

This User Guide accompanies the Cost Considerations Tool. We recommend referring to the Excel file while reviewing the User Guide and reading the full User Guide before starting to use the tool.

Use this tool to understand the full range of activities and related costs necessary to collect, aggregate, and share food and nutrition data via surveys, administrative data systems, or multisectoral data systems. The Cost Considerations Tool is not a costing tool and does not generate cost estimates.



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## Section 1: What is the Cost Considerations Tool?

**Governments and global stakeholders have rising demand for food and nutrition data, even as resources are shrinking. Stakeholders involved in the design and implementation of nutrition information systems need to know what data to collect and when, as well as the cost implications of collecting, managing, and using that data. Yet, these costs are often overlooked or poorly understood.**

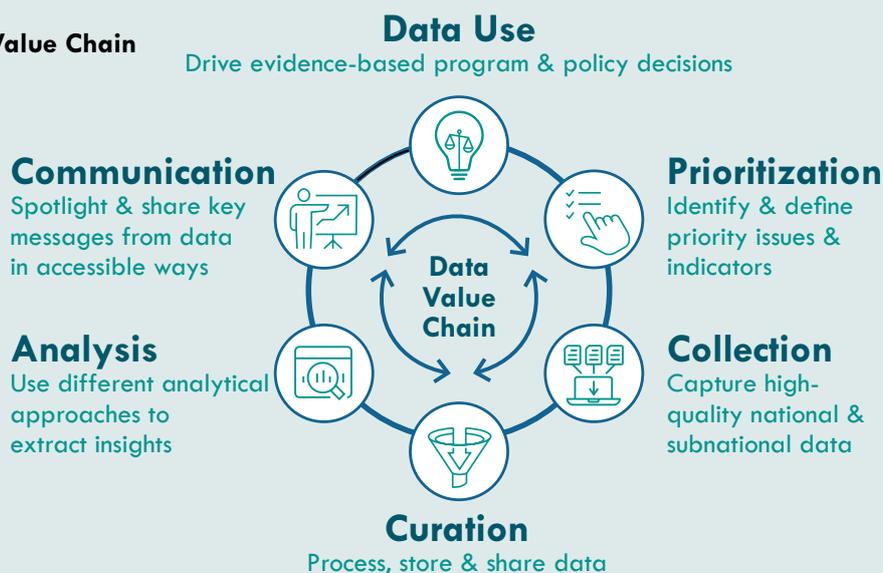
The Cost Considerations for Food and Nutrition Data Tool is a practical resource to help policymakers, advocates, and implementers plan for investments and activities to strengthen the data value chain (Figure 1). The tool primarily targets country-level food and nutrition data policymakers and staff that make decisions across the data value chain but can also be leveraged by partners and others in their own decision making and support for implementers. The Tool draws on DataDENT's in-depth work in Ethiopia and Nigeria and global experience to highlight the key activities, trade-offs, and resources to consider when planning and budgeting for data value chain strengthening activities.

The Tool is a separate Excel document (see the embedded file at the top of this document). Section 1 of this User Guide explains the Excel tool and how to use it. Section 2 presents potential funding sources to support the data costs.

The Excel tool presents a series of guiding questions about activities that may be required along the data value chain from prioritization through to data use. The questions aim to consider the full range of costs associated with data systems and surveys. Questions are organized by the six data value chain elements (Figure 1). Each question links to common monetary cost drivers and nonmonetary considerations. These concepts are described below.

Annex 1 provides definitions for key terms used in the tool. Annex 2 provides more detail about how the tool was developed.

**Figure 1.**  
**DataDENT Value Chain**



## What will it help me do?

- The tool helps users reflect on the activities required to collect, aggregate, and share data for decision-making in order to make strategic, transparent choices about how to strengthen multisector food and nutrition data value chains. It can help users:
  - Compare options for data collection (e.g., collecting indicators via household survey vs. an administrative data system).
  - Plan for the full range of monetary and nonmonetary costs that are required to develop and maintain data systems.
  - Give practical suggestions for costs that need to be included in budgets, resource mobilization, and financing strategies for activities to strengthen data value chains.

