



Evaluation of the dynamics of national nutrition program implementation in Ethiopia

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Background: Background

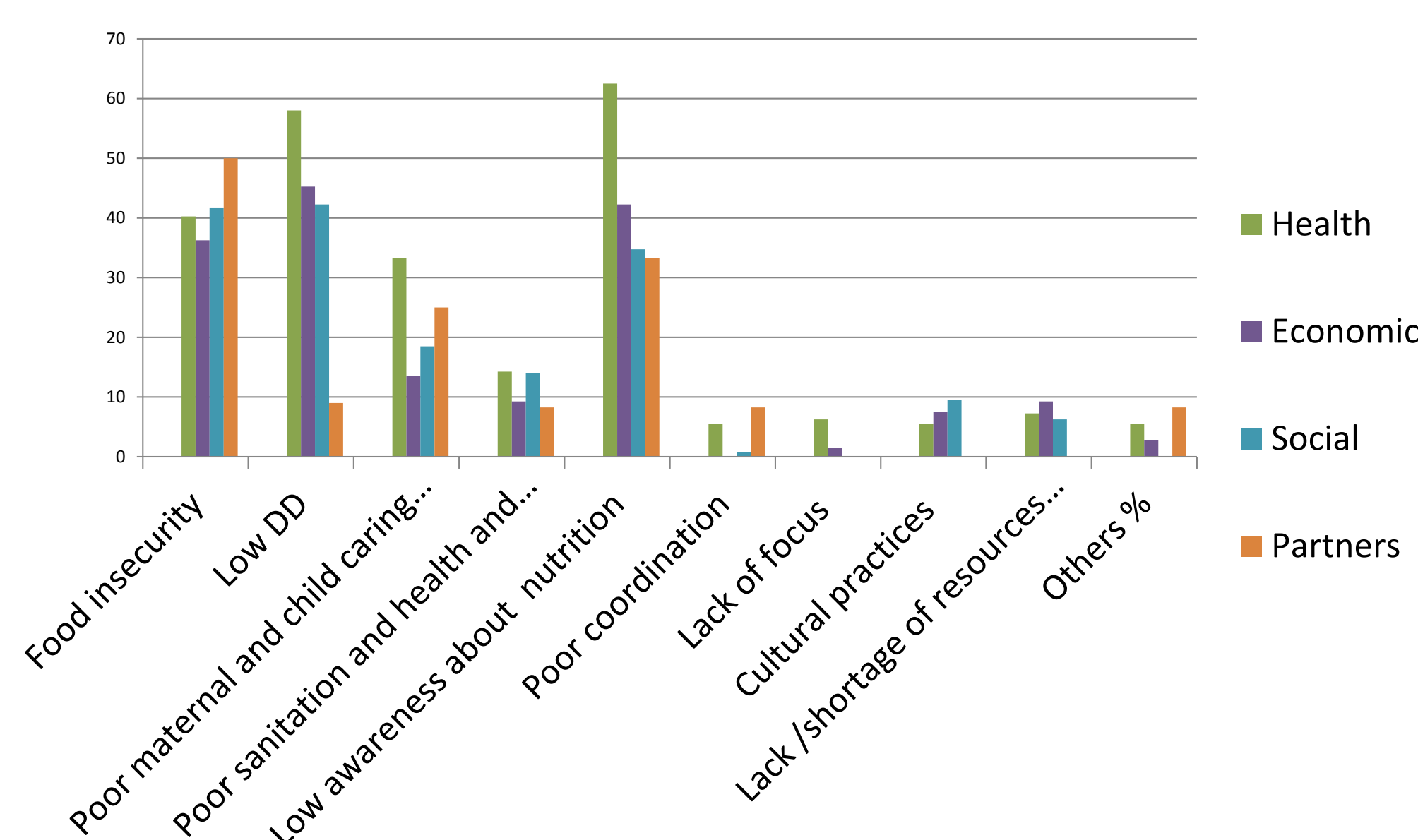
The Government of Ethiopia (GOE) developed a National Nutrition Strategy in 2008, followed by a National Nutrition Program. The revised plan of action for nutrition has recently been update to focus on stunting and multi-sectoral approach and cover the period Sept 2012 to August 2015. Both at the global level and country level in Ethiopia there is increased awareness that investment in nutrition is key to development of human capital. Indeed, Ethiopia has made progress in decreasing malnutrition. Between 2000 and 2011, based on DHS data(DHS, 2000; DHS, 2011), stunting decreased from 58% to 44% and during the same time period. Underweight was reduced from 41% to 29%. While progress has been made in improving nutrition, the Government of Ethiopia, with its partners, wants to accelerate the rate of decrease in levels of malnutrition. The aim of this research is to elicit insights from among key policymakers and stakeholders about how a range of policies and programs get translated from the design phase (on paper) to the implementation phase (in practice) and to assess cross-sector coordination and facilitators and constrains to implementation.

