



Abstract/Summary information for the Technical Meeting on Nutrition (TMN)

Subject Title	Accelerating Nutrition Improvements (ANI) in Sub-Saharan countries by strengthening nutrition surveillance systems
Level of Relevance <i>Global /Regional/National</i>	Global/Regional/National
Subject focus area <i>Research/programming/combination</i>	Programming
Sphere of interest <i>Humanitarian/Development/Cross-cutting</i>	Development/Humanitarian
Main nutritional focus <i>Wasting/Stunting/Micronutrient malnutrition/overweight and obesity</i>	Wasting/Stunting/Micronutrient malnutrition/overweight and obesity
Identify which of the ten thematic areas it relates to	2) Nutrition within the basic package of health services 9) M&E, global and national systems; innovation, standardization and alignment
<p>Abstract/Summary information (<i>no more than 300 words</i>) <i>Suggest to include information such as;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is the context? ▪ A brief description of the research/programme ▪ Main aims ▪ What has been learned that is new? ▪ Does it inform; evidence/design decisions/policy/other? ▪ How robust are the findings? 	

National surveillance systems in most countries lack key output/process indicators to track interventions addressing the nutrition global targets. Globally, there is an absence of strong systems to collect the nutrition information needed to track progress.

WHO, with DFATD funding, is strengthening national nutrition surveillance systems in 11 sub-Saharan countries and conducting surveys in four countries to establish baselines (ANI project).

Participating countries are: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Activities include:

- ANI country projects conduct context analysis of existing surveillance systems to identify strengths and weaknesses, bottlenecks and shortcomings.
- Evaluate the potential and feasibility for innovative data collection and transmission.
- Identify strong local partners at all levels and seek their advice and guidance to explore the key indicators required.
- Advocate and promote available WHO guidance and norms related to assessing nutritional status.
- Link up and complement current activities of national and international partners working on related projects.
- Provide training and capacity building for survey design, data collection and analysis.

Coordination with country programs and national strategies is a project priority to ensure sustainability. ANI staff collaborates with REACH in assessing existing surveillance activities and with the SUN movement.

WHO ANI project aims to benefit 66 million women of reproductive age and 46 million children under five;

The implementation of the project is a learning process and its documentation will allow extending such support for nutrition surveillance systems to other countries. Project includes innovative aspects specific in each country that could be exported in a standardized manner to similar contexts.

The project's added value is that national surveillance systems will be strengthened in 11 African countries through robust data collection, transmission and analysis, improving decision making and ability to measure progress.

