The PQF process aimed to support the FNP, and its related strategy, plans and programs. This focus was a key point to ensure that the identified questions and subsequent analyses responded to a specific need, that the appropriate decision makers were engaged early on in the process, that the answers to the policy questions were actionable and had the potential to influence a particular decision. As such, the PQF process also aimed to contribute to and stimulated the broader national multi-sector and multi-stakeholder 'policy dialogue' in nutrition.

As part of the NIPN approach, the PQF process aimed to formulate nutrition policy questions that: i) respond to a relevant policy need or decision maker's interest; ii) provide timely output for policy use or decision making; and iii) provide answers that lead to actionable recommendations and decisions.

b. The scope of the Policy Question Formulation process

The scope of the PQF was discussed during different national and international events.

During the first months of NIPN implementation, and prior to the start of the PQF, in May 2018, the monitoring, evaluation and research steering committee (MER SC) reflected for the first time on the scope of the policy questions which should be answered by NIPN. The meeting suggested that NIPN should initially focus on answering questions which can be answered with datasets from EDHS (Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey) and other

[1] http://www.nipn-nutrition-platforms.org/NIPN-Guidance-Note

national surveys. Policy questions to be answered should specifically identify the key drivers of the observed stunting reduction in Ethiopia.[2]

During the first global NIPN meeting, which was organized by GSF in Paris in July 2018, it was highlighted that a relevant policy question is not always answerable within the scope of NIPN. Questions related to impact or causal analyses are outside the scope of NIPN as survey data do not take the confounding factors into account. Causal analyses based on survey data will lead to the wrong conclusions and the NIPN team needs to be cautious about associations and causal analysis. However, during the meeting it was also discussed that policy makers might have big causal questions and might request NIPN to identify the impact of their investments. As NIPN analyses is based on existing datasets, it cannot directly respond to these causal questions. However, the GSF advised the NIPN countries to rather take stock of international research and summarize the results of impact questions from meta-analyses and applying these to the country context. Secondly, the NIPN teams should break the high-level unanswerable impact questions down into answerable questions that focus on the intermediate steps of the impact pathway regarding coverage, implementation quality, uptake of interventions by beneficiaries or consumers.[3]

The scope of the policy questions to be answered was discussed during the first meeting with the NIPN Advisory Committee (AC) in May 2019. It was highlighted in that meeting that the NIPN only works with existing data – which automatically limits the kind of questions which NIPN can answer. The director of the FSNRD at EPHI informed the NIPN AC that if data collection is necessary to answer an important policy question, and if the NIPN AC advices to do so, EPHI could explore all options and potentially seek additional resources or partnerships to collect data and answer this question. It was also discussed that NIPN provides funds for PhD students, and that these students could potentially answer some of the questions which require additional data collection.[4]

The scope of the NIPN PQF was again discussed during the February 2019 PQF training and the May 2019 Global NIPN gathering, where it was stressed to break down "unanswerable questions" into questions which can be answered by NIPN and which focus on coverage, implementation quality and uptake of interventions by beneficiaries.[5]

c. Organizational responsibilities

The NIPN PQF process was led by the FSNRD at EPHI, which assigned a multi-directorate team (referred to as "PQF team" throughout the report). This team consisted of experts of the NIPN core team, the FSNRD, the Knowledge Translation Directorate (KTD) and the Ethiopian Institute for Agricultural Research (EIAR). The process was based on consultations between the PQF team, sectoral government counterparts, non-government actors and the MER SC. This process received prompt support from the IFPRI Senior Technical and Policy Advisor (STPA) to NIPN and the GSF Focal Point for Ethiopia.

Various EPHI staff coordinated the process or provided general oversight. Implementation and coordination were initially coordinated by the NIPN monitoring and evaluation expert (February -June 2019), subsequently by a FSNRD nutrition expert (July-August 2019) and finally by a newly hired NIPN Senior Public Health Specialist (since September 2019). Oversight was provided by respectively two different NIPN coordinators and FSNRD directors. The transition between the different responsible staff was assured by EPHI.

---

[2] *MER SC May 2018 Minutes*

[3] http://www.nipn-nutrition-platforms.org/1e-rassemblement-international-NIPN-juillet-2018

[4] *NIPN AC Meeting May 2018 Minutes*

[5] http://www.nipn-nutrition-platforms.org/2nd-NIPN-Global-Gathering-Amsterdam-May-22-24-2019

d. Capacity building on the approach

In July 2018, the GSF organized a first global gathering on the NIPN in Paris, which allowed discussing the process of policy question formulation and the limitations of answering policy questions with existing data. The GSF agreed to provide the national NIPN teams with a guideline on the PQF. This meeting was attended by EPHI's NIPN Coordinator, EIAR's nutrition expert and IFPRI STPA. Back in Addis Ababa, the STPA organized various learning sessions with members of the EPHI NIPN team to share the global vision and discuss the way forward for Ethiopia. EPHI decided to wait for the availability of the GSF guideline prior to launching the PQF process.

Between July and December 2018, the GSF developed a guideline on the PQF process, requesting frequently input of the NIPN Coordinator and the STPA. A draft guidance note was presented during a global webinar in December 2018.[6] A more detailed guideline became available early February 2019, when the GSF organized a three days' training workshop on the PQF in Addis Ababa for participants from key nutrition sectors. Around 13 participants came from EPHI-NIPN and eight from other organizations such as EIAR, Ministries of Health and Agriculture, the Addis Ababa University, one staff from the EUD, one nutrition expert from FAO and two staff from IFPRI. The main objective of the workshop was to familiarize the extended NIPN team with the GSF guidelines on the PQF. The guideline was subsequently refined.[7] As a follow-up of the GSF training, the STPA and the NIPN coordinator organized around six sessions to brief the EPHI team about the basic steps of the policy question formulation and to discuss the way forward.

In May 2019, the Ethiopian NIPN team participated in the second NIPN global gathering held in Amsterdam. This gathering included an experience sharing session on the PQF process. The Ethiopia delegation included a senior advisor to the Minster of Health, the NIPN M&E expert (contract staff), the new NIPN Coordinator, three EPHI research staff and two IFPRI staff. During this meeting, a Skype call was set up to discuss the PQF process in Ethiopia between the new director of the FSNRD at EPHI and the GSF.

2. The overview of the process

The PQF process started following the GSF PQF training in February 2019. The PQF team at EPHI led the process of the PQF but sought regular input from sectors involved in the FNP, the NNP as well as the NNP MER SC.

The actual PQF process followed four main steps (see Fig 1 below) and involved different stakeholders throughout the process. There were three basic steps to ensure stakeholder's contribution. These included desk review, stakeholder consultation and validation of prioritized question (see Fig 2 below).

[6] http://www.nipn-nutrition-platforms.org/Webinars-on-the-NIPN-approach-200

[7] http://www.nipn-nutrition-platforms.org/NIPN-Guidance-Notes

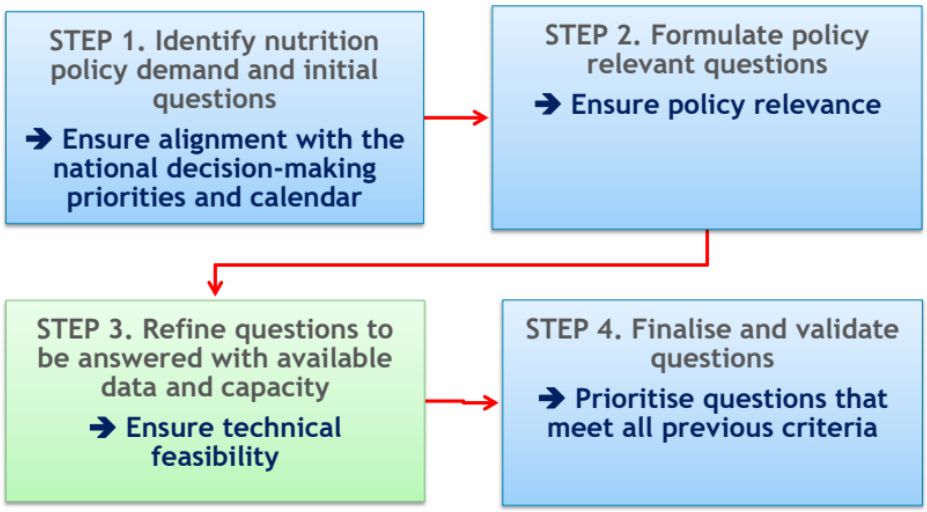

Figure 1: Steps and criteria to formulate questions

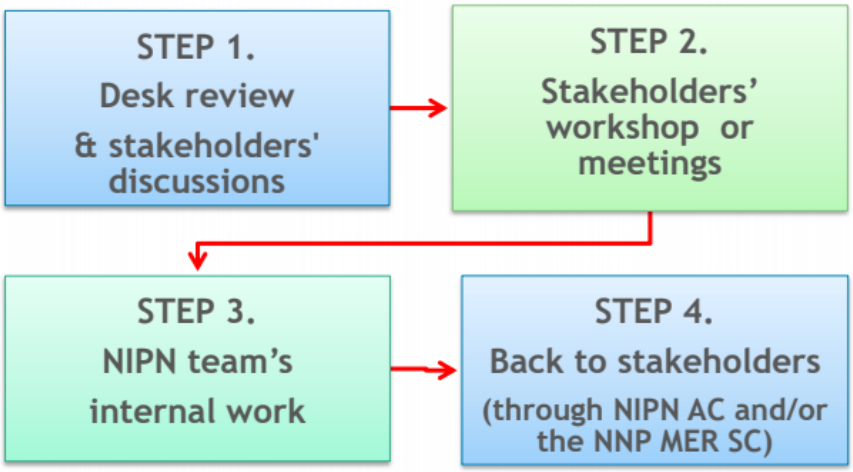

Figure 2: Involvement of stakeholders in the process

Source: Presentation by the NIPN Coordinator on the PQF (March 2019)

3. The implementation steps

a. Preparatory work

Between February and mid of March 2019, the preparatory activities were implemented by selected members of the NIPN core team. The activities included the identification of key documents, the development of an online library with policy and research documents, the review, the identification of key influencers, the review of the GSF guideline and discussion and adaption to local needs. A detailed implementation plan was prepared (see Annex 1). Meetings were organized with the KTD to understand previous EPHI experiences in identifying the topics of policy brief writing and to assess how the KTD and GSF approach could be merged.