Methods: The study was a semi quantitative study and interviewed key informants who were purposefully selected for the information at the federal and regional (Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR, and Tigray) of Ethiopia. The sectors included were: health, agriculture, education, finance and economic development, trade, industry, copertavise, civil services, women, children and youth affairs and social protection. Interviewees also included stakeholders from UN agencies and bilateral donors (USAID, DFID, CIDA), non-governmental bodies e.g. Save the Children, MI, Alive &Thrive and FANTA 3. Total of 24 interviews held at the national level and 307 interviews were conducted with the response rate of 93% at the sub national level. Purposeful sample of 4 regions, 2 zones from each region and 2 woreda from each zone was used. Interviews were conducted from June 2013 to July 2013.

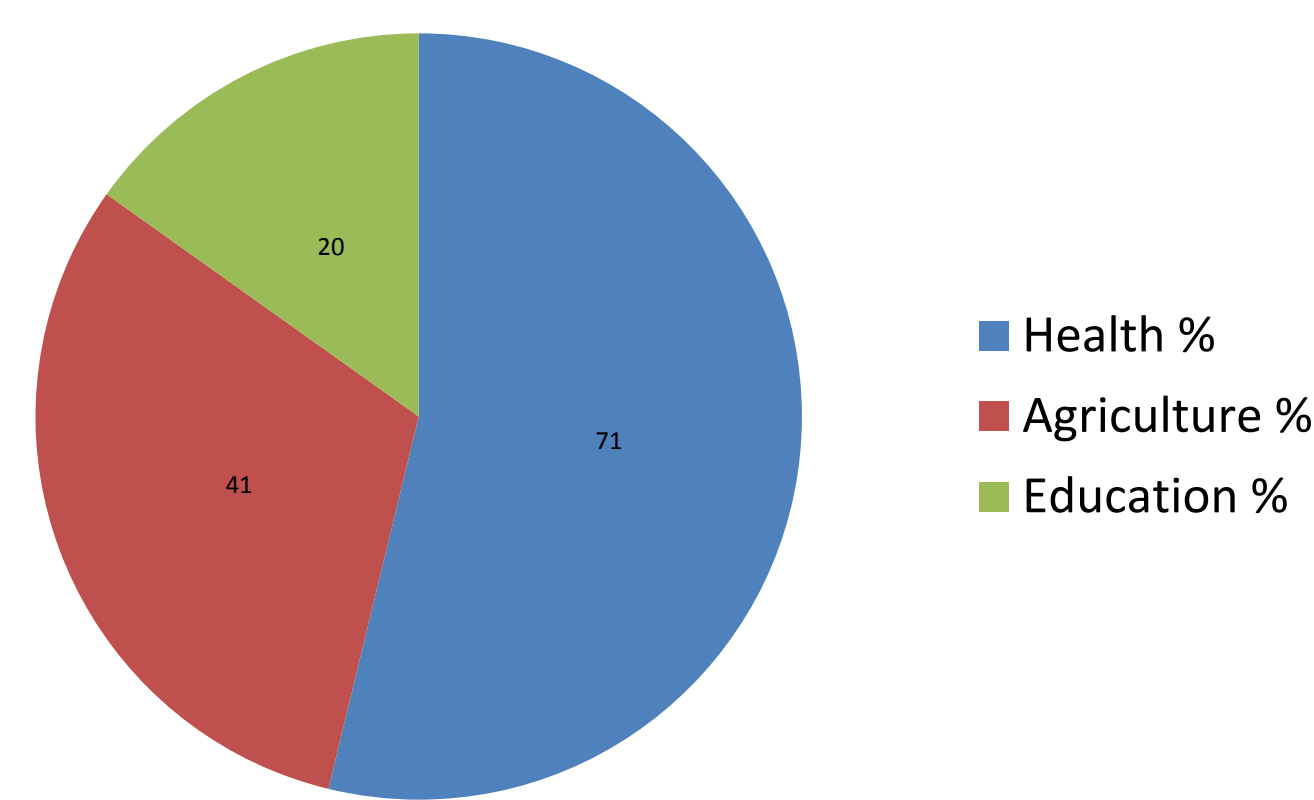
Results: Nature of the Nutrition Problem

There was a general consensus at the national level that three problems account for the major portion of poor nutritional status in Ethiopia; these include food insecurity, acut malnutrition and micro nutrient deficiencies.

