



The 7 Dakar Principles

Multisectoral Coordination for Effective Delivery on Nutrition

Nutrition is not, has never been and will never be a single sector issue, but a complex structural multi-sectoral technical, political and social issue that necessarily demands a combination of approaches, solutions acted upon in tandem at the same time and place, with concerted commitment, resources and mutual accountability. Adequacy of policy and legislative provisions for coordination can only be ensured when the right inclusive planning and implementation environments can be guaranteed.

Applying these principles is the key towards supporting the transformation of agriculture and food systems for better nutrition, health and overall development.

It is therefore important to underscore that multi-sectorality is a process that requires time, negotiation, and consensus building. Multi-sectorality starts and works best when;

- 1** Basic Structural issues are addressed including the **creation and setting up a "Nutrition (management) Office"** at the highest government office such as the Prime Minister, President or the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (e.g. Senegal, Mozambique, etc.).
- 2** Process issues such as joint planning and **joint implementation are instituted and enforced with** the right skills sets and capacities (e.g. Madagascar etc.).
- 3** **Territorial issues are prioritized** – Deliberate targeting to geographic areas and populations most in need or marginalized to ensure community based solution seeking and actions (e.g. Kenya etc.).
- 4** **Adequate Resources are allocated and managed for the right problem, at the right time, right place and for the intended and right outcome.** The actions/activities to implement should be evidence based, with adequate cost analysis and future projections for both Nutrition Sensitive and Nutrition Specific coverage at a desired scale.
- 5** **Synchronization of actions on the ground is present.** Actions must be planned to occur at the same place, same time, with a common goal, target and outcomes. This ensures value addition while leveraging complimentary inputs by the different actors and sectors (e.g. Burkina Faso, etc.).
- 6** **Strong legal framework and backing is evident in order to monitor adherence to laws, regulations and standards.** Enshrining the right to food and nutrition as a national constitutional issue creates an enabling environment for policy and programme action with sustainability (e.g. Kenya).
- 7** **Feedback based on evidence is regular.** Creating and strengthening National Food and Nutrition Surveillance Systems and knowledge management platforms to share and scale up good practices while being responsive to the immediate needs by all sectors.