A PQF team, including staff of the KTD and NIPN/FSNRD, was subsequently assigned in March 2019 by the new FSNRD director. This team carried out the subsequent activities.

b. Step 1: Identify nutrition policy demand and initial questions

The first step included a combination of EPHI-internal reviews, a consultation with key stakeholders and a final consolidation by the EPHI NIPN/FSNRD/KTD team. This step was implemented between March and mid of July 2019.

Review of documents

In this step it was crucial to ensure alignment with national decision-making priorities and timelines and calendars of decision-makers at the national and sub-national level. The NIPN team therefore needed to know the national priorities of the decision makers and the time they had to make decisions, in order for NIPN to effectively respond in a timely manner.

This step used an iterative approach starting out with a quick literature review, followed by stakeholder engagement and a preliminary review of collected documents.

In total, 29 sectors and institutions were identified. They included ministries, universities, NGOs and other organizations working on Nutrition. Team members were assigned responsibility for one or more of the 29 different sectors or institutions. They then searched for documents from these sectors using Google, Google scholar and PubMed using free search terms. Documents identified included policies, strategies, plans, programs, evaluation reports, high level meeting minutes, tracking reports, annual performance reviews, surveys from government institutions as well research outputs from universities and research institutes. Any documents published after 2010 were considered for inclusion.

Subsequently, an internal workshop was organized during which the PQF team conducted a mapping exercise that aimed to assess the priority decisions made in nutrition, the actors involved in decision making, timing of decision making, required evidence, and administrative level of the decision making. The main activities included mapping of key opportunities for influencing policy, program and investment decisions, which ensured a representation of key sectors in the process of the policy question formulation. This mapping exercise included 48 strategies, policies and programs, from 12 different government sectors while three of those documents were of multisectoral nature. Furthermore, 34 existing surveys and studies from universities and research institute and 12 reports, programs and plans from UNICEF and FAO were reviewed.

Different approaches were used to review government policy outputs (strategies, programs, surveys) and research outputs. For government documents, the following data was extracted: document type, timeline, title of document, linkage with nutrition, decision makers, influencers, priorities/interventions, and indicators (including status where available). For research studies, information on document title, study design, objectives, publication date, study population, sample size and linkages with nutrition was recorded in an Excel file. An example can be found in annex 15.

The mapping revealed important information on policy timelines. For instance, in 2020 a number of policies and programs are ending (see Fig 3 below), which would present an important “window of opportunity” to inform the upcoming phases of policies and programs.

Table 3: Timeline of different policies and programs

	Timeline	2019	2020	2021	2022
Multisectoral					
NFNP	Validated in 2018				
GTP -2	2015-2020				
NNP-2	(2016-2020)				
Sequota -1 Innovation	(2016-2020)				
Agriculture					
Agriculutre PIF	2010-2020				
NNSA	Validated in 2016				
AGP-2	2015-2020				
PSNP-4	2015-2020				
Health					
HSTP	2015-2020				
Adolescent health	2016-2020				
health Care quality strategy	2016-2020				
Social Protection					
NSPP (policy)	Validated in 2004				
NSPS (strategy)	2004-2019				
Urban Safety net (program)	2016-2020				
Other integrated safety nets	2017-2022				
PSNP-4	2015-2020				

Selection of initial questions

The next stage was the identification of initial questions based on the identified documents through a desk review.

As a first step, evidence gaps were identified in the documents by screening for gaps specifically highlighted in the documents. For research studies, the limitation and conclusion section of the publication was screened for that purpose. Policy documents were screened for gaps in terms of the achievement of their goals.

The gaps were then translated into questions. For policy documents for instance if goals had not been achieved, questions were formulated based on that, e.g. why goals were not achieved? In other documents the gaps were identified in terms of problems in the background section of policy documents. These identified problems were formulated in terms of gaps. Nutrition policy-relevant question were defined as being able to respond to a relevant policy need or decision maker demand. The questions had to fulfill the following criteria:

- could be answered using the existing data and technical capacities available to NIPN or through synthesis of existing evidence that might be beyond NIPN
- provide timely output for policy use
- lead to actionable recommendations and decisions to stakeholders

Following a planning meeting, all PQF team members were re-assigned institutions and sectors for which they had to review the necessary documents. The actual literature review was initially done through individual work at the EPHI offices, followed by a retreat outside of Addis Ababa in early April 2019.

In addition to the internal desk review, questions from different stakeholders were sought through different mechanisms. In May 2019 EPHI held a Health congress where participants were invited to contribute their policy questions that were collected in a “Suggestion Box”. NIPN also organizes regular Policy and Research Seminars on different topics that bring together stakeholders from different sectors and backgrounds. In the policy seminars in

May and September of 2019 participants were also invited to drop policy questions in this suggestion box. In total, 13 policy questions were dropped in this box.

Identification of the scope of the questions

During an internal coordination meeting early April 2019, EPHI decided to take note of all questions, also those which could not be directly answered by NIPN. It would be decided later how "causal analysis questions" could be answered – either through NIPN supported PhD projects, or through other funding. Hence the PQF team agreed to define the different types of questions as follows:

- Questions that NIPN could answer with existing data, such as questions on tracking progress of nutrition targets and determinants of malnutrition or questions on the coverage of or investments nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions.
- Questions that are normally considered "outside the NIPN mandate" as these require the collection of new data, such as questions on impact of interventions on nutrition, causes of malnutrition or cost-effectiveness of interventions.
- Questions which can be answered through a literature review.

Screening of the initial questions

This selection process resulted in 360 initial questions. Between April and June 2019, these questions were recorded in an Excel sheet and organized by information source, which allowed tracking the questions back to the respective documents. This work was mostly done by the NIPN M&E officer, supported by some key PQF staff.

In May 2019, the NIPN Advisory Committee (AC) met for the first time and discussed the approach and the scope of the PQF, but no suggestions were made yet on possible policy questions to review.[8]

End of June 2019, an internal EPHI workshop was organized, in which the NIPN team first re-screened the questions for potential duplication. Where needed, some questions were rephrased. Subsequently, the questions were arranged by sectors. Eleven sectors were identified for the categorization of questions: health, agriculture, social protection, women, youth and children, industry and trade, education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), pastoral, urbanization, communication and multisectoral. Sub-themes within the sectors were also identified. Any changes, revisions or merging of questions was documented and justified. During the same workshop, key findings were summarized by sector.

Sector information allowed to identify key opportunities for influencing policy, programming and investment decisions and helped visualize the already conducted work. They also served as a good memory aid for the meetings with stakeholders which would be organized later in July 2019 (step 2) and helped to quickly identify timelines of key decision making.

Following this meeting, the EPHI team members were each assigned a sector for follow up. At the end of June 2019, the NIPN M&E officer left the project and the coordination was taken over by a nutrition expert (former NIPN coordinator) at FSNRD.

First engagement with sectors and key stakeholders to enrich the literature review

Early July 2019, the EPHI team members contacted external stakeholders from different sectors and organizations that are supporting any of the NNP sectors to collect additional documents. This was done mostly over the phone.

[8] *(NIPN AC May 2019 meeting minutes*

c. Step 2 – Formulate policy relevant questions: key informant interviews

The second step was focused on prioritizing the list of policy questions through an internal EPHI prioritization process and a subsequent consultation with external stakeholders. This step was carried out between mid of July and mid of August 2019.

This step involved an engagement with relevant sectors to get input on i) the relevance of the policies reviewed; ii) the nutrition policy processes iii) timing of decision making and opportunities to influence decision making; iv) the relevance of the set of research documents reviewed; v) the evidence gaps and ; vi) the key informants' input in policy questions.

In total, 11 key stakeholders from different sectors and organizations that are supporting any of the NNP sectors were consulted to verify the findings of the document review and complement it with additional information. The specific objectives of the key informant interviews were to create ownership with other institutes and sectors for the PQF process, to ensure that all key policies, strategies, programs and plans are considered in the process, to address any missing information, and finally, to get the input of key stakeholders in potential priority policy questions. Annex 2 provides the list of key informants interviewed.

The 11 interviews were conducted by various team members at EPHI but guided by an interview guide (see Annex 3). As part of the interviews, the NIPN team introduced NIPN and the PQF process and presented the list of reviewed documents. Key informants were asked about potential documents missing in the list, key opportunities for influencing policies, potential evidence gaps and policy questions. The key informants were asked to provide a maximum of three policy questions. These policy questions, additional documents, and other suggestions were noted down by the EPHI staff and included in the PQF Excel sheet as "expert opinion" questions.

The key informant interviews were a crucial element in the process of the policy question formulation and aimed to ensure that the appropriate decision makers were being engaged early on in the process, and that the identified policy questions and subsequent analyses responded to a specific need. Furthermore, the questions received from stakeholders helped to get a sense of their priorities and interests.

d. Step 3- Refine questions to be answered with available data and capacity

The third step involved an internal EPHI review and focused on developing a "question bank", followed by a consultative workshop with the members of the MER SC. Following this workshop, the questions were further refined by the EPHI PQF process. This step was carried out between September and November 2019.

First prioritization and reformulation of questions (internal EPHI PQF team)

The NIPN team refined the questions during a week-long workshop in mid-September with the PQF team (NIPN, FSNRD and KTD). The first step was to adapt the criteria that were identified based on the approach of the KTD and adapt them to NIPN (see Annex 4), which was done in a consultative workshop with the PQF team. The first two questions on feasibility and ability to answer within the NIPN scope were used for screening the 360 questions. If a question received 1 for the first question or 2 or 3 for the second one, the question progressed to the next stage. The screening resulted in 54 questions.

The PQF team then took these 54 questions to reformulate them since some questions were still overlapping or not phrased as questions. This resulted in 45 questions that then underwent a scoring with the whole FSNRD team. The scoring included five criteria related relevance to nutrition policy/programs, likelihood to produce timely output for program/policy use, likelihood to lead to actionable recommendations, the need to fill an evidence gap and to fall within the NIPN scope (Can be answered using secondary data). Scores were given for each

of the seven criteria that were defined for each criterion individually. Policy questions could be scored with a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 48 points (see Annex 5 for details on the criteria and respective scores).

The scoring was first done individually but then discussed in plenary with the whole group for every question. The scoring resulted in 17 questions.