It is a decision support tool. It is not a costing tool and does not generate specific cost estimates.

Box 1 provides illustrative use cases for the Cost Considerations Tool.

### Box 1. Illustrative uses for the Tool

These examples illustrate how the Cost Consideration Tool may be used, but they do not capture all possible use cases.

#### #1 USE CASE Revising a planned survey

**SCENARIO:** Ministry of Health (MOH) leadership needs updated data about dietary diversity and anemia to inform their next five-year strategic plan. They are considering the feasibility of collecting several food and nutrition indicators—minimum dietary diversity for women and children, household food consumption scores, and anemia prevalence in children and women of reproductive age—via an upcoming national health survey.

**DECISION:** Should additional food and nutrition indicators be added to the upcoming national survey?

**USING THE TOOL:** The tool will help MOH leadership to consider the monetary and nonmonetary costs of adding these indicators to the upcoming national survey. It will not estimate the amount of money the changes will require but will help users determine the full range of costs that these additional indicators may incur. This information can influence survey planning, budgeting, and resource mobilization.

For example, the tool can be used to systematically consider how adding the sets of questions required for the two minimum dietary diversity indicators will increase the length of the interview, increase the cost of interviews, and eventually impact response quality and the time required to train enumerators. The questions will help users consider the impacts of adding the anemia indicator as well, which can require additional supplies, training, and time. Drawing blood in particular may require additional ethical approvals and new, costly laboratory analysis. However, the questions can also help users consider the benefits of adding these indicators to an existing planned survey, like efficiencies from the fact that the survey will already be sampling the populations of interest. Answers to the questions in the Tool will help users gauge the relative cost of these activities and whether adding the indicators of interest change the overall survey cost in a meaningful way.

## #2 USE CASE

Revising an existing administrative data system

**SCENARIO:** Ministry of Agriculture leadership needs data on progress toward integrating nutrition-sensitive interventions into the agriculture sector. They are considering the feasibility of collecting two relevant indicators through the Agriculture sector’s administrative data platform, including the number of bio-fortified varieties released and the number of households receiving advice from extension workers.

**DECISION:** Should the Ministry of Agriculture add these indicators to its existing administrative data system? What will it require?

**USING THE TOOL:** The questions in the tool will guide the Ministry of Agriculture leaders through considering the activities—and their associated monetary and nonmonetary costs—that will be necessary to build these indicators into the administrative data system across all six elements of the data value chain.

For example, in a country where the agriculture routine information system is used to monitor crop production annually, adding an indicator to track the number of biofortified crop varieties released may be relatively low cost. It could require adding a single question on an existing data collection form. However, the costs of adding a household-level indicator could be very high if there is no standard monitoring form and reporting process for agriculture extension workers to report household-level data. This would require creating new forms and tools to collect data, printing or translation costs to update those forms and tools, distribution costs, and any changes to job aids or training materials that will be required to support staff to correctly use these new tools. Answers to these questions will help users gauge the feasibility of adding these indicators to their data system, and plan for the impact of doing so over the long term to sustain the change.

## #3 USE CASE

Developing a multisectoral data system for nutrition

**SCENARIO:** A national committee on food and nutrition, which provides oversight of the implementation of the country’s multisector food and nutrition strategy, wants to ensure they have collected relevant food and nutrition data together from all implementing ministries and wants to avoid data fragmentation and duplication across sectors. They are considering a multisectoral data platform to improve efficiency and alignment.

**DECISION:** How can the national committee access the necessary food and nutrition indicators across sectors? What might the structure of a multisectoral data system look like that enables this data sharing?

**USING THE TOOL:** The answers to the guiding questions in each data value chain element will help the national committee identify the necessary activities and related monetary and nonmonetary costs to develop—and maintain—this multisectoral data system over time.

Their answers will identify the sectors and people that need to be involved in developing the system, including whether new data governance structures and data sharing policies are required. The answers will identify what data is already available and whether it can be automatically aggregated from existing data sources or requires people to compile and manually enter into the platform. It can also consider what new data need to be collected and how. Additional considerations include the information communication technology needed to host the data system, and the reporting and communication processes to support the committee to share and use the data correctly.

