



## Ten Calls to Action to Increase Accountability for Nutrition Actions

### NGOs

#### CALL TO ACTION 1: Elevate the Role of Nutrition across the Sustainable Development Goals

In recognition of the critical role of nutrition in achieving several of the Sustainable Development Goals, leaders of the international finance institutions and the United Nations, other members of Scaling Up Nutrition Lead Group, and other national nutrition champions should advocate strongly for the set of SDG Nutrition Indicators proposed by the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition, and supported by a broad group of civil society organizations, to be included in the indicator set put forward to the UN Statistical Commission by the end of 2015

- 1.1 Leaders of the international finance institutions, the UN, other **members of the Scaling Up Nutrition Lead Group**, and other **national nutrition champions** should advocate for the inclusion of nutrition indicators in the set of indicators used to monitor the SDGs. Specifically, they should engage with the UN Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) to advocate for the six World Health Assembly (WHA) indicators and women's dietary diversity indicator. These indicators can be applied to the SDGs related to, for example, poverty, health, gender equality, and sustainable food systems.
- 1.2 Representatives of international agencies, nonmember governments, academia, and **civil society organizations** should participate as observers in meetings of the IAEG-SDGs to raise awareness of the proposed nutrition indicators.

#### CALL TO ACTION 2: Strengthen National Accountability on Nutrition Targets

**Presidential and prime ministerial offices** of countries that are off course to meet the World Health Assembly's global targets to improve maternal, infant, and young child nutrition should convene cross-government, cross-party, and multistakeholder consultations to discuss the challenges of meeting the global targets, course corrections they can make, and the support they need. The findings should be reported at the 2016 Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit hosted by the Government of Brazil in Rio de Janeiro and at any equivalent global or regional reporting opportunity.

- 2.2 **International organizations** such as the World Bank, the UN, and CGIAR should, in the lead-up to the 2016 N4G Summit in Rio, reiterate their willingness to provide support to countries that want to develop country-level nutrition targets. The strongest accountability targets are the ones that countries set for themselves

### CALL TO ACTION 3: Strengthen the Nutrition for Growth Process

**Signatories of the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Compact**, adopted in 2013, should carry out their commitments and give full reports on their progress to the *Global Nutrition Report* team for publication in 2016. At the 2016 N4G Rio Summit, **more governments, international agencies, external funders, civil society organizations, and businesses** need to make ambitious N4G commitments, which should be specific, measurable, assignable, realistic, and time-bound (SMART). These commitments from existing and new signatories should aim to achieve the WHA global nutrition targets by 2025 and, in line with the SDGs, end malnutrition by 2030.

- 3.1 **All signatories to the N4G Compact** should report on implementation of their commitments to the Global Nutrition Report team. In 2015 fewer signatories responded to requests to report on their commitments than in 2014. The share of signatories who are “on-course” for meeting their commitments remains below 50 percent.
- 3.2 **Existing N4G signatories** should seek to widen the N4G circle of commitment by inviting additional governments, international agencies, external funders, civil society organizations, and businesses to make SMART and ambitious pledges at the 2016 N4G Summit. At the moment, the N4G Compact has only 110 signatories, and nearly all of them are concerned with undernutrition rather than with malnutrition in all its forms.
- 3.3 **Civil society organizations** should take the lead on developing a “good pledge guide and template” in time for the 2016 N4G Summit. This would help existing and new N4G signatories to “SMARTen” their commitments. Only 30 percent of current commitments are SMART. The template would embed SMART principles and be used to evaluate draft commitments at the 2016 N4G Summit.
- 3.4 **The Global Nutrition Report Stakeholder Group** should commission an independent body to undertake a one-time evaluation of the process for assessing N4G commitments and make public recommendations for strengthening it. Current methods are limited since they rely on self-assessment by signatories and independent review by the Global Nutrition Report cochairs and Secretariat.

### CALL TO ACTION 4: Deliver Better Nutrition Outcomes with Existing Funding

To justify calls for more funding, **governments and donors** should continue to invest in ways of delivering better nutrition outcomes with existing funding. They should also demonstrate how they are seeking to improve the quality and effectiveness of current spending. **Governments** should continue to document their nutrition spending and engage with **researchers** to determine costs of nutrition strategies. **Donors** should report their disbursements, and **civil society organizations** should continue to call for transparent budgets. **Governments and donors** should increase their work with **researchers** to estimate budget allocations to obesity and nutrition-related noncommunicable diseases.

- 4.4 **Civil society organizations** should continue to call for transparent budgets from governments and donors and use budget allocation data to lobby for more, and more effective, spending on nutrition. Civil society has the credibility that others do not to press governments and donors to take these steps and to monitor whether resources are actually disbursed.

## CALL TO ACTION 5: Increase Funding for Nutrition Action

Governments spend, on average, between 1 and 2 percent of their budgets on nutrition, and donors spend approximately 4 percent—far too little to meet global nutrition targets by 2025. Accordingly, **governments** should—at a minimum—double the share of their budgets allocated to improving nutrition. **Donor** spending on nutrition will also need to more than double.