Since most of those questions were focused on problem identification and less on interventions and programmatic research, the team went again through all the 360 questions to identify additional five questions that covered questions around interventions and programming. This process resulted in the identification of 22 questions which would be submitted for review by relevant stakeholders.

Presentation and second prioritization of questions (consultative stakeholder workshop with MER SC)

A consultative workshop on September 24, 2019 was conducted with 50 stakeholders from different government sectors from the MER SC, including ministries, donors, United Nations (UN) offices, NGOs, universities and research institutes. The workshop activities helped gather more input to enrich and evaluate the potential questions already identified. The objectives of the consultative workshop were to identify prioritized nutrition policy relevant questions; to ensure the questions were relevant, timely, and pertinent for the sector(s); and to ensure representation of key and/or multiple sectors in the process of policy question identification.

The stakeholders were asked to reflect on the 22 questions presented using three different criteria for relevance. The participants were asked to rate the question on a three-point color scale (Green: Very relevant; Yellow: Somewhat relevant; or Pink: Not relevant) (see Annex 5 for the findings of this exercise). After that, stakeholders formed multi-sectoral groups and rated the questions using the following three criteria:

A. Is this policy question relevant to your group/ Why?

B. Will this lead to actionable recommendations?

C. Any comments or feedback on the question?

A summary of the group ratings can be found in Annex 6. Once groups rated all the questions, they were asked to select 12 questions that they considered important to be addressed at that time. Some participants suggested merging some questions. Participants also proposed new topics to be considered for research questions, such as factors limiting access to safe and fortified foods, seasonal market shocks and cost variations, food production, false labeling of food, drivers of food choice; nutrition and infection; multiple micronutrient supplementation; and the best indicator for zinc. The final questions identified through the selection process of workshop participants can be found in Annex 7.

Final prioritization of policy questions (internal EPHI, PQF team)

The outcomes of the workshop were then used by the NIPN team to draft the list of policy questions ensuring that the questions addressed the comments and needs expressed by the stakeholders during the workshop. The questions had been reformulated and were selected by groups. The team also documented information on potential data access and on existing evidence that could be used to address the questions. At the end of this process, 10 policy questions were retained (See annex 8).

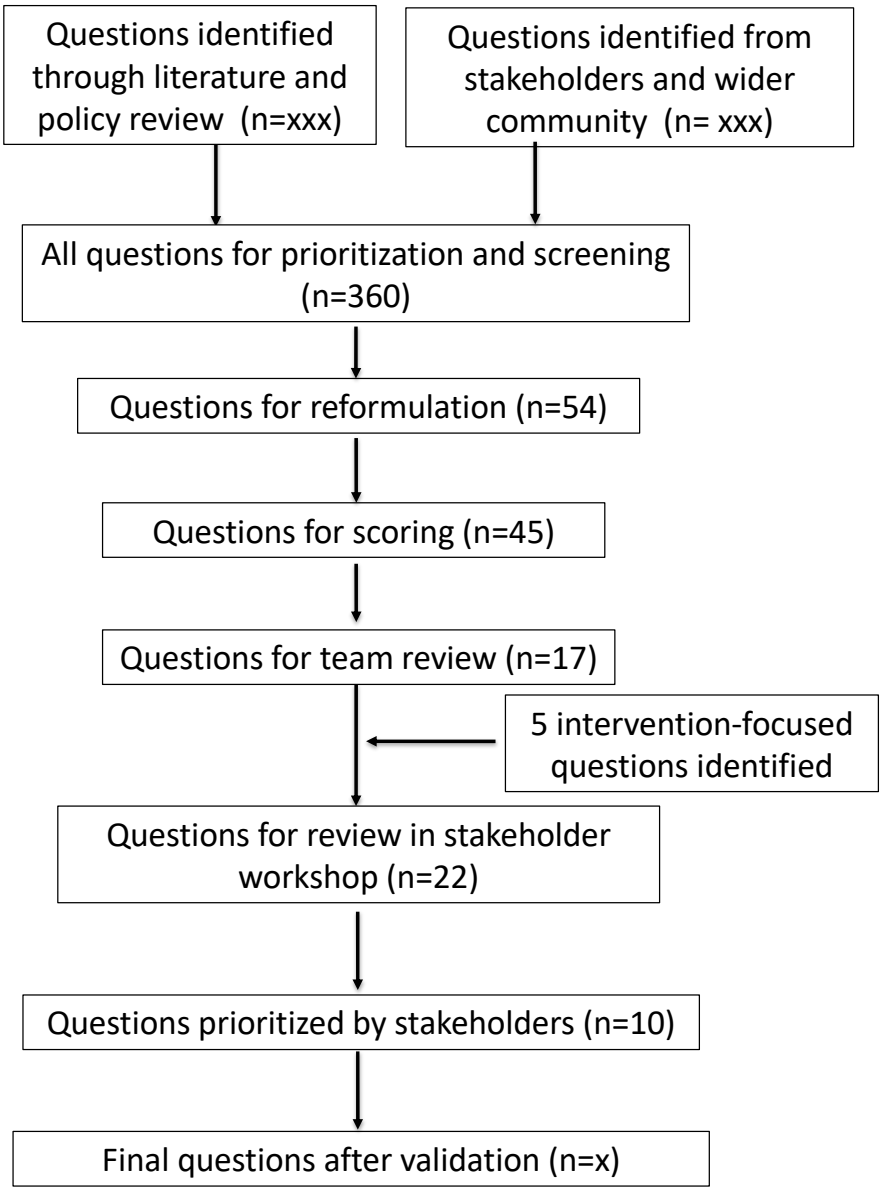

Figure 3. Overview of questions identification

e. Step 4: Finalize and validate questions (January 2020)

Various steps to finalize the PQF were initiated end of 2019 and early 2020.

In November 2019, EPHI initiated a nutrition data mapping, which will identify data availability, accessibility and quality. It is expected that this mapping will be finalized early 2020. This will allow the NIPN team to assess which questions NIPN can answer with existing data, and which questions need to be referred to other research opportunities.

The question analysis framework was done in January 2020 by the NIPN team. Annex 9 provides a sample of a data analysis framework from the GSF guideline. Subsequently, NIPN initiated answering two questions, including "What are trends of WASH practices in Ethiopia and are these trends linked with nutritional indicators?" and "What are trends for overweight, obesity and related non-communicable diseases among adults in Ethiopia? "

A subsequent internal review of the prioritization process allowed for the EPHI NIPN team to re-introduce two additional questions in the question bank. Annex 10 provides the list of 12 questions.

Another important step related to the finalization and validation of the questions in the question bank and was implemented in January 2020. During this step, the NIPN team presented the PQF and the question bank to the NIPN AC and the NNP MER SC in order to finalize the priority ranking of policy-relevant questions and to obtain validation of this priority ranking. The NIPN team presented the final list, accompanied by an appropriate justification and explanation regarding the priority questions to both committees. The NIPN team also shared the progress related to the questions NIPN has already started answering (See Annex 11). Members of the committees were requested to provide feedback within two weeks. The relevant discussions of the NIPN AC are reflected in annex 12. Some new questions were suggested by the NIPN AC members (See Annex 13). Subsequently, the MOH shared an additional list of potential research questions in March 2020 (See Annex 14).

4. Lessons and reflections on the process

The following lessons and reflections were provided by key informants involved in the PQF process at EPHI:

- The framing of "policy relevant questions" could be considered restricting since it implies that the questions only inform policy and do not address program related concerns
- Limiting the selection of policy questions to existing secondary data was perceived challenging
- Data landscaping should have taken place prior to the stakeholder engagement. This would allow the NIPN team to provide more descriptions of how questions could be answered by also specifying the available data
- Turnover of staff delayed the process. A policy expert joined only later in the process, but would have been important to have from the onset

Annex 1 – Initial Action plan for policy question formulation (March-June 2019)

Objectives	Activities	Approaches	Deliverables	Responsible person	Date	Remark
To identify prioritized nutrition policy relevant questions -Make sure the questions are relevant, timely, and pertinent for the sector(s) -Ensure representation of key and/or multiple sectors in the process of policy question identification -Document the process -MAC will be informed about the policy question formulation plan and consulted as necessary	1) Quick literature review	Focusing on the policy relevant documents + writing retreat (May 13 - 18)	Concise note	**Team**	**Mar 25 - Apr 30, 2019**	
	2) Engaging stakeholders	Through sharing responsibilities among the team. More focus on national representative, multisectoral and even sector specific nutrition related documents (policy, plan, strategy, program, surveys and initiatives, reports, current status, etc. documents) will be considered. For instance it will include food and nutrition policy, NNP II, Seqota declaration, NNSAS, National food fortification, School feeding program, EDHS, SDG, GTP, HSTP, etc. Document gathering Face to face contact with relevant Directorates and Unit leaders. Online searching	All policy relevant nutrition related documents will be at hand	Abel and Sabit	Mar 25 - Apr 30, 2019	Document and opinion gathering activity will be evaluated by the team Way of monitoring is weekly meeting (Every Friday)
	3) Brain storming	Collecting the opinion of policy makers by the time we collect the document face to face including from AC	Written report			
	4) Preliminary review of the collected document and setting criteria's for prioritizing questions	Organize and share documents among researchers and policy makers. Notify all to read the documents	Shared document and responsibility	Abel and Sabit	Apr 22 - 25, 2019	The week of April 22 &29 Easter holiday
		Approving the convenient retreat date, Deciding on whom to participate from stake holders for retreat	List of participants			
		Setting criteria for prioritizing and reach on consensus	Tools at hand			

Objectives	Activities	Approaches	Deliverables	Responsible person	Date	Remark
	5) Desk Review	Travelling to elsewhere for reviewing documents(Strong internet service site is required)	Draft policy relevant questions prioritized Field report	Abel and Sabit	May 19 - 25, 2019	Detail plan will be prepared for the retreat. May 6, 7, 8 is Health congress.
	6) Organizing consultative workshop with relevant stakeholders	Key participants will be selected from stakeholders(purposive selection technique will be applied)	All inputs will be documented Minutes will be taken	Abel & Hassina	31.May.19	Detail plan will be prepared for the workshop
		Reconsidering the priority setting criteria's and weighting maybe required as per the experts view		NIPN and KT team	Jun 3 - 7, 2019	
	7) Finalize policy question prioritization (will follow NIPN step 3&4 QF)	Check availability, accessibility and quality of data Look for options and make a recommendation for further actions for some of selected priority policy questions	Final list of prioritized questions identified	Abel and Sabit	07.Jun.19	

Source: EPHI PQF team, 2019

Annex 2. - List of key informants interviewed in July-August 2019

The key informants interviewed were selected because of their first-hand knowledge and roles in their respective ministries.