Cause of the Problem by Region



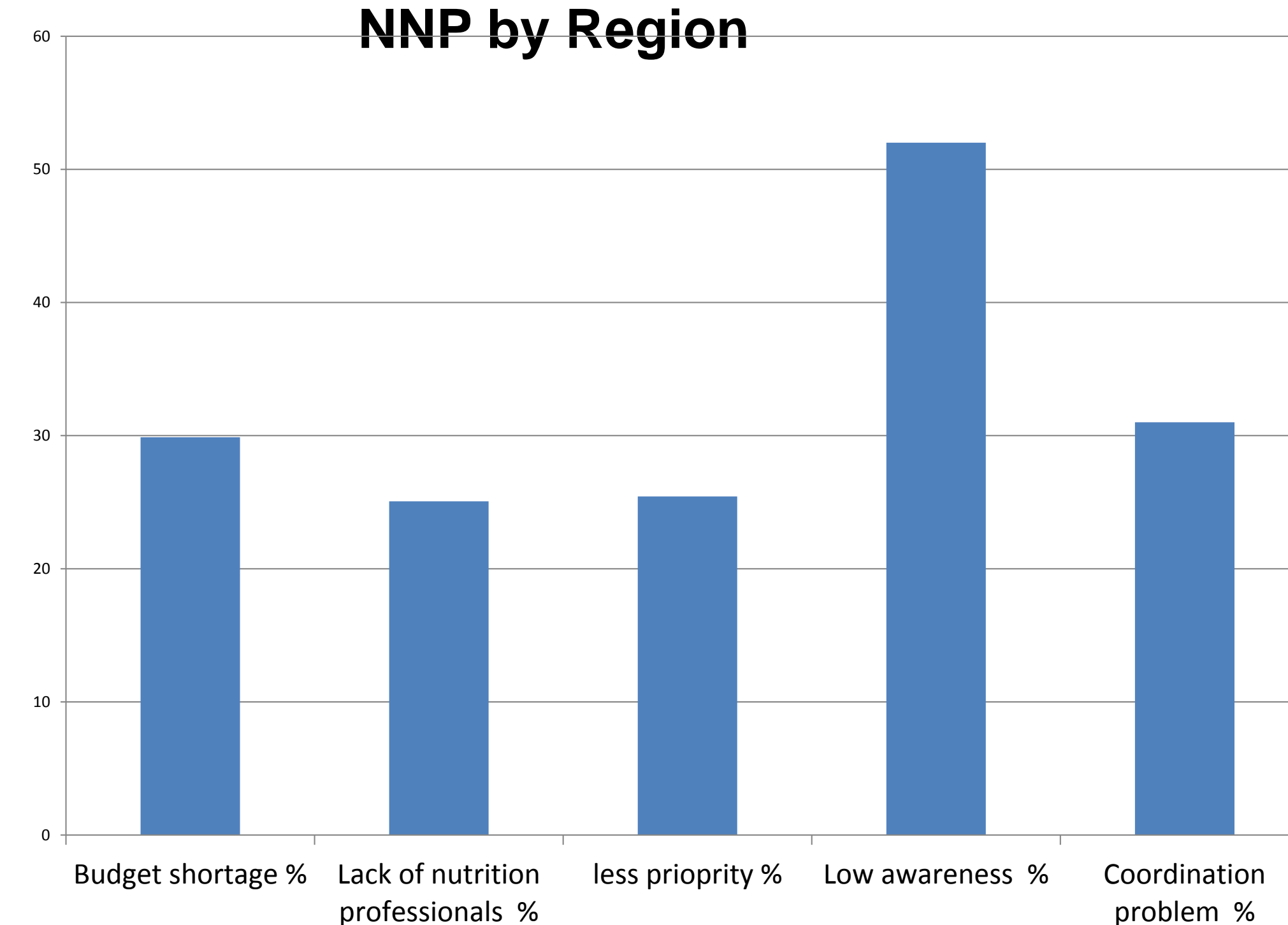
Sectors Involved more in NNP implementation in region



challenges at Federal in Program Design and Implementation

Leadership
Budget
Coordination
Incentives for Collaboration
“ We should make a strong recommendation to GOE that we need an autonomous body that has accountability and authority.. May an office of nutrition in the PM's Office.”