- No specific calls to action for this audience

## CALL TO ACTION 6: Implement Actions to Address Malnutrition in All Its Forms

**Governments, international agencies, civil society organizations, and businesses** should implement the ICN2 Framework for Action, which addresses malnutrition in all its forms. To encourage action, the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WHO** should, by the end of 2016, develop objective and verifiable indicators for determining how well the Framework for Action is being implemented. The **Committee on Food Security** should identify opportunities for making nutrition actions across sectors more coherent. **Civil society** should raise awareness and mobilize support for implementing the framework and highlight areas where progress is lagging. To encourage a focus on malnutrition in *all* its forms, **researchers** should identify actions that address both undernutrition and obesity/nutrition-related noncommunicable diseases synergistically and clarify the factors that can create an enabling environment for improving nutrition.

- 6.2 **Civil society organizations** concerned with undernutrition, as well as those concerned with obesity and nutrition-related noncommunicable diseases, should work together to mobilize support for implementing actions to address malnutrition in all its forms, including the Decade of Action on Nutrition proposed by the ICN2 Rome Declaration. Civil society organizations concerned with different aspects of nutrition have only recently begun to engage with each other. The Decade of Action on Nutrition is a key opportunity to come together to advocate a common cause and build momentum for action to reduce all forms of malnutrition.
- 6.3 Researchers who work on all forms of malnutrition should come together with the **international agencies** to identify nutrition actions that can address undernutrition as well as overweight, obesity, and nutrition-related noncommunicable diseases simultaneously. They should share their findings in a report at the 2016 N4G Rio Summit and other relevant forums. Although the synergies in approaches have been debated for more than two decades, there is no agreed-upon set of shared actions for addressing both undernutrition and obesity/nutrition-related noncommunicable diseases. Steps to create more enabling political environments, healthier food environments, and nutrition-friendly food systems, as well as to promote nutrition in children's first 1,000 days, all offer opportunities for addressing both kinds of malnutrition synergistically.
- 6.4 Researchers should work with **national nutrition champions** to document, analyze, monitor, and evaluate efforts to create enabling environments for the implementation of nutrition actions. Combining lessons from undernutrition, obesity, and nutrition-related noncommunicable diseases, including from recent Lancet series on these issues, they should bring the results together into action-oriented lessons and present them in an international journal by 2018. To accomplish this, researchers will need to (1) identify which actions to track, (2) develop metrics, methods, and databases to track progress on those actions, (3) analyze the effectiveness of the actions and the factors in their success, and (4) draw lessons between countries.

## **CALL TO ACTION 7: Actively Build Alliances between Nutrition and Climate Change Communities around Common Goals**

By the time of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP21) in November 2016, **the climate change and nutrition communities** should form alliances to meet common goals. The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** should form a group comprising nutrition and climate-health experts to assess the climate-nutrition literature and define new research and policy agendas. **Governments** should build climate change explicitly into their national nutrition and health strategies. And **civil society** should use existing networks to build climate change–nutrition alliances to advocate for nutrition at the COP21 and other leading climate change events and processes.

- 7.3 **Civil society** should lead the formation of climate-nutrition alliances to identify new opportunities for action on both fronts. Civil society groups should then present these new opportunities at side meetings at the 2016 COP in Marrakesh. Civil society groups concerned with nutrition should build climate change into their own activities.

## **CALL TO ACTION 8: Develop Indicators of the Impact of Food Systems on Nutrition and Health Outcomes**

Building on the food systems focus of the ICN2 in 2014, **global food systems initiatives** should, by the end of 2016, propose indicators of the impact of food systems on nutrition and health outcomes.

- 8.1 **Global food systems initiatives**, such as the Global Panel on Agriculture, Food Systems, and Nutrition (GLOPAN), the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food), and the EAT Initiative, should engage with the nutrition community to develop indicators and metrics for nutrition-friendly food systems. The process would include collecting nationally representative integrated data across agriculture, food systems, nutrition, and health. Support is needed to improve the data since it is currently difficult to link food systems with nutrition and health outcomes owing to disconnects between agricultural, food systems, and nutrition surveys.

## **CALL TO ACTION 9: Build a Greater Shared Understanding of the Roles and Responsibilities of Business in Nutrition**

Once the WHO Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors is finalized, the **four large UN agencies most concerned with nutrition—FAO, UNICEF, World Food Programme (WFP), and WHO—together with other relevant international bodies**, should establish an inclusive, time-bound commission to clarify the roles and responsibilities of **business** in nutrition.

- No specific calls to action for this audience

**CALL TO ACTION 10: Identify the Data Gaps that Hinder Effective Action—and Fill Them**  
**Countries, donors, and agencies** should work with the technical nutrition community to identify and prioritize the data gaps that are holding back action and then invest in the capacity to fill the

gaps. **All countries, including high-income countries**, should reach out to UN agencies to facilitate the conversion of their own data into international databases convened by the UN agencies.

10.2 Donors should fund an inclusive process—involving governments, the World Bank, UN agencies, **civil society organizations**, and donors—to identify remaining data gaps and invest in the international and national capacity to fill them. Data are needed to guide action, support advocacy, monitor progress toward the WHA and SDG targets, and strengthen accountability. Data gaps are holding back action, and yet there is currently inadequate information on the most critical gaps. The development of a long-term multidonor plan to invest in data should be well underway by the 2016 N4G Summit in Rio.

10.3 National governments, **international agencies**, and **program implementers** should place a special focus on collecting credible coverage data for interventions to prevent and treat undernutrition. Donors should increase support for (1) the development of global indicators of program coverage for interventions that need it and (2) research to identify factors associated with increases in coverage. Currently, internationally comparable data are available on the coverage of only 4 of 12 key interventions.