	Name	Organization	Position
1	Mr. Abebaw Admas	Ministry of Industry	Fortification expert
2	Ms.Israel Hailu	Save the children	SUN focal person
3	Mr. Yonas Asrat	Alive and Thrive	Senior M& E Advisor
4	Mr. Workicho Jateno	Food and Agriculture Organization	Nutrition Coordinator
5	Mr. Mekonen Balcha	National Disaster risk management commission	Senior Nutrition expert
6	Mr. Yihunie worku	Minster of Women Youth and Children	Gender Monitoring and evaluation officer
7	Mr. Gedion Tsegaye	Ministry of labor and social Affair	Livelihood Expert
8	Mr. Getachew Tikuye	Ministry of Water, Electricity, and Irrigation	One wash senior monitoring and evaluation specialist
9	Mr. Abera Dibabe	Ministry of Health	National Nutrition Program officer, Maternal and child Health Directorate, FMoH
10	Ms. Alemtsehay Sergawi	Ministry of Agriculture	Senior Nutrition Expert and Nutrition Case Team Coordinator
11	Mr. Geremew Tassew	Ethiopian food and drug authority	Food manufacturer inspection team leader

Source: EPHI PQF team, 2019

Annex 3 -NIPN Key Informant Interview Guideline

Interviewers: _____
Person interviewed: _____
Date of interview: _____
Responsibility: _____
Remarks: _____

S.no	Question	Remark
Ask for some feedback on the approach		
1	Do you feel that this approach of Policy Question Formulation responds to a specific need in the country? Please explain why (not)? ይህ የፖሊሲ ጥያቄ አዘገጃጀት በአገሪቱ ውስጥ ለተወሰኑ ፍላጎቶች ምላሽ እንደሚሰጥ ይሰማዎታል? ለምን እንደሆነ (እንዳልሆነ) እባክዎን ያብራሩ?	
Engage the interviewee in the literature review		
2.A	Please have a look at the list of documents we reviewed. According to you, have we considered all the relevant documents related to multisectoral nutrition and/or your sector? If not, which documents should we also consult? እባክዎን የተመለከትናቸዉን (የገመገምናቸዉን) ሰነዶች ዝርዝር ይመልከቱ. እንደ እርስዎ ገለፃ, ከዘርፈ-ብዙ/ ወይም ከርስዎ ዘርፍ ጋር ተዛማጅነት ያላቸውን ጠቃሚ የ ስነ-ምግብ ሰነዶች በሙሉ ወስደናል? ካልሆነ ደግሞ የትኞቹን ሰነዶች ማማከር/መመልከት/ሪቪው ማድረግ/ ይኖርብናል?	
2.B	If not, which other policies, strategies and programs should we review? Why? ካልሆነ ሌላ የትኛዎቹን ፖሊሲዎች, ስትራቴጂዎች፣ እና ፕሮግራሞች በጥንቃቄ መመልከት (መዳሰስ፣ መገምገም) ይገባናል? ለምን?	
2.C	Can you share the additional relevant documents of these policies/programs with us? ***(Show the draft sector matrix)*** የእነዚህን ፖሊሲዎች / ፕሮግራሞች አግባብነት (ጠቀሜታ) ያላቸውን ተጨማሪ ሰነዶች ለእኛ ማጋራት ይችላሉ? **(የዘርፉን ማትሪክስ አሳዩ)**	
3.	We have some documents which we could not access (show the list of missing documents). If you have access to these documents, can you share a hard or soft copy with us? ልናገኛቸዉ ያልቻልናቸዉ አንዳንድ ሰነዶች አሉ **(ያልተገኙትን ሰነዶች ዝርዝር አሳዩ)**፡፡ እነዚህን ሰነዶች የማግኘት ፈቃድ ካለዎት ቅጂዉን ለእኛ በወረቀት ወይም በ ኢሜይል/ሲዲ ልያጋሩን ይችላሉ?	
Request information on the policy cycle		
4.	At which administrative level will these policy, program and strategy decisions be taken? በየትኛው የአስተዳደር ደረጃ እነዚህ ፖሊሲ, ፕሮግራም ስትራቴጂ….ውሳኔዎች ይወሰናሉ?	
5.	Which are according to you the key opportunities for influencing policy, programming and investment decisions by NIPN? በ NIPN ፖሊሲ, ፕሮግራም እና የኢንቨስትመንት ውሳኔዎች ላይ ተፅዕኖ ለማሳደር ቁልፍ የሆኑ ሁኔታዎች (መልካም አጋጣሚዎች) የትኞቹ ናቸው? (***Workshop, seminar conference…)***	

S.no	Question	Remark
Request information on evidence gaps		
6.	According to you, what are the current evidence gaps related to the implementation of this policy, strategy, programs and plans? Which are the most important among these [evidence gaps]? ***(Do not probe)*** እንደ እርስዎ አመለካከት, ከፖሊሲው አፈጻጸም ጋር የተያያዙ ወቅታዊ የመረጃ ክፍተቶች ምንድን ናቸው? ከነዚህ [የመረጃ ክፍተቶች] ውስጥ በጣም አስፈላጊ የሆኑት የትኞቹ ናቸው? (ማዉጣጣት አይቻልም) **(Based on document)**	
Request for few potential policy questions		
7 A	Can you please formulate a maximum of 3 priority policy questions which you consider as highly relevant to your sector or for the implementation of the National Food and Nutrition Policy, strategy and relevant plans and programs? ***(do not probe)*** በእርስዎ ዘርፍ ለፖሊሲ፣ ስትራቴጂ፣ ፕሮግራም ወይም ለሀገር አቀፍ የምግብ እና ስነ-ምግብ ፖሊሲ ትግበራ ጠቀሜታ ያላቸውን እና ከፍተኛ ቅድሚያ የሚሰጣቸዉን 3 የፖሊሲ ጥያቄዎች ማቅረብ ይችላሉ? (ማዉጣጣት አይቻልም)	
7.B	Please prioritize these questions in order of importance, and explain why they are important እባክዎን እነዚህን ጥያቄዎች ከጠቀሜታቸዉ አንፃር ቅድሚያ ይስጧቸው እንዲሁም ለምን በጣም ጠቃሚ እንደሆኑ ያስረዱ (They can only give 3 questions, which he or she should prioritize) እነሱ ሊጠይቁ የሚችሉት 3 ጥያቄዎች ብቻ ናቸው, እነሱ ቅድሚያ/ቅደም ተከተል ሊሰጣቸው ይገባል	
Request for additional recommendations		
8	Can you please review the list of key influencers and decision makers for nutrition let us know if this list is complete according to you. If not, could you make suggestions who else should be included in this list and consulted እባክዎ፣ ለስነ-ምግብ ዋና (ቁልፍ) ተፅዕኖ ፈጣሪዎችን እና ዉሳኔ ሰጭዎችን ዝርዝር ይመልከቱ (ይገምግሙልን)። በእርስዎ እይታ ይህ ዝርዝር ሙሉ ነዉ ብለዉ ያስባሉ። ሙሉ ካልሆነ፣ በዚህ ዝርዝር ዉስጥ መካተት ሲገባቸዉ ያልተካተቱትን ሊጠቁሙን ይችላሉ? ***Please Show the list of key influencers and decision makers*** ዋና (ቁልፍ) ተፅእኖ ፈጣሪዎችን እና ውሳኔ ሰጪዎችን ዝርዝር ያሳዩ	

Source: EPHI PQF team, 2019

Annex 4 - Criteria for question prioritization

No	Criteria	Grade	Weight	Notes
	Is this question feasible?	No 1. Yes	Screening	Can the question be address within the NiPN Project timeline and existing data
	Is the question answerable with existing data? (NiPN scope)	1=No , 2= Synthesis of available evidence , 3=Further analysis secondary data	Screening	1=Review of systematic review 2=Systematic review/ MA 3= Rapid review/Issue brief 4= Review of pocket study/ reports
	Does the problem respond to a **relevant** policy/program need or decision maker demand?	0. No (0) , 1. Yes (10)	10	Relevant: Mentioned in the NNP
	Is the problem important?	4=High burden problem, equity problem, high gap, high application potential (20) 3=three problems out of the four mentioned above (15) 2=two problems out of the four mentioned above (10) 1=one problem out of the four mentioned above (5)	5	High burden: Prevalence of the problem Equity: Gender, Urban vs rural, Region High gap: Against targets High application potential: Known/proven interventions ?
	Are there evidence gaps about the problem?	3= yes, important evidence gaps (12) 2=Not sure, evidence not consistent (8) 1= No, Evidence sufficiently available (4)	4	Not sure: Evidence is not consistent
	Provides **timely** output for policy/programing use?	0. No (0), 1. Yes (3)	3	Specific to each sector
	leads to **actionable** recommendations & decisions to stakeholders?	0. No (0). 1. Yes (3)	3	
	Maximum score	48		
	Minimum score	9		

Source: EPHI PQF team, 2019

Annex 5 - Summary of individual rating of questions, Workshop (September 2019)

Question	Green	Yellow	Pink	Comments
What are patterns of dietary diversity among children under 2 years of age at national and regional level in Ethiopia?	17	4	2	Yellow: Already addressed for some regions maybe relevant for ones not covered Yellow: There are already evidences what is missing is a synthesis
What are trends in household production diversity and individual dietary diversity in Ethiopia? (2000 to 2016)	16	5	1	Pink: Already addressed Yellow: rephrase to inform policy and link to questions patterns of DD among children under 2 Yellow: Does it need to be a policy question or can it be addressed with patterns of DD Yellow: This is partially addressed. Look at some of the findings from ENGINE ag-nutrition study
What are trends in geospatial distribution and drivers of stunting, wasting, underweight in Ethiopia?	8	7	5	Yellow: As such is not a policy but underpin the policy formulation phase Yellow: can be done at regional level unless these are done Green: Very important if done at sub-national level Green: Better to be addressed as part of an assessment of malnutrition Pink: Some what addressed Pink: Already known from DHS
What is the spatial distribution and trend of acute malnutrition among under-five children in Ethiopia?	3	12	7	Pink: It's already addressed Pink: This is known Pink: Somewhat addressed Pink: Addressed from previous national surveys
What is the best screening mechanism to effectively identify SAM and MAM and increase coverage?	4	10	3	Pink: Not a policy questions more programmatic Green: Complement with other mechanisms Yellow: This I think is also addressed through systematic reviews which inform various methods of screening with their respective sensitivity and specificity
What are patterns of dietary diversity, anthropometric status and explanatory factors among adolescent girls?	6	10	4	Green: Please refer to adolescent study conducted by GTN. Some of these questions already addressed Yellow: Some how addressed Pink: Not policy link this question plus production of agriculture + livestock to overcomes to identify gaps the Policy