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## How is the Cost Considerations Tool structured?

The tool is organized as follows (Figure 2):

**Figure 2. Cost Considerations Tool**



Guiding questions with:

Cost connection • Start-up and/or recurring cost • Relevant non-monetary costs

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**Tab 1** defines the terms and categories used throughout the tool. These are also provided in User Guide Annex 1. Foundational concepts include:

- “Data system,” which can be administrative and/or aggregation, single-sector or multisectoral, or paper-based or digital.
- The “data activity categories,” which include coordination and cooperation; capacity building; system equipment, technology, and maintenance; and other (for costs that support the entire system or survey rather than a specific activity).
- The “nonmonetary cost considerations,” which include community or partner trust, data quality, political priorities, staff burden, and sustainability.

It is important to understand how the tool uses these terms and conceptualizes the categories in order to apply the tool.

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**Tabs 2–7** include the guiding questions that are the core of the Tool. Each tab is dedicated to one element of the data value chain (Figure 1) and lists a set of relevant guiding questions. Each question is tagged with:

- Which data activity category it relates to (coordination and cooperation; capacity building; system equipment, technology, and maintenance).

These tags allow users to filter the tool by categories of interest and can show which categories are likely to incur the most cost in their scenario.

- A note on how the answer could affect costs. For example, does it change the skills that staff need? Into how many languages must the materials be translated? How often are data collected, and from where?
- Whether the associated costs would be incurred at start-up, recur over time, or both.
- The relevant nonmonetary costs that may be at play (community or partner trust, data quality, political priorities, staff burden, and sustainability).

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**Tab 2:** Prioritization presents questions about how to identify and define priority issues that require data and indicators for the survey or data system.

**Tab 3:** Collection presents questions for users to consider how they will gather high-quality national or subnational data via surveys or administrative data systems. This includes cost implications for altering the sample size or scope of existing data collection efforts to collect new food or nutrition indicators and implications for collecting new data for inclusion in a multisectoral data system.

**Tab 4:** Curation presents questions for users to consider how they will manage, process, share, and store the data that is collected, either from a single-sector survey or administrative data system, or from multiple contributing sectors and sources in a multisectoral data system.

**Tab 5:** Analysis presents questions for users to consider how they will identify analysis questions, design an analysis plan, and analyze the data to extract insights for decisions.

**Tab 6:** Communication presents questions for users to consider how they will spotlight and share key messages from the data in accessible ways. Examples of dissemination approaches include presentations during in-person or virtual meetings, in writing via briefs or letters, or online with regular updates to a data dashboard, for example.

**Tab 7:** Data Use presents questions for users to consider the activities necessary to ensure intended data users have sufficient data-related skills and knowledge to interpret and apply it. This should consider users at all levels and consider whether the data will be available to government stakeholders alone or if it will be publicly available as well.

## How can stakeholders adapt the Tool to my use case?

This is a flexible tool that includes 71 questions and sub-questions across the six elements of the data value chain that can be used at different points in the planning cycle. Not all questions will be relevant to your use case; to work through the tool efficiently, it is important to specify your goal for using it (i.e., the data-related decisions you are trying to make) and prioritize the questions relevant to those decisions.

Two important cross-cutting issues are not directly addressed in the tool because they are highly context-dependent and come after the relevant monetary and nonmonetary costs are identified. However, they should still be considered by users.

1. Relative cost of the answers to each question or cost connection: Depending on the context, some answers may have significantly larger cost implications than others. For example, changes to survey sample size or employing new technical experts will be more costly than making a small change to an existing digital training manual or adding an agenda item to a preexisting coordination meeting.
2. Who will bear the cost: As they go through their questions, users should consider who will bear costs that are identified for each element. This is critical information for the feasibility of data collection or data system plans and approaches and for developing a financing strategy (discussed in more detail in Section 2: High-level Financing Options, below).



