

# International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition

Terms of Reference as of October 6, 2020

**Document purpose:** This terms of reference is meant to define the International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition (ICAN). It is a shared document and its content reviewed on an annual basis.

**Overview:** ICAN represents a range of organizations, including advocates, implementers, campaigners, and foundations, united around one common goal: to save and improve lives through better nutrition. The Coalition serves as a platform where organizations work together to increase political will and action for more and better nutrition outcomes.

**Background:** ICAN was established in the lead up to the 2013 Nutrition for Growth Summit and has grown into a coalition of 40+ civil society organizations working to hold stakeholders, including ourselves, accountable to the realization of commitments. The work of the coalition is predominantly focused on advocacy to donors, bilateral governments, especially the G7 donors, but also has a strong focus on key global institutions including the World Bank and other development banks, and the United Nations (UN) and related UN agencies (WHO, FAO, WFP, UNICEF). Working with and alongside the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and SUN Civil Society Alliances, the Coalition supports a worldwide movement keeping malnutrition, in all its forms, at the top of global, regional and national agendas.

**Goal:** Strengthen civil society coordination and advocacy to realize the World Health Assembly (WHA) global nutrition targets by 2025, the 2025 NCD targets and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2.2 by 2030.

## Advocacy objectives

1. Advocate for new and better resources for nutrition by aligning financing with proven interventions and appropriate research
2. Mobilize political will to keep nutrition priorities high on global, regional and national agendas
3. Hold countries and other stakeholders to account to deliver on all commitments to nutrition
4. Develop and amplify coordinated messaging on global nutrition priorities to direct global discourse

Priorities are reviewed annually as a coalition and workplans are made available to all members.

## Areas of Strategic Partnership

The areas of strategic partnership for ICAN include, but are not limited to, the following:

*Stronger Together - Nutrition Advocacy at Scale:* Leverage the collective expertise of our various members and pool resources (i.e. information, best practices and evidence) to deliver targeted interventions to wider audiences. The weight of the collective action becomes a force that is much greater than that of individual organizations. The cross pollination of agency expertise also ensures that approaches consider broader systems thinking.

*Aligned Messaging:* Develop coordinated narratives, statements, and joint advocacy events to put nutrition at the center of development for key decision makers and policymakers.

*Evidence for Impact and Accountability:* Collate and amplify evidence, especially from civil society actors, to support improved accountability and tracking of nutrition commitments. Advocate for better allocation of nutrition resources based on country/community burdens of malnutrition in all its forms.

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### Principles of Engagement

- *Complementarity*: Members will work in a manner to support mutual goals and agreed objectives, to avoid duplication of efforts and to capture synergies aimed at achieving the objectives set out above.
- *Transparency*: Transparency and open communication in the collaboration and the management of the coalition will be exercised.
- *Mutual respect*: The policies and procedures of individual organizations will be respected.
- *Accountability*: Participation in ICAN is voluntary. All members are encouraged to demonstrate initiative and lead on projects and workstreams to achieve our shared goals.

**Membership**: Members should be civil society representatives already active or have an interest in becoming more active in global advocacy efforts to reach the global nutrition targets and SDG 2.2.

**How to apply**: Interested organizations are asked to submit a brief expression of interest, identifying an individual who will be the focal point for the organization, explaining how their organization is working or will work to support ICAN's goals and disclose any conflicts of interest. Expressions of interest should be submitted to [mgetachew@fhi360.org](mailto:mgetachew@fhi360.org). A follow-up meeting may be requested to learn more. Approval will be contingent on agreement of existing members, consistency with ICAN membership criteria and complementarity with ICAN's goals.

**ICAN Sub-groups**: Sub-groups would be member-led and the ICAN principles would be applied.

**National sub-group**: The development of national ICAN groups aligned with, and reporting into, the objectives of ICAN globally can be explored. Members of national groups need to be formal members of the ICAN Coalition but observers can be admitted by the national ICAN Coordinator.

**Thematic Working Groups and Task Teams**: Working groups may be created based on identified advocacy priorities. Temporary task teams may be formed as required for specific moments and/or opportunities. The ICAN Secretariat and members should conduct proactive outreach to prioritized partners and interest groups focusing on specific issues to strengthen cross-fertilization.

**Coordination Structure**: The ICAN Secretariat is hosted by 1,000 Days and is responsible for coordinating meetings, assisting in the development of group materials, identifying resources and driving progress on coalition activities. The strength of the Coalition is realized through the contribution of its members. The ICAN Secretariat organizes standing meetings<sup>1</sup>, including a periodic Face-to-Face meeting, and circulates an agenda in advance.

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<sup>1</sup> There is no limitation on the number of individuals per organization who wish to join ICAN meetings, though limits may be placed on attendance to in-person gatherings given capacity and space. Consultants working for ICAN member organizations are permitted to join so long as they are participating in an official capacity, on behalf of the ICAN member organization. If their work ceases, they will no longer be able to join and will be removed from Coalition communications. Individuals that are not ICAN members may be invited to participate in specific meetings to brief ICAN but will not be added as an ICAN member. All ICAN members are expected to operate with the highest degree of integrity and respect, both within the Coalition and in representing the Coalition to outside actors.