Question	Green	Yellow	Pink	Comments
				Pink: What is the " Cause" ? May be the right question to answer in agriculture side
Is there a relationship between climate change, rainfall patterns and malnutrition trends across regions in Ethiopia?	20	1	1	Green: relevant: Check if not already done Pink: given that most farmers are still dependent on rainfall this question seems not relevant
Patterns of breastfeeding practices in Ethiopia: A disaggregated analysis by child gender, region, residence and occupation.	10	11	1	Yellow: This can be important if use synthesize the primary research results through reviews Yellow: Somewhat addressed Green: Some of this information can be obtained from DHS but review Yellow: Somehow addressed
Is the increase in anemia among women and children after 2011 associated with lower utilization of anemia interventions?	7	12	1	Green: Very relevant needs to be rephrased to include determinants of anemia and of MND? Green: I would like it if adolescents anemia is addressed Green: Can be rephrased to study the etiology Green: Has been covered by BMGF Green: Rephrase to include interventions eg malaria, deworming, food pattern Yellow: Better if this is addressed in a way it covers all other important reasons
What are challenges to improve quality of universal salt iodization program: an analysis of trends in salt iodization levels in Ethiopia?	6	15	4	Yellow: Somehow known Green: How about other micronutrient deficiencies that are PH priority in the country?
What are patterns of IYCF practices among pastoralists in Ethiopia?	10	11		Yellow: Combine with dietary diversity Yellow: rephrase to reflect characteristics of pastoralism in # areas to inform broader pastoralist policies Yellow: Somehow addressed Yellow ; Mix with diet diversity questions for pastoralist and agrarians Yellow: there are a number of primary research projects on this area. What is needed is a synthesis in a systematic or scoping review
What are trends for overweight, obesity and related non-communicable diseases	10	8	4	Pink: addressed to some extent Pink: We have it in the DHS

Question	Green	Yellow	Pink	Comments
among adults and children under-five in Ethiopia? (2000 to 2016)				Pink: Obesity and overweight is not a problem in children Green: Adolescent Green: Not only for children under-five for all people Green: Factors contributing to Green: Triple burden & malnutrition Green: More important for adults as child overweight and obesity levels are low
What are trends of safe water supply and improved sanitary facility use across regions, and are these trends related with nutritional indicators? (2000 to 2016)	10	8		Yellow: Somehow known Yellow: this is important if addressed in a way that links the trends with the indicators Yellow: We had researched, had difficulty linking WASH with nutritional outcomes: Difficult Yellow: Somewhat known/addressed
What is the relationship between women empowerment and women and child nutritional indicators at the regional and national level?	15	11		Yellow: Done but needs further analysis based on EDHS Yellow: Link to livelihoods in general with emphasis on women Yellow: Partially addressed. Relationship b/n women empowerment and DD. Refer to engine ag to nutrition study Yellow: Done & Need grater analysis
Which nutrition sensitive interventions are effective to improve nutritional outcomes of women and children in Ethiopia?	26	1		Green: base on lancet guideline contextualize for Ethiopia Yellow: More of programmatic question rather than policy Green: Relevant but difficult Green: Important question that can be addressed by systematic review. There is wider evidence at global level but identify interventions specific to Ethiopia is relevant
How can production of fruits and vegetables be improved to increase supply and affordability?	14	5	1	Pink: As such not relevant to policy. Need to rephrase Green: Consider all aspects of production Green: This can be thought along with addressing barriers and facilitators for fruit and vegetable consumption
How can production of fruits and vegetables be improved to	19	2		Green: It needs to include all aspects of production

Question	Green	Yellow	Pink	Comments
increase supply and affordability?				Green: Also address barriers and facilitators for fruit and vegetable consumption
Is improved livestock production and distribution linked with nutritional outcomes in Ethiopia?	19	4	1	Pink: As such not relevant to policy. Need to rephrase Yellow: Need to address the why it is not consumed before looking at associations with nutritional outcomes Yellow: It is important but also there is a current movement about climate change and livestock production Green; Include cereal, vegetable, root crops and animal production Green: Pleas look to ENGINE Ag-Nutr that looked into production diversity, diet diversity. But very relevant
What are the challenges and barriers to effective multi-sectoral nutrition coordination at the national and sub-national level?	18	3	2	Pink: Somewhat addressed Pink: UNICEF, WB and MOH undertaking operational research (it is relevant) Yellow: Already addressed by Tufts University-multisectoral study conducted during ENGINE and GTN. Please refer to the reports Yellow: Addressed by Tufts
What are reasons for poor performance of the growth monitoring and promotion program?	5	9	6	Green: We know some of the reasons but it is good to explore more Pink: Programmatic Yellow: Relevant programmatic not policy
What are effective mechanisms to improve male involvement in feeding practice of children?	8	7	5	Pink: Merge with IYCFYellow: Somewhat known
Which interventions can increase the production, availability and accessibly of nutrient dense foods in Ethiopia?	23			Green: This could be addressed in the broader effective nutrition-sensitive question Green: Look at privatization Green: More of such questions very important
What are high impact nutrition interventions for school and out of school adolescents?				Not rated

Source: EPHI PQF team, 2019

Annex 6 – Summary of group rating of questions, Workshop September 2019

1.What are patterns of dietary diversity among children under 2 years of age at national and regional level in Ethiopia?				
Group	**Is the policy question relevant to your group**	**Will this lead to actionable recommendations**	**Any comments or feedback on the question**	**Other comments**
1			Include all child feeding practices into IYCF Combine all dietary diversity, BF and CF questions into a larger IYCF question	Which food system intervention needs to be prioritized to improve diet diversity? (production, consumption, affordability and accessibility (1, 2,6, 11, 15, 16, 17,21)
2	MDD is poor. Is it a policy question? EDHS already provides national and regional data (already answered	No What are the possible solutions should be the question	Rephrase question. Focus on possible causes, gaps and how to improve MDD among children under 2 national, regional, HH. Check alive and thrive analysis.	Or explore all under 2 , adolescent and women of reproductive age questions as one large question.
3 & 6	It relates with 1000 days intervention and its very important in the first window	Yes it will give us actionable recommendations	It's better to include pregnant and lactating women	
4	The patterns are not being analyzed. Only pocket studies available and there is not national and sub-national analysis (disaggregation). The data differ widely within local areas	If consumption is used it may give good recommendation for policy decisions	It is good if 1,2 & 6 are merged together. It is also good if frequency is also checked (24-hrs vs 7 days) seasonality is also another determinant. Diversity will not measure quality. Better geared food consumption scale.	What are the patterns of HH dietary diversity, food consumption score among women and children at national and regional level?
5	Relevant	But the existing EDHS data can be translated to program and implementation at scale	With number 6 Better to combine this with 11	

2.What are trends in household production diversity and individual dietary diversity in Ethiopia? (2000 to 2016)				
Group	**Is the policy question relevant to your group**	**Will this lead to actionable recommendations**	**Any comments or feedback on the question**	**Other comments**
1			Combine 1, 2,6, 11, 15, 16, 17,21	Which food system intervention needs to be prioritized to improve diet diversity? (production, consumption, affordability and accessibility (1, 2,6, 11, 15, 16, 17,21)
2	Yes	Yes	Focus HDDS, IDDS (Women and children)	
3 & 6	We agree the question is very important	Awareness creation and agro ecology diversity	Better to merge with question 16	
4	Similar with 1 & 6 but can be considered as the target group is different			

5	Already done Tufts agriculture Panel study has specifically addressed the question. EPHI Food consumption survey		Please refer to Tufts policy brief	

3.What are trends in geospatial distribution and drivers of stunting, wasting, underweight in Ethiopia?

Group	Is the policy question relevant to your group	Will this lead to actionable recommendations	Any comments or feedback on the question	Other comments
1			Combine 3, 4, 5, 12, 19 Combine all forms of malnutrition (acute malnutrition, undernutrition, over nutrition) Try to see distribution and drivers of malnutrition	Distributions and drivers of all forms of malnutrition
2	Redesign this question to focus on drivers of stunting, wasting, and underweight at regional and national data The trends are already known	Is there enough data for the drivers?	Rephrase to focus on weighted regional risk factors and drivers of stunting, wasting and underweight. What are the drivers of stunting, wasting, underweight for each geospatial site.	
3 & 6	Relevant and merge with 4 & 7		This is already addressed with different studies	
4	Relevant	Yes	The indicator can accommodate 4 as well. Underweight should be given focus to reduce both stunting and wasting.	
5	Relevant. Geospatial distribution is addressed but we need focus on drivers	Systematic review of existing evidence needs to be conducted		

4.What is the spatial distribution and trend of acute malnutrition among under-five children in Ethiopia?

