

ICAN Statement on Nutrition for Growth

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

August 4, 2016

On August 4th, the Brazilian government, supported by the United Kingdom and Japan, kicked off the race to end malnutrition in all its forms with an event in Rio de Janeiro on the eve of the Summer Olympics that highlighted progress since the last Nutrition for Growth summit in 2013. The International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition (ICAN), comprised of organizations working to improve policies and scale up global investments in nutrition, commends Brazil's leadership in bringing much needed attention to the growing and global problem of malnutrition. We also applaud the UK's important leadership -- as the host of the first Nutrition for Growth summit held alongside the G-8 Summit in 2013, the UK has been instrumental in building support for greater investment in nutrition.

Following the 2013 summit, governments committed to meet at the Rio Olympics and report on progress and make further commitments to help bring about an end to malnutrition. With this in mind, ICAN and its partner organizations are calling on the next hosts of the 2017 G-7 summit to seize the opportunity to lead the next Nutrition for Growth pledging moment, inviting Heads of State from around the world to make ambitious policy and financial commitments to scale up efforts to end malnutrition in all its forms by 2030.

Each year, malnutrition claims the lives of almost 3 million children, robs more than 2 billion people of their health and wellbeing, and costs the global economy over \$3 trillion in lost productivity and health care costs. For too long, the world has gravely underinvested in solutions to this pervasive problem. In fact, donors and countries spend only 1% of their aid and national budgets on high-impact nutrition programs that save lives and boost economic growth. New analysis by the World Bank and Results for Development estimates that an additional \$7 billion per year is needed to reach 4 of the 6 World Health Assembly nutrition targets by 2025. With what is at stake, and the potential gains, the momentum and leadership on nutrition must be maintained and driven forward through next year.

The next Nutrition for Growth Summit provides an historic opportunity to shift the world onto a path of greater health and prosperity for all, by eliminating malnutrition in all its forms by 2030 and making progress toward achieving the World Health Assembly targets and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 2. We stand ready to support the Italian government in their effort to ensure that all stakeholders commit to investing in proven nutrition interventions at Nutrition for Growth in 2017.