## Section 2: High-level Financing Options

**A simple yet essential component to sustainable food and nutrition financing is establishing nutrition financing priorities and making a strong investment case. Stakeholders can use the Cost Considerations Tool and User Guide when identifying which food and nutrition data activities to fund. The tool supports stakeholders to compare options for data collection, plan for the full range of costs that are required to develop and maintain data systems, and find practical solutions for costs.**

Costed multisectoral national food and nutrition plans should outline nutrition data priority actions by sector, and sector strategies should go into further detail on priority nutrition data activities delivered through each Ministerial budget, including sectoral financial responsibility based on costs. It is important to think about sectoral activities and multisectoral activities because these often require different financing mechanisms.

1. **Sectoral: Nutrition data priorities integrated within programs**—Governments can leverage relevant sectoral investment opportunities by integrating nutrition data objectives into sectoral plans and program investments. The presence of objectives enables the planning, budgeting, and implementation of nutrition data activities within these programs; they are important to monitor impact. Nutrition integration is essential to ensure nutrition actions are sustainably delivered within broader programming and not siloed—across all relevant sectors including health, agriculture, social protection, education, WASH, and climate.
2. **Multisectoral: Nutrition governance and accountability**—Governments require dedicated resources to build and maintain nutrition governance and accountability (at national and subnational level) efforts including information management, strategy development, national–subnational engagement and nutrition councils at various levels of government, nutrition resource tracking, performance monitoring and feedback, etc. Often, sector budgets alone are not enough to fund these activities.

Identifying and enumerating the costs to collect, use, and share data to inform decision-making is the first step. Once the costs are documented in food and nutrition plans, governments must identify funding sources to ensure the proposed actions can be implemented and sustained over time. A multi-pronged approach is required to determine how to fund priority nutrition activities. The following list of actions has been compiled based on country examples.

### Public Sector Financing

Public sector financing provides the highest level of government sovereignty and predictability over the size of the funds and how they are spent for the food and nutrition data system. This enables public sector decision-making bodies to remain independent, accountable, and sustainable; helps ensure processes across the data value chain are aligned with national priorities; and encourages country ownership of the institutional knowledge and capacity necessary to collect and use the data.<sup>1</sup>

Government may increase public sector financing for food and nutrition data in a few ways:

1. **Reprioritizing nutrition within sectoral budgets, programs, and existing funds by:**
  - Including nutrition data in Medium-Term Development Plans and/or Expenditure Frameworks to establish nutrition as a socioeconomic investment.
  - Making a nutrition data financing commitment (e.g., N4G) and adhering to regional and global commitments (e.g., Maputo Declaration).

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<sup>1</sup>Centre for Food Policy at City, University of London and Results for Development, “Taking a Food Systems Approach to Policymaking: A Resource for Policymakers Brief IV,” 2022.

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- Creating separate budget lines for nutrition data activities (e.g., Ministry of Health allocating a distinct budget line in its annual operational plan specifically for updating and maintaining a multisectoral nutrition data system).
  - Benchmarking spending for nutrition data (e.g., Ministry of Planning establishing a benchmark that 5% of each sector’s monitoring and evaluation budget must go toward food and nutrition data collection and management).
  - Mainstreaming nutrition and related data collection efforts in specific sector programs (e.g., Ministry of Agriculture integrating household dietary diversity score questions into routine farmer household surveys conducted under a rural livelihoods program).
2. Introducing parallel financing or matched funds from the national government to incentivize subnational food and nutrition data-related activities (e.g., a federal government committing to matching every 1 million USD that a regional government invests in nutrition data quality assurance, provided the funds are used according to agreed standards).
  3. Creating a multisector pooled fund for nutrition data (e.g., Ministry of Finance establishing a pooled funding mechanism where the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, and Education contribute funds annually, alongside donor contributions, to finance cross-sector nutrition data platform upgrades and capacity-building activities). This increases domestic financing for multisectoral nutrition data use because it channels sectoral funding that might otherwise be spent on sector-specific programming toward multisectoral nutrition data activities.
  4. Introducing excise taxes on goods considered harmful to population health (e.g., alcohol, tobacco, and sugar-sweetened beverages) or earmarking portions of tax revenue to finance nutrition data systems (e.g., government introduces a 2% excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages, earmarking a portion of the revenue to support the expansion of nutrition surveys and regular nutrition indicator reporting that help monitor the impact of the policy at population level).