Group	Is the policy question relevant to your group	Will this lead to actionable recommendations	Any comments or feedback on the question	Other comments
1				
2	Known EDHS + mini EDHS. Same as previous question	Similar with number no 3	Out	
3 & 6	It is relevant and merged with 3 and 7. Most of the routine data are not analyzed and disaggregated as per the region	Continues intervention, Preparedness and response. Prevention.	No comments	
4	Include in 3			
5	Somewhat relevant. More focus on woreda level	Potential data can be sourced from health post, regional health bureau, universities and research centers. Include prediction of acute malnutrition	Question 3 and 4 can be combined Add predictors and gaps	

5. What is the best screening mechanism to effectively identify SAM and MAM and increase coverage?

Group	Is the policy question relevant to your group	Will this lead to actionable recommendations	Any comments or feedback on the question	Other comments
1				
2	Yes- operational research	Yes: use as an advocacy tool	CHD quarterly EOS: Only Somali; Every 6 months Routine	Guideline recently modified less likely to lead to timely interventions are this time

			HEW: only allowed to screen WDA/HAD sensitization Introduce quality as part of the question	
3&6	Not relevant. It is already addressed in the revised guidelines.		It is already addressed with the revised guideline. Quality of implementation and adherence to guidelines need to be addressed in the research question.	
4			Is it the way of handling the screening or about the skill of the HEWs? Is it about tool or skill? (Persons, HEWs, mothers, any other professionals. The cut-off is already amended.	What are the best mechanisms (*skill, tool and person*) of conducting effective growth monitoring and promotion (GMP) and screening of SAM and MAM
5	Not relevant			

6. What are patterns of dietary diversity, anthropometric status and explanatory factors among adolescent girls?

Group	Is the policy question relevant to your group	Will this lead to actionable recommendations	Any comments or feedback on the question	Other comments
1				
2	Yes very relevant (Combine with question 22)	Yes	UNICEF project on Adolescents. Scope what adolescent girl's projects are available in the country.	
3&6	Very relevant. It does not get attention in many studies. It is not aggregated and reported.	Yes. For different interventions For program and policy		
4	Relevant. Similar with 1 &2. This should be given priority over 1 &2.	If data permits, it is good to include anemia in the data. Otherwise it will lead to actionable recommendations.	Shall be geared to consumption level if data is available. Meal frequency scale is better than dietary diversity.	Why are those indicators that refer to one target group are put separately eg 5 & 19 can be done together in an actual setting. what are the patterns of dietary diversity, anthropometric status and explanatory factors (high impact nutrition intervention) among school and out of school adolescent boys and girls?
5	Relevant. Because we do not have national data	Yes	GTN (Adolescent research), UNICEF, Alive & Thrive school adolescent, EPHI 1000 + Include under 2 children in the title	

7. Is there a relationship between climate change, rainfall patterns and malnutrition trends across regions in Ethiopia?

Group	Is the policy question relevant to your group	Will this lead to actionable recommendations	Any comments or feedback on the question	Other comments
1			Try to look the association between some emerging problems like migration, climate change, displacement, unemployment and malnutrition.	
2	Yes. It is, but not the relationship Somewhat known	Context specific	Look at impact and durable solution. Climate smart solutions. Modify title to add climate variability	
3&6	It is merged with 3 & 4		What are the trends and the relationship between climate change (rainfall patterns) and malnutrition of geospatial	

			distribution and drivers of SAM and MAM	
4	Relevant. As long as data is available.	Yes		
5	Relevant	Yes	Please refer to seasonal calendar research conducted by GTN Please reformulate the question to include coping mechanisms	

8. Patterns of breastfeeding practices in Ethiopia: A disaggregated analysis by child gender, region, residence and occupation.

Group	Is the policy question relevant to your group	Will this lead to actionable recommendations	Any comments or feedback on the question	Other comments
1			Combine 8, 11, 20	How can we effectively improve IYCF practices (combine 8, 11, 20)
2	Yes but put IYCF instead of BF		Region and residence should include pastoralists Combine with question 11	
3&6	Not relevant			
4			Did not include CF. Difficult to see BF without CF. If livelihood is included in 8 it can be taken into IYCF	
5	Relevant	Yes	Regional disaggregation is important. Better to see its relationship with stunting	

9. Is the increase in anemia among women and children after 2011 associated with lower utilization of anemia interventions?

Group	Is the policy question relevant to your group	Will this lead to actionable recommendations	Any comments or feedback on the question	Other comments
1			Combine 9 and 10 Put all micronutrient deficiencies together How can we effectively address key MND? (Zn, Fe, I, VA, folate, Vit. B 12 etc) (combine 9 and 10)	Also focus on etiology of anemia
2	No not as phrased currently		Specify interventions Link with ongoing study. What are the drivers towards an increase in anemia	
2	No it is relevant but need to rephrased	If it is modified	Specify which interventions we have to look at? What are the contributors and causes for increase in anemia with lower utilization	
3&6	Relevant	It is better to study the etiology of anemia		
4	Relevant if adolescents are included		Good if adolescent included. How about the status on interventions? Do we have data.	
5	**Relevant**	Yes	There is work going on refer to EPHI & MBGF (6 kilo university)	

10.What are challenges to improve quality of universal salt iodization program: an analysis of trends in salt iodization levels in Ethiopia?

Group	Is the policy question relevant to your group	Will this lead to actionable recommendations	Any comments or feedback on the question	Other comments
1				

2	Yes: Rephrase to include utilization of iodized salt at HH level	Yes	Fortification of food. Modify question to what are challenges to implement mandatory food fortification. UNICEF landscape assessment	Larger food fortification issue Program issue (seen as not related to policy)
2	The issue of enforcement, yes. The question should be rephrased. Include utilization of iodized salt.	Yes. What are the challenges to improve mandatory food fortification.	Its more of enforcement. Not a policy question.	
3&6	Not relevant			
4	Highly relevant can be done	Yes	How about obstacles for other micronutrients if data exists. Good to add salt utilization as well.	
5	Relevant, but this is a program issue		We have law but still awareness creation, monitoring and advocacy not yet done.	

11. What are patterns of IYCF practices among pastoralists in Ethiopia?

Group	Is the policy question relevant to your group	Will this lead to actionable recommendations	Any comments or feedback on the question	Other comments
1				
2	Combine with question 8			
2	Combine with 8			
3&6	Merge with 20		What are the patterns of IYCF practices in relation with male engagement in geospatial distribution among pastoralists in Ethiopia	
4	Relevant. If livelihood is included it will address # 8		Can be merged with 8	
5	Relevant but needs to be merged with no 1		Combine with 1	

12. What are trends for overweight, obesity and related non-communicable diseases among adults and children under-five in Ethiopia? (2000 to 2016)

Group	Is the policy question relevant to your group	Will this lead to actionable recommendations	Any comments or feedback on the question	Other comments
1				
2	Somewhat rephrase		Replace related in the question with linkage Trends are available. What are the preventive actions in place (Mapping)	
2	Somewhat It should include mapping what kind of interventions should be done		Include mechanisms to improve.	
3&6	Relevant			
4	Relevant		Relevance for us? Include adolescents if data is available	
5	Relevant but needs to be modified to see the factors		We need to see trend analysis for non-communicable disease among adults and children	

13. What are trends of safe water supply and improved sanitary facility use across regions, and are these trends related with nutritional indicators? (2000 to 2016)				
Group	**Is the policy question relevant to your group**	**Will this lead to actionable recommendations**	**Any comments or feedback on the question**	**Other comments**
1			Muti-sectoral approach was recommended rather than single sector intervention. WASH, School nutrition and NSA	Expand to include all WASH related practices
2	Yes Rephrase: Make more specific What is the impact of WASH on nutrition indicators	Yes	Replace trends of safe water supply and improved sanitary facility use with WASH Animal cohabitation related issues	
2	Yes	Yes	The question should be. does it affect? How WASH impacts nutrition	
3&6	Relevant			
4	Relevant	Yes	Include hand washing as well The disaggregation shall include availability and quality	
5	Very relevant		More focus on safety and accessibility Very relevant but it's hard to find direct link nutrition indicators. Global done documents we can see. But difficult to link WASH with stunting,	

14. What is the relationship between women empowerment and women and child nutritional indicators at the regional and national level?				
Group	**Is the policy question relevant to your group**	**Will this lead to actionable recommendations**	**Any comments or feedback on the question**	**Other comments**
1				
2	Yes	Not as it is currently phrased	Clarify women empowerment Women empowerment index	Specify what women empowerment is
2	Yes	If it addresses decision making power of women and resource utilization.	What do we mean by women empowerment? Should specify. Add additional data other than EDHS	
3&6	Relevant			
4	Relevant	Yes	This indicator seems part of or one component of 15. Can be one analysis for Nutrition sensitive for women. If not complex Consider the five domains if data available or Question 20 is one variable for 14 Include male engagement in the title	What is the relationship between women empowerment and male engagement for women & children nutritional indicators at regional and nation level
5	Relevant	Yes	Please refer to EDHS 2016 further analysis Tufts AgtoNut panel study documents Very relevant in household dynamics and nutrition but currently ongoing study by UNICEF (further analysis on employment), I think we have also Tuft university panel study in this area.	

15. Which nutrition sensitive interventions are effective to improve nutritional outcomes of women and children in Ethiopia?

Group	Is the policy question relevant to your group	Will this lead to actionable recommendations	Any comments or feedback on the question	Other comments
1				What are challenges and barriers to multi-sectoral nutrition interventions
2	No			
2	No			
3&6	Relevant combine with 22		Add adolescent	
4	Relevant. Very large data. Already addressed separately in other questions		Dropped for systematic review	Specify what specific nutrition sensitive interventions
5	Relevant		GTN has done literature review on nutrition specific and sensitive, Alive and thrive published results We can combine questions 15,16,17 and 21.	

16. How can production of fruits and vegetables be improved to increase supply and affordability?

Group	Is the policy question relevant to your group	Will this lead to actionable recommendations	Any comments or feedback on the question	Other comments
1				
2	Yes		Add access and demand in the question Engage FAO and Ministry of Agriculture	
2	Yes very.	Yes	How? Is very important question Include FAO, WFP and MOA	
3&6	Merged with no 2			
4	Relevant. If data is available		Question should include consumption/intake and nutritional status	
5	Relevant. But needs to be reformulated to see the consumption		GTN: Barriers and facilitators of healthy food consumption	

17. Is improved livestock production and distribution linked with nutritional outcomes in Ethiopia?

Group	Is the policy question relevant to your group	Will this lead to actionable recommendations	Any comments or feedback on the question	Other comments
1				
2	Yes-rephrase		Is…… distribution of livestock products improve utilization	
2	Yes but rephrase the question	Yes	Livestock and livestock product distribution Distribution and utilization of livestock products	
3&6	Relevant			
4	Relevant	Yes	Add consumption and waste management	
5	Relevant but needs to focus to production and consumption		Please refer to Tufts AgtoNut panel study and barriers and fascinator study	

18. What are the challenges and barriers to effective multi-sectoral nutrition coordination at the national and sub-national level?