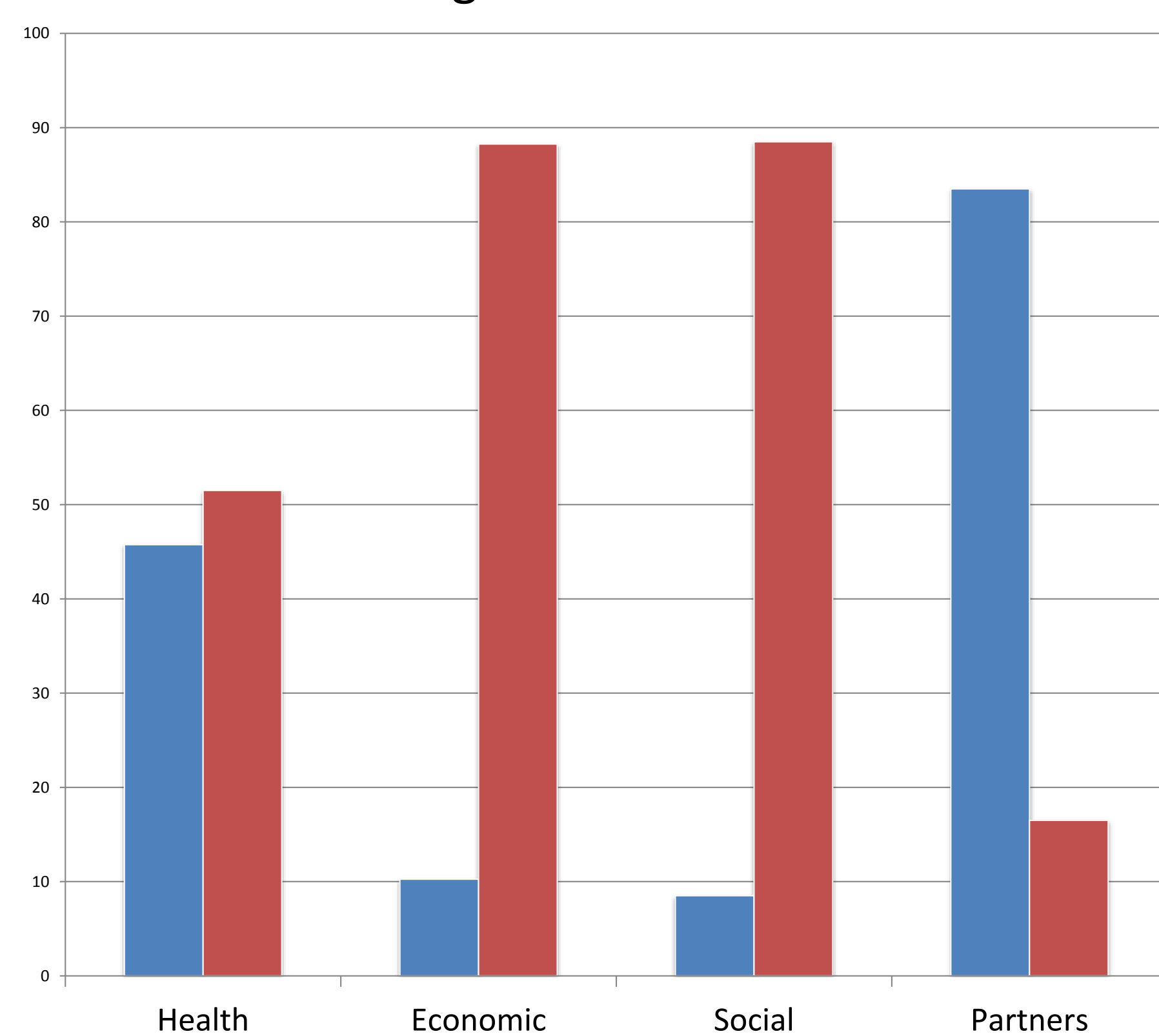
Major challenge during implementation of NNP by Region



