What is I-CAN? I-CAN is a multistakeholder, multisectoral global flagship initiative that will catalyze, mobilize, connect and advocate to address the critical nexus of climate change and nutrition. Developed by the Government of Egypt, as COP27 President, in partnership with WHO, FAO, the UN-Nutrition secretariat, GAIN, the SUN Movement, and other partners, I-CAN was launched at COP27 on 12 November 2022. The initiative leverages current global attention on food systems transformation for healthy people and a healthy planet to foster collaboration to accelerate transformative action on climate change and nutrition.

Governments, UN agencies, NGOs and the private sector need to focus on win-win policies, actions, and investments that simultaneously work to address climate change and improve nutrition for all, and in particular for children and vulnerable groups. I-CAN aims to support Member States to tackle climate change and nutrition through transformative action, accelerating progress in both.

Why I-CAN? Climate change and malnutrition are two of the greatest challenges facing humanity today and are intrinsically intertwined. By addressing these priorities in an integrated way, we have one solution to two of our biggest barriers to sustainable development.

Climate change is impacting agrifood systems, health systems, social protection systems and water systems - all of which are fundamental for good nutrition (Figure 1).

At the same time, inefficiencies and maladaptation in these four systems are further contributing to the drivers of climate change; namely greenhouse gas emissions and the degradation of natural resources. The impacts and exposure to risk factors of climate change and nutrition are not gender neutral. Inequalities in access to health and nutrition services and social protection, control over resources, agency and decision-making power are underlying drivers of malnutrition and climate change. As a result women and girls are differently exposed and have different abilities to respond to or cope with shocks. Over two-thirds of women and adolescent girls are affected by undernutrition, anaemia and/or micronutrient deficiencies, the rise in obesity in the past four decades has been 14.9% in women (10.8% in men). Compared to men, women and children are over 14 times more likely to be killed by climate fuelled disasters. Elevating the education, power and status of women needs to be central to the debate about solutions to address the global syndemic of obesity, undernutrition and climate change.

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1 FAO. Climate change, biodiversity and nutrition nexus. Rome, 2021.
3 UNHCR. 2022 Gender, displacement and climate change. https://www.unhcr.org/media/40595
If each of these systems were designed, and functioned, with nutrition and gender equality in mind, the results would be (1) affordable and accessible healthy diets; (2) safe food, free from pathogens and toxins that cause disease; (3) clean and safe water, efficiently managed for drinking and food production, well-functioning sanitation systems and good hygiene; and (4) enhanced care and services, particularly for children and women.

If these systems are designed and managed in a climate-smart way, they can significantly reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions, protect biodiversity, preserve natural resources, and reduce negative coping strategies – meaning each system has the potential to mitigate climate change. There are also numerous ways for each of the systems to maintain robust functioning in the face of climate change through integrated management that is adaptive to increasing temperatures, and climate-induced stresses and extreme events.

**I-CAN Goals, Activities and Deliverables**

The goal of **I-CAN** is to support Member States to deliver integrated nutrition and climate change adaptation and mitigation policy, action and investment at the national level to accelerate progress towards the achievement of their existing commitments. This will simultaneously improve nutrition, and trigger transformative action to deliver healthy diets, clean water, resilient communities and robust health systems, thus contributing to achieving the SDG 2030 Agenda, and specifically SDG2, SDG3, and SDG13. I-CAN offers tools and resources for Member States, provides a platform to share knowledge and best practices, disseminate the latest evidence, and build nutrition and climate partnerships. **I-CAN** will achieve its objectives through the following deliverables and activities:

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**Deliverables - 2023**

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

**Activities - 2023**

- Strengthen nutrition and climate partnerships
- Integrate I-CAN with UNFCCC COP processes
- Draft, refine and amplify a narrative around climate change and nutrition action
- Establish current baselines for indicators linking nutrition and climate
- Identify and share best practices
- Develop targets for nutrition and climate actions
- Facilitate new action to address gaps identified

Member States can support I-CAN by advocating for action at the climate nutrition nexus in the run up to COP28, championing actions taken and sharing best practices to inspire others.

**I-CAN Principles and Governance**

I-CAN is co-led by the government of Egypt and WHO. It is institutionally linked to ATACH; as an I-CAN Working Group, co-chaired by Egypt and GAIN. Under ATACH, meetings will be organized every six months to drive forward the agenda, ensuring political relevance, continuity, and leaving no-one behind.

WHO, as the official UN host agency, works in collaboration with FAO and other UN agencies and other partners such as GAIN and the SUN Movement to progress and monitor the key deliverables as outlined in the ToR. Key principles are respect for evidence, transparency, accountability and inclusion.

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6 WHO in capacity as secretariat to the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH), including the WHO country office for Egypt, who will act as main focal point to the Egyptian Government.

7 Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH) is a WHO-led initiative co-convened by the UK and Egypt as Presidents of COP26 and COP27 respectively; https://www.who.int/initiatives/alliance-for-transformative-action-on-climate-and-health
I-CAN Roadmap to COP28

Articulate narrative on climate and nutrition action

Establish baselines for key indicators

Develop targets for nutrition and climate action

Identify and share best practices

Identify gaps and facilitate new action

Strengthen nutrition and climate partnerships, engage Member States and non-state actors

Integrate I-CAN with UNFCCC COP processes

Deliverables by COP28

- Clear narrative on climate-nutrition shared
- Baseline report published
- Targets established
- Evidence on pathways published
- Gaps in action identified

Figure 2 Timeline to COP28