Group	Is the policy question relevant to your group	Will this lead to actionable recommendations	Any comments or feedback on the question	Other comments
1			Combine 18, 22, 15, 13	What are challenges and barriers to multi-sectoral nutrition interventions (18, 22, 15, 13)
2.	Yes		Tufts research done UNICEF ongoing national SUN on going regional	
2	Yes		Tufts and UNICEF did operational question SUN, Bahir Dar university	
3&6	Relevant			
4	Relevant	Yes	Thoroughly search for data.	
5	Not relevant		UNICEF is working on it. Tufts has conducted multi-sectoral study (GTN and ENGINE project) WB, DIFID, UNICEF, FMOH have conducted a study on multisectoral micronutrient themes	

19. What are reasons for poor performance of the growth monitoring and promotion program?

Group	Is the policy question relevant to your group	Will this lead to actionable recommendations	Any comments or feedback on the question	Other comments
1				
2	Yes	Yes	UNICEF doing research	
2	Yes	Yes	Overload, HR	
3&6	Not relevant			
4			Moved	
5	Not relevant		Relevant but program, it's better to combine with 14 and 18	

20 What are effective mechanisms to improve male involvement in feeding practice of children?

Group	Is the policy question relevant to your group	Will this lead to actionable recommendations	Any comments or feedback on the question	Other comments
1				
2	No to be included in women empowerment		Combine with 14	
2	NO		Should be included with 14	
3&6	Merged with 11			
4			Moved to 14	
5	Relevant but can be combined with question 8		Not relevant, but may be combined with 8 and 11.	

21. Which interventions can increase the production, availability and accessibly of nutrient dense foods in Ethiopia?

Group	Is the policy question relevant to your group	Will this lead to actionable recommendations	Any comments or feedback on the question	Other comments
1				
2	Yes: Mapping interventions and impact on production availability and accessibility of nutrition dense food		Change the which to what	
2	Yes. Rephrase for what interventions	Yes	What are the interventions> Be specific, Agricultural?	

			Mapping of intervention in place and impact	
3&6	Not relevant			
4	Relevant but addressed in other questions (Animal source foods, vegetable and fruits)		Dropped	
5	Relevant combine with 15 & 21		combined with 15, 16 and 17.	

22. What are high impact nutrition interventions for school and out of school adolescents?

Group	**Is the policy question relevant to your group**	**Will this lead to actionable recommendations**	**Any comments or feedback on the question**	**Other comments**
1				
2	Yes: Mapping of nutrition interventions for adolescents and ranking		Combine with question 6	
2	Yes. What nutrtion interventions are done for adolescent girls	Yes	May be combined with question 6	
3&6	Merged with 15			
4	Relevant		Can be merged with 6	
5	Relevant combine with 6 & 22. Difficult			

Source: EPHI

Annex 7 – List of reformulated questions, after Consultative Workshop (September 2019)

Initial Question	Reformulated question	Comments from NiPN team What data is available Relevance for which policy (Timeline) Other comments
1. What are patterns of dietary diversity among children under 2 years of age at national and regional level in Ethiopia?	What are patterns and drivers of dietary diversity among children under 2, adolescent girls and women of reproductive age in Ethiopia? (Will also include production diversity as a driver)	Need to check existing evidence (IFPRI, A&T). To decide if this question will provide useful and new information Should we also consider quantitative dietary intake data in addition to dietary diversity. Relevant to accelerate nutrition sensitive strategy (MOA); to increase production diversity. Relevant for FNP Drivers: Will need to consider an exhaustive list of drivers (Production diversity, Season, access to markets, agricultural inputs (irrigation), nutrition interventions (BCC) Will need data at the household and child level Data source for HH Production: Ethiopian socioeconomic survey
2. What are trends in household production diversity and individual dietary diversity in Ethiopia? (2000 to 2016)		
3. What are trends in geospatial distribution and drivers of stunting, wasting, underweight in Ethiopia?	What are trends in distribution and drivers of stunting, wasting, underweight and acute malnutrition among under-five children in Ethiopia? (drivers will include (not limited to):Women empowerment, WASH, livestock production)	There are several studies that have accessed drivers locally and for large multi country analysis. We would have to see if our analysis will add new useful information. If not the description of trends of stunting and wasting across regions can be used as a descriptive information when we are answering other questions Trends and drivers: is it still feasible and of interest to do. Similar concern as the previous question with presence of data on exhaustive data on drivers. Drivers: Season, fasting, asset ownership, maternal education, age, consumption of ASF Possibly remove underweight. Focus on acute and chronic undernutrition separately. - Should focus on regional analysis Important for focused and contextualized intervention (seqotaD), Relevant for FNP
4. What is the spatial distribution and trend of acute malnutrition among under-five children in Ethiopia?		
5. What is the best screening mechanism to effectively identify SAM and MAM and increase coverage?		
6. What are patterns of dietary diversity, anthropometric status and explanatory factors among adolescent girls?	What are patterns of anthropometric status of adolescent girls? and what existing interventions target adolescent girls?	Data will be a major challenge to properly address this question Which data sets would be combined for this? All adolescent girls, or only scholarized/non scholarized?
22. What are high impact nutrition interventions for		

Initial Question	Reformulated question	Comments from NiPN team What data is available Relevance for which policy (Timeline) Other comments
school and out of school adolescents? Good Relevant for FNP		Sub questions we need to specify what are the explanatory factors for change in the patterns Helps to achieve adolescent nutrition strategy of MOH; and to lower Low birth weight and NTD; Relevant for FNP
7. Is there a relationship between climate change, rainfall patterns and malnutrition trends across regions in Ethiopia?	Is there a relationship between climate variation, rainfall patterns and malnutrition trends across regions in Ethiopia?	Data requirement? Factors listed in this question can be possibly explored with drivers of malnutrition. Complicated analysis. Will require modeling. Any international evidence which can support this kind of analysis for Ethiopia? How about seasons differences? Relevant for persistent drought affected areas. Relevant for FNP
8. Patterns of breastfeeding practices in Ethiopia: A disaggregated analysis by child gender, region, residence and occupation.	What are patterns of IYCF practices in Ethiopia at the national and regional level? Bf practice Pastoralists vs agrarians Residence, occupation	Need to check existing evidence. Data challenges for pastoralists vs agrarian. This should be part of question 1? Pastoralists vs agrarians: which data sets allow for this differentiation Possibly woreda level data from GBD Good especially for projects and programs targeting pastoralists. The causes and effects/ determinants are more important
11. What are patterns of IYCF practices among pastoralists in Ethiopia?		
20. What are effective mechanisms to improve male involvement in feeding practice of children?		
9. Is the increase in anemia among women and children after 2011 associated with lower utilization of anemia interventions?	Is the increase in anemia among women and children after 2011 associated with lower utilization of anemia interventions? (will specify types of inventions. Also will supplement ongoing etiology of anemia work.)	Data only available for limited interventions. Thus will not capture complete service delivery. Coverage does not always predict anemia. If you only identify few activities, how do you trigger out all the other interventions and various elements/pathways which might influence anemia Relevant for FNP
10. What are challenges to improve quality of universal salt iodization program: an analysis of trends in salt iodization levels in Ethiopia?		
12. What are trends for overweight, obesity and related non-communicable diseases among adults and children under-five in Ethiopia? (2000 to 2016)	What are trends for overweight, obesity and related non-communicable diseases among adults and children under-five in Ethiopia?	NCD data availability Good and urgent question to be answered. Suggest to add regional differentiations. Also disaggregated in urban and rural setting.

Initial Question	Reformulated question	Comments from NiPN team What data is available Relevance for which policy (Timeline) Other comments
		Question should include effective intervention to over-nutrition among adolescents. Relevant for FNP
13. What are trends of safe water supply and improved sanitary facility use across regions, and are these trends related with nutritional indicators? (2000 to 2016)	What are trends of WASH practices in Ethiopia and are these trends linked with nutritional indicators?	Good and urgent question to be answered. Suggest to add regional differentiations Suggest to add "coverage of interventions" Relevant for FNP
14. What is the relationship between women empowerment and women and child nutritional indicators at the regional and national level?		Relevant for FNP; gender strategy and policy
15. Which nutrition sensitive interventions are effective to improve nutritional outcomes of women and children in Ethiopia?	What factors affect availability, accessibility and utilization of nutrient dense foods in Ethiopia? (Fruits, vegetables, livestock products)	Data challenges and existing and ongoing work to prevent overlap How to combine production and consumption data? Are they available and can they be matched? Maybe we split into 3 questions. Relevant for FNP
16. How can production of fruits and vegetables be improved to increase supply and affordability?		The stand-alone Q could be #17 and the data might be available with MOA
17. Is improved livestock production and distribution linked with nutritional outcomes in Ethiopia?		Q#21 should stay as it is because it looks like more of agriculture oriented (maybe we can modify …interventions (nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive)
21. Which interventions can increase the production, availability and accessibly of nutrient dense foods in Ethiopia?		
18. What are the challenges and barriers to effective multi-sectoral nutrition coordination at the national and sub-national level?	What are the challenges and barriers to effective multi-sectoral nutrition coordination at the national and sub-national level? (Synthesis of evidence)	Study conducted by FSNRD (policy related study, also SURE). Need to search for pocket studies (Studies sponsored by ENGINE) Relevant for FNP and FNS,
19. What are reasons for poor performance of the growth monitoring and promotion program?		

