

# Nutrition Landscape Information System (NLiS) Results of a user survey



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## **Summary**

The Nutrition Landscape Information System (NLiS) links all existing global nutrition databases as well as other relevant nutrition-related data available from partner agencies, and presents these data in the form of automated country profiles. Since the introduction of NLiS in 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) has worked to improve its structure and quality of content. After the Global Nutrition Monitoring Framework (GNMF) was adopted by the 68th World Health Assembly in 2015 to monitor the achievement of the six Global Nutrition Targets for 2025, NLiS was identified as the platform to incorporate the indicators of the GNMF. Once all 21 indicators of the GNMF had been finalized, it was incorporated into NLiS in December 2017.

This report presents the results of a user survey that was conducted in October–November 2018.

The following are some key findings of the survey:

- 75 respondents representing all WHO regions and various sectors and professions responded to the user survey;
- respondents gave high ratings to both the ease of use of the survey and the quality of the content, with most respondents indicating that the information provided in NLiS is helpful;
- of all indicators monitored in NLiS, including those of GNMF country profiles, 65% of the
  respondents indicated that they were interested in GNMF primary outcome indicators (i.e.
  Global Nutrition Targets), 64% in vitamin and mineral deficiency indicators, and 62% in the
  policy environment and capacity indicators;
- some examples of how respondents benefited from and used the information from the NLiS country profiles include:
  - helping in designing and prioritizing interventions for policy and programme development;
  - o supporting countries in developing nutrition surveillance systems;
  - o preparing country briefings and case studies with respect to nutrition;
  - o preparing for country workshops and university lectures; and
  - o preparing donor assessments;
- most respondents (92%) indicated that they would be likely to recommend the use of NLiS to colleagues or professional acquaintances;
- most respondents (90%) indicated that they would be likely to use NLiS again, to obtain required nutrition-related information for countries; and
- respondents thought that the NLiS website was known only to a small, limited group of users

   therefore, strengthened advocacy and dissemination strategies would be required to improve its further dissemination (i.e. through channels such as regional workshops and publications, and regular updates through email listservs).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See <a href="https://www.who.int/nutrition/nlis/en/">https://www.who.int/nutrition/nlis/en/</a>

### Introduction

The Nutrition Landscape Information System (NLiS) country profiles provide a user-friendly snapshot of a country's nutrition situation. Dynamically linking all existing World Health Organization (WHO) global nutrition databases, as well as other relevant food and nutrition-related data from partner agencies, NLiS was developed in 2009 as a web-based tool that provides nutrition and nutrition-related health and development data in the form of automated country profiles. Data presented in the country profiles are structured using the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) conceptual framework for causes of malnutrition. The profiles are intended to give an overview of key indicators of nutrition status in a country, as well as the underlying factors related to food, health and care, and basic factors related to commitment, capacity, policies and programmes.

In 2015, the 68th World Health Assembly adopted the Global Nutrition Monitoring Framework (GNMF) to monitor countries' progress towards achieving the 2025 Global Nutrition Targets. NLiS was selected as the platform for the 21 indicators of GNMF that cover primary outcome indicators for the six Global Nutrition Target outcomes; intermediate outcome indicators; process indicators; and policy, environment and capacity indicators. Once all 21 indicators of the GNMF had been finalized, a special country profile view with the most recent national data for the 21 GNMF indicator was incorporated into NLiS in December 2017.

The NLiS data search functionality allows users to select and view indicators from the two country profiles, and generate Excel spreadsheets for download.

Since the launch of the NLiS in 2009, WHO has continuously worked to improve the structure and quality of content. To continue improving the user experience, a survey was conducted in October–November 2018.

## Methodology

An online user survey was implemented on the WHO Dataform platform. The survey comprised 41 questions covering the following categories:

- personal characteristics of responding users;
- general satisfaction, impression and rating of NLiS;
- questions for new users of NLiS; and
- questions for current users of NLiS:
  - o use of principal menu features:
    - NLiS country profiles;
    - GNMF country profiles;
    - NLiS data search;
    - help texts and indicator interpretation guide; and
  - use of data contained on NLiS.

