Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN)

Member States Briefing

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Climate change and malnutrition are two of the greatest challenges facing humanity today

**Climate change**
- It is likely that warming will **exceed 1.5°C** during the 21st century
- Projected to result in **250,000** additional premature deaths per year by 2050
- Projected to push **more than 100 million** additional people into extreme poverty by 2030
- More than 40% of the world’s population is highly vulnerable to climate change

**Malnutrition**
- As many as **828 million** people are undernourished
- Over **2 billion** people are affected by micronutrient deficiencies
- **676 million** people suffer from obesity
- An underlying cause in **nearly half** of all deaths of children under 5 years of age

The impact of malnutrition in all its forms is estimated to be **US$3.5 trillion** each year, and climate change is predicted to cost **US$3.7 trillion** each year.

Source: SOFI 2022; IPCC 2022
I-CAN is a multistakeholder, multi-sectoral global flagship program

Launched by the Government of Egypt at the “Adaptation and Agriculture” thematic day at COP27

Core partners include WHO, FAO, GAIN, SUN, and UN-Nutrition secretariat

Formally hosted as a climate and nutrition working group under the Alliance for Transformative Action for Climate and Health (ATACH) co-chaired by the Government of Egypt and GAIN
What does I-CAN aim to achieve?

Catalyze, mobilize, connect, and advocate for integrated climate and nutrition action

- Articulate a common, compelling narrative around climate and nutrition
- Build a strong alliance across nutrition and climate communities
- Develop and share the evidence base on integrated nutrition and climate action
- Strengthen existing efforts and take action to address gaps
Activities undertaken

• Consultation with interested Member States and partners (May 2023)
• Event during WHA75 (May 2023)
• Participation in ATACH General Meeting (June 2023)
• Event during Africa Climate Week (Sept 2023)
• Creation of I-CAN webpage on ATACH website

*Climate Action and Nutrition Working Group - The Community of Practice for Climate Resilient and Low Carbon Sustainable Health Systems (atachcommunity.com)*

• Development of narrative and key messages
• Development of 2 papers
• Bilaterals with interested Member States and partners
Measuring the baseline of climate and nutrition action today

The problem:
- Climate action is not scaling up rapidly enough
- Malnutrition reduction action is not scaling up rapidly enough
- We are missing opportunities to scale up climate action by not linking more strongly to nutrition (e.g., healthier diets reducing climate impact)
- We are missing opportunities to scale up nutrition action by not linking more strongly to climate

What we plan to do:
Publish a report outlining the current situation in climate and nutrition action, establishing global baselines for key outcomes

How does this help?
We hope that these numbers can help serve as:
- a mirror: where are we?
- a beacon: where do we want to be?
- a spotlight: who can we learn from?

Scope
Indicators were selected during COP 27 with input from the Egyptian Presidency
There are indicators under each of the following 4 pillars:
1. Implementation, Action, and Support
2. Capacity Building, Data, and Knowledge Transfer
3. Policy and Strategy
4. Investments
Outcomes of nutrition-sensitive, climate-smart systems drive sustainable development

- Reduced risk and vulnerability of people, communities, and economies to drive sustainable development

**Climate**
- GHG emissions reduced
- Biodiversity protected
- Natural resources preserved
- Negative coping reduced

**Agrifood systems**
- Diversity of foods
- Consumer demand driving supply
- Less food loss and waste

**Health systems**
- Data, policy, capacity for climate shock response improved
- Coverage of Essential Nutrition Actions secured

**Water systems**
- Lower emissions
- Efficient and adaptive management
- Stronger Natural Resource Base

**Social protection systems**
- Positive coping strengthened
- Economic and social barriers addressed
- Investment in climate-smart activities increased

**Well-being**
- Peace and stability

**Nutrition**
- Healthy diets
- Safe food
- Clean water
- Coping strategies enhanced
- Less illness

Healthier people, stronger economies, resilience to drive inclusive, sustainable development

Source: FAO, 2023

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Opportunities/next steps

• Work with Member States!
• CFS51 (23 – 27 Oct 2023)
  • Official I-CAN reception and side event (more here: https://www.fao.org/cfs/plenary/cfs51/side-events/en/)
  • Launch of I-CAN Baseline paper & Pathways paper
• COP28 (30 Nov – 12 Dec 2023)
  • Continue promoting the integration of nutrition and climate action through various I-CAN events