



Statement to the 142nd session of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization on the Draft thirteenth general programme of work 2019–2023, Agenda item 3.1

This statement is delivered by Action Against Hunger, supported by World Cancer Research Fund International, NCD Alliance, Results, 1000 Days & the International Coalition on Advocacy for Nutrition (ICAN).

We congratulate WHO for the ambitious **Draft 13th General Programme of Work**, but wish to share our concern about the lack of focus on nutrition.

45% of deaths among children under 5 are linked to undernutrition, while 41 million children under the age of 5 are overweight or obese, increasing their risk of developing NCDs later in life. Countries everywhere face at least one and often multiple burdens of malnutrition, underlining the urgent need for concerted action on nutrition.

While we strongly welcome the focus on NCD and obesity-related interventions to improve diets in platform 2 of the strategic priority “Healthier Populations”, we regret the omission of WHA nutrition targets, such as on breastfeeding, wasting, stunting & anemia. Protection and promotion of breastfeeding and action on stunting and wasting are critical for early childhood development and ensuring healthy, productive lives, including protection against NCDs. There are multiple opportunities to address this omission, e.g. in platform 1 “Improving human capital across the lifecourse” and recognition of nutrition as a preventive and protective intervention for health under the strategic priority on Universal Health Coverage.

We are surprised to find that the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) has not been included in GPW13. WHO’s role, together with FAO, to advance multi-sector collaboration within the Decade should be highlighted as a major opportunity for health and nutrition within Agenda 2030.

Finally, we applaud WHO for committing to speak out against “harmful practices” from the private sector, but call for a stronger stance in GPW13 on safeguarding the development and implementation of nutrition and NCD policies and programmes from commercial interests.