Invitations to participate in the user survey were sent via email from the WHO Department of Nutrition for Health and Development (NHD) listserv and through the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) newsletter in October 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See <a href="https://www.who.int/nutrition/nlis/en/">https://www.who.int/nutrition/nlis/en/</a>

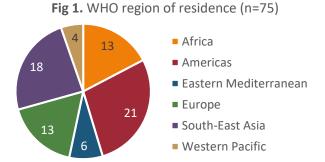
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> WHA Decision 68(14).

### **Results**

## Respondents

A total of 136 responses were initiated, of which 75 respondents answered in full and were considered in the survey results presented here. The 75 responses were received from users in 36 different countries across all the WHO regions. The largest number of responses came from the WHO Region of the Americas, followed by South-East Asia, and Africa and Europe (Fig. 1).

In this user survey, the academic/research sector had the highest representation of respondents, followed by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) (Fig. 2). The primary professional roles of respondents were mainly in academia/research and provision of technical guidance, as well as policies and programmes (Fig. 3). Forty-nine of the respondents reported having used NLiS before the survey, whereas 25 were new users (one respondent did not answer this question).



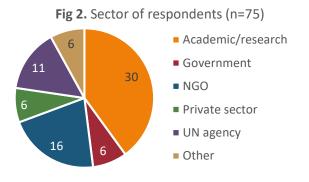
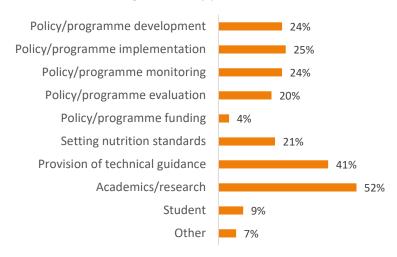


Fig. 3. Primary professional role (n=75)



1

¹ Number and country of respondents from the **WHO African Region (13)**: Ethiopia (1), Ghana (3), Kenya (3), Madagascar (1), Nigeria (2), South Sudan (1), Uganda (1) and the United Republic of Tanzania (1); **WHO Region of the Americas (21)**: Brazil (1), Canada (5), Chile (1), Mexico (1), Nicaragua (1), Paraguay (2) and the United States of America (10); **WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (6)**: Egypt (1), Iran (2), Jordan (1), Lebanon (1) and Yemen (1); **WHO European Region (13)**: France (1), Greece (1), Italy (2), Netherlands (1), Slovakia (1), Switzerland (5) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2); **WHO South-East Asia Region (18)**: Bangladesh (3), India (11), Myanmar (1), Pakistan (1), Sri Lanka (1) and Thailand (1); and the **WHO Western Pacific Region (4)**: Australia (2), Philippines (1) and South Korea (1).

## **Overall impression of NLiS**

Most of the respondents found the NLiS website to be easy or very easy to use, with no respondents indicating any difficulties navigating the site (**Fig. 4**). On a scale from 1 to 10, the average rating of the ease of use of NLiS was 7.7, and the average rating of the quality of its content was 7.9. Respondents more often rated NLiS towards the higher end of the scale (**Fig. 5** and **Fig. 6**).

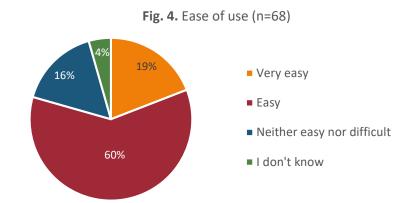


Fig. 5. Overall ease of use (n=69) 100% 80% 60% 40% 29% 22% 13% 13% 12% 20% 10% 1% 0% 2 3 5 6 7 8 9 4 10

**Fig. 6.** Overall quality of content (n=69)

100%

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