## Private Sector Financing

The private sector may also be a source for nutrition data financing. Public–private partnerships can combine goals oriented toward the public interest with national reach, sustainability, innovation, efficiency, and cost effectiveness. For example, major food companies are frequently involved in national food fortification programs, playing a pivotal role in production, shaping policies, contributing to food fortification research, and providing financial and technical resources for broad adoption of fortification efforts by producers and consumers.<sup>2</sup> Industry manufacturing and quality assurance data could be collected and reported to the government based on government standards, with allowances for government quality assurance activities. Public–private partnerships could also be leveraged in the food and nutrition data space, as technology and communications companies are well-positioned to strengthen the infrastructure needed for data activities. For example, a telecommunications company could partner with the government to ensure a reliable network coverage for community-level food and nutrition data collection and transmission.

Governments can also catalyze increased private sector engagement in food and nutrition activities through a variety of financial, technical, business, tax, regulatory, and procurement incentives. When designed with clear guidelines and shared objectives, private sector financing for food and nutrition data can complement public funding by introducing new resources, innovations, and technologies that strengthen data collection, management, and use. For example, private companies can co-finance digital platforms, provide technical expertise, or support workforce training in ways that align with national nutrition strategies, creating mutually beneficial partnerships that enhance both data quality and sustainability.

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<sup>2</sup> Romina Bandura and Salome Girgvliani, “Partnership Opportunities to Transform Food Systems,” Center for Strategic & International Studies, 2024.

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Yet, there may be drawbacks to private sector financing for food and nutrition data. Private sector financing can introduce conflicts of interest, especially if funders have commercial stakes in food, beverage, or agricultural products that may not align with public health goals. It can also create instability, as funding levels may fluctuate with market conditions or shifting corporate priorities, making long-term planning more difficult. As such, governments may use caution when considering involving private sector actors in nutrition-related decision making.

## Development Partners and Funders

Bilateral donors (e.g., the United Kingdom, Canada, and the European Union), multilateral donors (e.g., UN World Food Programme, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization), and philanthropies (e.g., Gates Foundation, Children’s Investment Fund Foundation, Eleanor Crook Foundation) provide financing for many nutrition-relevant areas, including food and nutrition data. For example, UNICEF leads the [Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys](#), which generate nationally representative data on child and maternal nutrition and test new nutrition modules to improve measurement quality. The World Bank has elevated nutrition financing and accountability by developing a [Nutrition Road Map](#) that countries can use to cost and prioritize evidence-based data. Philanthropies like the Gates Foundation continue to make large, multiyear commitments to nutrition, with a strategic focus on data, research and development, and systems that improve decision-making.

Development partners and funders can provide valuable financing for capacity building, training, and evidence generation. Ideally, this funding should align with country priorities and be channeled through government budgets.

Despite this potential, donor funding for nutrition has essentially plateaued from 2015 to 2023,<sup>3</sup> and further drastic cuts have been announced in 2024 and 2025 onward. The amount and strategic focus of donor funding in the future is uncertain and often unsustainable, emphasizing the importance of strategically targeting the donor funds that do exist with proposals supported by robust data and evidence.



## Bibliography

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<sup>3</sup> Caroline Andridge et al., “Tracking Aid for the WHA Nutrition Targets: Progress toward the Global Nutrition Goals between 2015 to 2022,” Results for Development, 2024, <https://r4d.org/resources/tracking-aid-wha-nutrition-targets-global-spending-roadmap-better-data/>.



# Annex 1. Definitions

## General Terms

### Administrative data system

Integrated system in which primary data is routinely collected, collated, and reported by government actors for management purposes. Health Management Information Systems (HMIS) are well known but systems also typically exist in education, agriculture, and social protection sectors as well.

