

## **Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA)**

### **Guiding Principles**

#### Preamble

These Guiding Principles have been developed, following the first Partners Meeting of the Initiative held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from May 18 to 19, 2017, to complement the IFNA Declaration. The Guiding Principles would guide the activities of the Initiative by identifying multi-sectoral nutrition interventions in alignment with other international frameworks including such as Scaling Up Nutrition.

The Initiative helps accelerate food and nutrition security improvement on the ground through focusing the integration of agriculture into nutrition interventions which are in line with the nutrition policy of each target country, making the best use of existing good practices, and strengthening the capacity at the local level.

1. The nutrition interventions to be accelerated through the Initiative are expected to be in accordance with the following:
  - a. Identifying priority areas for actions of the IFNA (IFNA priority areas) within the framework of the national policy/strategy, the local context and the existing coordination structures;
  - b. Generating multi-sectoral synergy of well-coordinated interventions to enhance the impacts of nutritional improvement on the ground;
  - c. Giving particular focus on integration of the agriculture sector<sup>1</sup> interventions into nutrition interventions, in order to enhance sustainability and inclusiveness of the nutritional improvement in accordance with the country context; and
  - d. Utilizing good practices of various projects and programs at the local level, strengthening the capacity of stakeholders to establish and sustain nutrition practices.
  
2. The IFNA Country Strategy for Actions (ICSA) is developed for each of the target countries to specify, through discussions with the government and the relevant partners, the IFNA priority areas. In the process of preparing ICSAs, an inventory of existing nutrition coordination structures in each of the target countries<sup>2</sup> is made.

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<sup>1</sup> including fishery and livestock

<sup>2</sup> As per the IFNA Declaration, the lessons learnt and the good practices that are identified in the target countries shall be shared through a mutual learning process for the benefit of all African countries.

3. An appropriate public entity in each of the target countries is expected to play a coordinating role in the government to specify and endorse the IFNA priority areas, and to ensure implementation of the relevant interventions. Other partners, including international organisations, multilateral/bilateral organisations and NGOs, are encouraged to direct their resources to the IFNA priority areas specified in the ICSA, within their cooperation strategies and priorities, while private corporations are also invited to join this effort while pursuing their own economic interests.
4. The Initiative finally helps governments institutionalise successful experiences to ensure appropriate up-scaling and sustainability by reflecting successes and lessons learnt from the previous actions.
5. Effective collaboration with research institutes is necessary in order to increase the replicability of the successful cases through activities including, accumulation of scientific evidence for various nutrition interventions, analysis on contributing factors, as well as faced challenges for a more successful nutrition intervention. The output will be shared among the partners to facilitate implementation.
6. The IFNA joins the effort of other initiatives on advocacy activities to attract the global attention to the issues of nutrition and more resources are mobilised.

Amendment of the Guiding Principles can be made by the consensus of the Steering Committee.

(END)

Attachment: IFNA Declaration