Motivation factors to collaborate within and among sectors at region



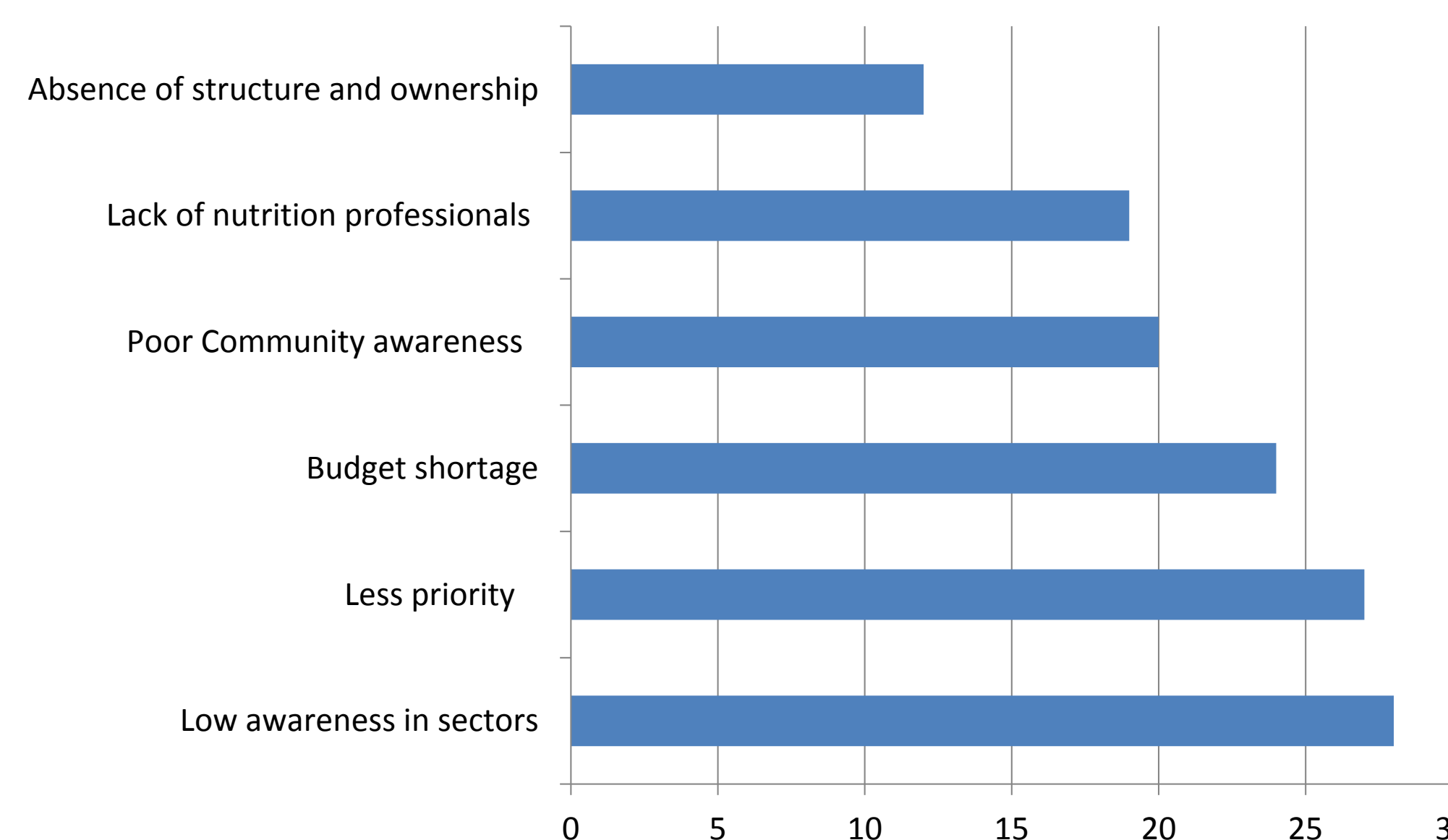
Knowledge on National Nutrition Strategy regional level