### Aggregation data system

Integrated system that combines data from different sources (e.g., administrative data systems, surveys, program reports, focal points) into a single location (e.g., hub, dashboard, scorecard). The aim is usually to improve data access and data use by a specific audience. It can be organized across administrative levels, sector-specific, or multisectoral (e.g., Nigeria's Food and Nutrition Dashboard).

### Cost connection

This is a brief explanation of how each guiding question relates to cost. These refer to activities that occur across the data value chain elements.

### Data activity category

These types of activities have associated cost implications, including labor (e.g., staff time, consultant fees) and direct costs such as travel, workshop facilitation, printing, equipment, software, and other operational or logistical expenses. Understanding these activity categories helps in planning, and subsequently budgeting and evaluating the financial requirements of data systems.

### Data system

The overarching term for systems that can be sector-specific or multisectoral; administrative, aggregation, or both; or paper-based or digital.

### Data value chain

The process by which data are transformed into useful information for nutrition stakeholders—starting with identifying data priorities and supported by four foundational elements (strategy, capacity, governance, financing). See Figure 1 for the data value chain image.

### Guiding question

This discussion prompt can be used to explore and assess the potential costs associated with nutrition data activities across the elements of the data value chain. The questions are designed to support strategic planning, resource allocation, and cost-awareness by highlighting where and how expenses may arise.

### Nonmonetary considerations

Potential opportunity costs or trade-offs that may arise when a guiding question is addressed. While not financial, these factors can influence the effectiveness and sustainability of data activities. They typically fall into five key categories (community or partner trust, data quality, political priorities, staff burden, and sustainability) but are not mutually exclusive and often interact. Recognizing these considerations helps ensure a more holistic decision-making process that goes beyond financial costs alone.

### Population-based survey

Cross-sectional or longitudinal data collection from a representative sample of individuals, households, and/or facilities that typically uses a standard questionnaire and either face-to-face or remote interviews.

### Recurring cost

Costs that occur more than once to implement the activity; these may include regular meeting expenses, routine trainings, or maintaining a digital subscription service, for example.

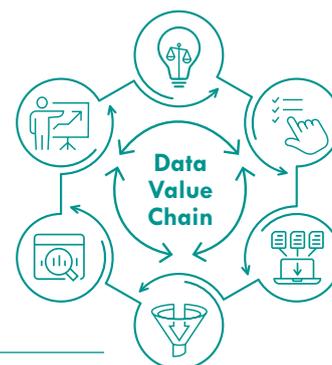
### Start-up cost

Initial, one-time expenses incurred to implement the activity; these may include establishing new working groups, developing new job aids, or purchasing new tablets, for example.

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## Data Value Chain Elements

- Prioritization ..... Identify and define priority issues and indicators.
- Collection..... Capture high-quality national and subnational data.
- Curation..... Process, store, and share data.
- Analysis..... Use different analytical approaches to extract insights.
- Communication..... Spotlight and share key messages from data in accessible ways.
- Data use ..... Drive evidence-based program and policy decisions.



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## Data Activity Categories

### Capacity building

Costs related to activities to build individual or institutional capacity, including training, job aids, or other skill-building activities and resources to support staff to perform specialized tasks. Start-up costs include identifying skill gaps and needs and developing new training materials; recurring costs include providing regular training or other capacity building courses.

### Coordination and cooperation

Costs related to activities to bring stakeholders together to develop data governance and compliance policies and standard operating procedures (e.g., for data sharing, privacy frameworks, and legal infrastructure); plan and strategize; share and validate information. Start-up costs include establishing new working groups or coordination mechanisms and planning data collection or sharing approaches; recurring costs include maintaining the coordination mechanism(s) and ongoing support for data collection and multisectoral data sharing.

### System equipment, technology, and maintenance

Costs related to software, hardware, and other resources necessary to collect and share nutrition data across the data value chain, including costs related to maintaining these systems over time. Start-up costs may include procuring and installing technology and equipment, developing new data collection tools, or setting up a new data system; recurring costs may include equipment and technology maintenance and subscriptions over time.

### Other

Costs that support the entire data system or survey rather than a specific activity.

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## Nonmonetary considerations

### Community or partner trust

Impacts on the level of trust the population or partner organizations put in the government, the decisions that government makes, and the data that informs them.