Source: EPHI PQF team, 2019

Annex 8 – List of 10 NIPN Policy Questions (October 2019)

1	What are patterns and drivers of dietary diversity among children under 2, adolescent girls and women of reproductive age in Ethiopia? (Will also include production diversity as a driver)
2	What are trends in distribution and drivers of stunting, wasting, underweight and acute malnutrition among under-five children in Ethiopia? (drivers will include (not limited to):Women empowerment, WASH, livestock production)
3	What are patterns of anthropometric status of adolescent girls? And what existing interventions target adolescent girls?
4	Is there a relationship between climate variation, rainfall patterns and malnutrition trends across regions in Ethiopia?
5	What are patterns of IYCF practices in Ethiopia at the national and regional level? Breast feeding practice; Pastoralists vs agrarians ;Residence, occupation
6	Is the increase in anemia among women and children after 2011 associated with lower utilization of anemia interventions? (will specify types of inventions and will supplement ongoing etiology of anemia work of EPHI.)
7	What are trends for overweight, obesity and related non-communicable diseases among adults and children under-five in Ethiopia?
8	What are trends of WASH practices in Ethiopia and are these trends linked with nutritional indicators?
9	What factors affect availability, accessibility and utilization of nutrient dense foods in Ethiopia? (Fruits, vegetables, livestock products)
10	What are the challenges and barriers to effective multi-sectoral nutrition coordination at the national and sub-national level? (Synthesis of evidence)

Source: EPHI PQF team, 2019

Annex 9 – Sample of a data analysis framework provided by GSF

Priority Question 1: « What are the reasons explaining that Mopti region presents lower levels for all indicators in relation to mother & child health and nutrition than the others regions according to the EDHS-V (2015-2016) "				
Sub-questions	**Data sources**	**Methods**	**Tools**	**Skills / Capacity development needs**
Which MCHN indicators of the DHS-V are lower for Mopti than the other regions?	DHS-V	1. Calculate each indicator level with CI in each region 2. Difference testing between Mopti & other regions	1. Stata 2. Protocol for survey data 3. Protocol for data comparison	1. CI calculation with Stata 2. Comparison between regions with Stata
How are those MCHN indicators of the DHS-V in the health districts of Mopti compared to the health districts of the other regions?	Database DHS-V paired with GPS data	1. Data desegregation by region & district 2. Estimate level of coverage indicator with CI for each district (homogenization) 3. Comparison of indicator level between Mopti districts & others	1. Stata 2. Desegregation protocol for DHS data 3. Data homogenization protocol 4. Protocol for data comparison	Use of the various protocols (desegregation, homogenization, comparison)
For those MCHN indicators, what are the trends for the regions and health districts of Mali according the various surveys (2001 to 2013)?				

Source: PQF guideline; http://www.nipn-nutrition-platforms.org/NIPN-Guidance-Notes.

Annex 10. - List of 12 questions shared with the NIPN AC and the nutrition MER SC in January 2020

No.	List of questions prioritized by stakeholders	Comments	Priority questions NIPN is considering for analysis at this stage
1.	What are patterns and drivers of dietary diversity among children under 2, and women of reproductive age in Ethiopia?	Recent evidence available for children under 2 and women of reproductive age.	
2.	What are trends in distribution and drivers of stunting, wasting, underweight and acute malnutrition among under-five children in Ethiopia?	Sub-questions will be answered as part of analysis for other questions. At this time do not have adequate data to answer drivers of acute malnutrition.	What are trends in distribution and drivers of stunting among children under five in Ethiopia? What are trends of acute malnutrition among under-five children in Ethiopia?
3.	What are patterns and drivers of anthropometric status and dietary intake of adolescent girls? What existing interventions target adolescent girls?	At this time do not have adequate data to answer drivers.	What are patterns of anthropometric status and dietary intake of adolescent girls? What existing interventions target adolescent girls?
4.	Is there a relationship between climate variation, rainfall patterns and malnutrition trends across regions in Ethiopia?	Will be considered at a later stage.	
5.	What are patterns of IYCF practices in Ethiopia at the national and regional level?	Will be considered at a later stage.	
6.	Is the increase in anemia among women and children after 2011 associated with lower utilization of anemia interventions?	Some analysis being done at EPHI. Will consider preparation of a brief after analysis is completed.	
7.	How can production of fruits and vegetables be improved to increase supply and affordability?	Will be considered at a later stage.	
8.	What are trends for overweight, obesity and related non-communicable diseases among adults in Ethiopia?		What are trends for overweight, obesity and related non-communicable diseases among adults in Ethiopia?
No.	**List of questions prioritized by stakeholders**	**Comments**	**Priority questions NiPN is considering for analysis at this stage**
9.	What are trends of WASH practices in Ethiopia and are these trends linked with nutritional indicators?	Patterns and drivers of stunting will be	What are trends of WASH practices in Ethiopia and are these trends linked with nutritional indicators?

No.	List of questions prioritized by stakeholders	Comments	Priority questions NIPN is considering for analysis at this stage
10.	What factors affect availability, accessibility and utilization of nutrient dense foods in Ethiopia?	This question will be partly addressed by the Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis which is being performed at EPHI at the moment.	
11.	What are the challenges and barriers to effective implementation of the national Food and Nutrition Strategy: including multi-sectoral nutrition coordination at the national and sub-national level?	Will be considered at a later date after implementation of the food and nutrition strategy begins.	
12.	Have school feeding programs had a positive effect on nutritional status and school performance in Ethiopia?	Will be considered at a later stage.	

Annex 11. - Question Summary presented to the NIPN AC and the Nutrition MER SC (January 2020)

Questions NIPN has already started answering	1. What are trends for overweight, obesity and related non-communicable diseases among adults in Ethiopia? 2. What are trends of WASH practices in Ethiopia and are these trends linked with nutritional indicators? (Will also address: What are trends in distribution and drivers of stunting among children under five in Ethiopia?
Questions we are considering for analysis after analysis	1. What are patterns of anthropometric status and dietary intake of adolescent girls? 2. What existing interventions target adolescent girls? 3. What are trends of acute malnutrition among under-five children in Ethiopia?
Questions that are being addressed as part of ongoing work at EPHI	1. What factors affect availability, accessibility and utilization of nutrient dense foods in Ethiopia? 2. Is the increase in anemia among women and children after 2011 associated with lower utilization of anemia interventions?
Questions that would be addressed at a later stage	1. What are patterns and drivers of dietary diversity among children under 2, and women of reproductive age in Ethiopia? 2. What are drivers of acute malnutrition in Ethiopia? 3. Is there a relationship between climate variation, rainfall patterns and malnutrition trends across regions in Ethiopia? 4. What are patterns of IYCF practices in Ethiopia at the national and regional level? 5. How can production of fruits and vegetables be improved to increase supply and affordability? 6. What are the challenges and barriers to effective implementation of the national Food and Nutrition Strategy: including multi-sectoral nutrition coordination at the national and sub-national level? 7. Have school feeding programs had a positive effect on nutritional status and school performance in Ethiopia?

Source: EPHI PQF team, 2019

Annex 12. Extract from the minutes of the meeting with the NIPN AC: Discussions around the validation of the prioritized policy relevant questions to be answered by NIPN

Discussion

- Dr. Meron Girma (NIPN) presented the 12 prioritized policy relevant questions which were formulated in 2019 and early 2020..
- According to the NIPN AC members, these policy questions are relevant.
- Dr. Ferew Lemma highlighted that there are already several studies (for instance, IFPRI, UNICEF) that identified drivers of stunting. In recent analysis done for 137 countries (Fawzi. et.al, 2016) WASH was a major risk factor for stunting following low birth weight. However, this and other analyses did not consider social aspects. He emphasized that more evidence is needed related to non-communicable diseases and also on adolescents.
- Mr. Kebede Atsebi (MoA) proposed to link the analysis on fruit and vegetable production with the actual value chain and marketing. By breaking down the questions, the answers might provide useful information and recommendations can guide policy directions. As such, the sector would like to know how fruits and vegetables should be exported to other regions. How should these produced fruit and vegetables be transported? How should they get to the airports? What is the situation on the markets?
- Ms. MekiyaFeki (UNICEF) recommended not only to describe the trends of overweight, obesity and non-communicable diseases, but to review also the factors contributing to the changing trends. Secondly, she suggested to not only focusing on adolescent girls, but also on adolescent boys. Preliminary evidence of a UNICEF study notably indicates that the nutrition of adolescent boys might be worse than adolescent girls. Lastly, she also requested more information about the role of NIPN in the evaluation of the National Nutrition Program (NNP). It was clarified that the end-line assessment for the NNP will be done by the Food Science and Nutrition Research Directorate of EPHI, considering that NIPN does not carry out primary data collection but will lead the evaluation process. However, the NIPN team might support the process.

Conclusion

- Overall, the NIPN AC agreed that the questions are very relevant. However, some additional time to comment would support the overall process.

Agreed action

- Following the meeting, the NIPN EPHI team will send a soft copy to the NIPN AC members. Members are requested to provide additional feedback by February 7, 2020. New questions raised by the NIPN AC after feedback and consolidations with existing questions are included in **Annex 13**.

Source: Minutes of the NIPN AC meeting of January 2020

Annex 13 New questions raised by the NIPN AC following the meeting of January 30, 2020

1. What factors enable and hinder nutrition policy and program financing and implementation across sectors?
2. What are the factors that affect the generation, quality and utilization of nutrition data and accountability score cards at all levels?
3. What are the challenges and enablers for high level leader's involvement in nutrition governance?
4. What are the areas that need innovative solutions and accelerate the attainment of the Seqota Declaration goal?
5. What proportion of food insecure households are reached through sustainable livelihood programs?
6. What proportion of the agricultural budget is allocated for nutrition sensitive agriculture interventions?
7. What role do current food processing practices play in promotion of optimal nutrition in Ethiopia?
8. What issues affect the development of food processing (storage and preservation) at a small scale level?
9. What options exit to tackle postharvest loss and food safety issues in Ethiopia?
10. Can nutrition-sensitive value-chains increase the market access to nutritious foods in Ethiopia?
11. How can bio-fortitude crops be made available to nutritionally venerable population to enable production and consumption?
12. What are the strategic options to increase access to diverse and nutritious foods?

Source: Minutes of the NIPN AC meeting of January 2020

Annex 14. List of additional policy questions for NIPN submitted by the MOH in March 2020

Questions for Desk Review

1. Which activities/initiatives in the NNPII have been persistently implemented in the past 4 years by region? If not why?
2. What is the coverage of nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions by region/Zone/woreda and result achieved?
3. What are the effects of SBCC interventions in improving feeding practice
4. What are the statistical trends of NNP II indicators in the past 4 years?
5. What are the best practices in the implementation of National Nutrition Program?
6. What are the main challenges in multi-sectoral coordination and implementation of NNP II?
7. Lessons learnt in the implementation process of NNPII

Annex 15. Format used to extract information from research documents

Key stakeholders identified /research finding from	Document type/ title	Study Design	Document Name and objective	Timeline covered by the study and publication date	Study population	Sample size	Linkage with nutrition and key findings	Gap identified/limitation of the study	Policy demand	Questions identified	Remarks	Reference	Reference link