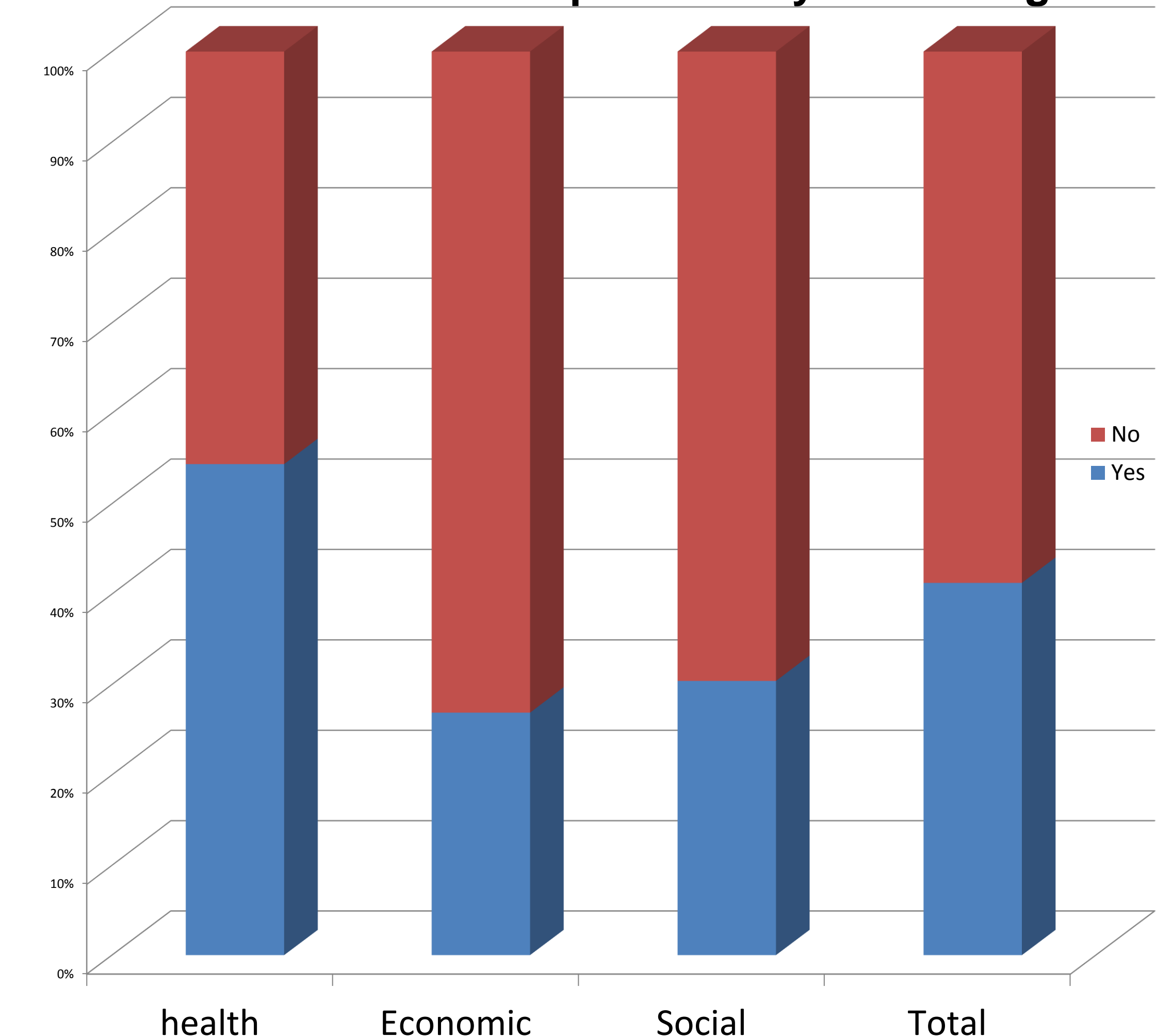
Knowledge on National Nutrition Strategy of Ethiopia

At federal level all of the study subject know the NN strategy
But, at regional level, there is wider gap observed.

Major challenges in collaboration and coordination nutrition at region



Trainings received in the field of agriculture, health or nutrition in the past three years in region



Recommendation

- Coordination: in the office of the Prime minister ,
- Maintain the high level of enthusiasm,
- Awareness creation at all levels,
- Capacity building,
- Establish monitoring and evaluation system and
- Nutrition focal person at all sectors level.

Acknowledgment

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