### Data quality

Impacts on the accuracy and/or reliability of the data produced or provided; some costly activities like quality assurance checks and staff training can improve data quality, while changes to data systems such as adding new indicators or introducing complex reporting processes can reduce data quality.

### Political priorities

Impacts on government or partner relationships, roles, responsibilities, or preferences.

### Staff burden

Impacts on the tasks that staff have to perform in their positions and the time they have to complete those tasks; this can have direct impact on data quality as well, as overburdened staff may be more prone to mistakes or have less time in general for quality assurance checks.

### Sustainability

Impacts on the lifespan of the survey or data system and its use to inform decision-making, especially related to necessary maintenance, use, and burden to staff.



## Annex 2. Methodology

The Tool builds on work from the broader DataDENT initiative to support efficient and effective food and nutrition data systems in Ethiopia, Nigeria, and globally that respond to government and partner information needs. The tool aggregates lessons from data systems and government and partner experiences in Ethiopia and Nigeria to present global cost considerations that can be applied to any country or context considering costs along the data value chain. It was developed over six steps.

First, DataDENT conducted key informant interviews with government stakeholders—especially food and nutrition focal points and monitoring and evaluation officers—in Ethiopia and Nigeria to understand the data that exists, how that data is prioritized and used, and persistent data gaps. From these key informant interviews, we selected six data systems (three from each country) to learn more about the costs they incur to be developed, maintained, and used. These data systems were selected because they are all multisectoral food and nutrition data systems that are actively used in each country and can shed insight on the processes and costs necessary to build and maintain them:

1. Ethiopia Food and Nutrition Strategy Scorecard
2. Ethiopia Unified Nutrition Information System (UNISE)
3. Ethiopia Resource Tracking and Partner Management (RTPM)
4. Nigeria Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning (FMBEP) Performance Management System (PMS)
5. Nigeria FMBEP National Nutrition Dashboard
6. Nigeria National Governors Forum (NGF) National Nutrition Scorecard



Second, DataDENT completed a desk review that included materials and information about the six selected data systems and literature about the costs, processes, and resource needs of data systems generally. We also revisited recent work DataDENT had done with the Ministry of Health in Nigeria to explore the cost impacts of adding or modifying food or nutrition indicators to existing surveys or administrative data systems in the health sector. Together, these sources inform our assumptions about the types of costs that food and nutrition surveys and data systems may incur, and the challenges that stakeholders often face to maintain them.

Third, we interviewed 14 experts in the six selected data systems to understand more about their specific processes, costs, and financing sources. Respondents shared information about how the data systems function through each element of the data value chain, the staff and resources that are necessary to support it, the challenges they face to collect and use the data, and the aspects that drive cost. Respondents were not able to provide specific costs or information about how the systems are financed.

Fourth, we used the interview responses and desk review findings to develop four standard categories of activities that are required to develop, maintain, and use data systems for decision-making. These categories reflect activities that have monetary and nonmonetary costs and are composed of input costs that users can build into budgets based on their responses to the tool's guiding questions. We also articulated how those guiding questions in each activity category impact the cost of that data system.

Fifth, we validated these draft activity categories, guiding questions, and cost connections with the broader DataDENT team and Development Gateway to ensure accuracy and completeness.

Finally, we developed the Excel tool to present these activity categories, guiding questions, and cost connections together, organized by data value chain element. We conducted additional validation and iterative improvements with the DataDENT team and the Micronutrient Data Innovation Alliance (DInA).

## Project Note

DataDENT (Data for Decisions in Nutrition, [www.datadent.org](http://www.datadent.org)) aims to transform the availability and use of nutrition data by addressing gaps in nutrition measurement and advocating for stronger nutrition data systems. This work was carried out by the following DataDENT partners: Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHBSPH) and Results for Development (R4D). Collaborators included team members from the Ethiopian Ministry of Health Seqota Declaration Federal Program Delivery Unit (SD F-PDU). This work was funded by the Gates Foundation. The findings and conclusions contained within are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect positions or policies of the Gates Foundation.

