



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING

Risk Management Guide for Multisectoral Nutrition Programs

1. Introduction

This guide provides practical strategies for stakeholders involved in multisectoral nutrition programs in Nigeria, emphasizing the critical role of risk management in achieving program goals. The unique challenges of coordinating across ministries, sectors, and agencies necessitate proactive approaches to risk identification and mitigation. By addressing potential barriers, this guide aims to ensure the successful implementation of nutrition interventions in Nigeria's complex operational environment.

2. Purpose of Risk Management in Nutrition Programs

Risk management in nutrition programs is a proactive process to anticipate, evaluate, and address risks that may affect planning and execution. This guide offers structured methodologies to minimize disruptions and enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of nutrition-focused programs.

3. Understanding Risk in Multisectoral Nutrition Coordination

In nutrition programs, risks can arise from internal and external factors that hinder program outcomes. Common sources of risk include:

- **Coordination Complexity:** Delays and miscommunication due to multiple stakeholders.
 - **Policy and Political Instability:** Shifts in policy priorities or changes in leadership.
 - **Funding Constraints:** Limited or delayed financial resources impacting activities.
 - **Human Resource Challenges:** Insufficient skilled personnel to support program delivery.
 - **Environmental and Health Emergencies:** Droughts, floods, or disease outbreaks affecting nutrition outcomes.
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4. Risk Assessment Framework

Risk Identification

Identify potential risks that could disrupt nutrition program success, including those related to policy, funding, staffing, and external emergencies.

Probability and Impact Scoring

Assess the likelihood (probability) and severity (impact) of each risk using a scoring system:

- **Probability:** 1 (Low) to 5 (High)
- **Impact:** 1 (Low) to 5 (High)

Risk Assessment Matrix

Prioritize risks based on probability and impact scores:

Risk	Probability	Impact	Risk Rating (P x I)
Policy Shifts	4	5	20
Funding Delays	3	4	12
Staff Gaps	2	3	6
Natural Disasters	3	5	15
Coordination Challenges	4	4	16

- **High Risk (15-25):** Immediate mitigation required.
- **Medium Risk (6-14):** Monitor and prepare contingencies.
- **Low Risk (1-5):** Routine monitoring.

5. Mitigation Strategies

Addressing Funding Constraints

- Diversify funding sources through partnerships with donors, governments, and private entities.
- Advocate for increased financial commitment to nutrition.
- Develop contingency budgets to address funding gaps.

Managing Political and Policy Instability

- Build relationships with key political stakeholders.
- Monitor policy trends and adapt implementation plans as needed.
- Advocate for consistent and supportive nutrition policies.

Improving Human Resources

- Conduct regular training and capacity-building for program staff.
- Collaborate with academic institutions to enhance workforce skills.
- Recruit technical experts for specialized program areas.

Mitigating Environmental and Health Risks

- Develop disaster preparedness and response plans.
- Establish early warning systems for floods, droughts, and disease outbreaks.
- Diversify program implementation sites to reduce localized impact.

Navigating Coordination Challenges

- Establish clear communication protocols among stakeholders.
 - Use technology to facilitate collaboration and reduce delays.
 - Create cross-sectoral task forces to manage integration.
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6. Monitoring and Evaluation of Risk Management Plans

Regular monitoring ensures the effectiveness of risk mitigation strategies:

- Conduct periodic reviews of risks and mitigation measures.
 - Define and track risk indicators specific to nutrition program goals.
 - Use stakeholder feedback to refine strategies.
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7. Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

Transparent and inclusive communication strengthens risk management:

- Share regular updates on risks and mitigation actions with stakeholders.
 - Engage stakeholders in collaborative decision-making processes.
 - Map and involve key stakeholders to foster ownership and accountability.
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8. Roles and Responsibilities in Risk Management

Define roles clearly to enhance risk management effectiveness:

- **Program Managers:** Lead the risk assessment and mitigation process.
- **Sectoral Leads:** Address risks within specific nutrition sectors.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation Teams:** Track and report risk indicators.
- **Finance Teams:** Monitor and manage financial risks.

9. Conclusion and Best Practices

Effective risk management enhances the resilience and success of multisectoral nutrition programs. Key practices include:

- Anticipating and identifying risks early during program planning.
- Using structured tools like risk matrices for comprehensive assessments.
- Engaging stakeholders for collaborative and inclusive risk management.
- Designing adaptable programs to respond to evolving risks.

By integrating these strategies, stakeholders can strengthen the implementation and sustainability of nutrition programs across Nigeria.