

# IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM OF THE CARTAGENA DECLARATION ON THE RIGHT TO NUTRITIONAL CARE AND THE FIGHT AGAINST MALNUTRITION

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ASOCIACIÓN COLOMBIANA  
DE NUTRICIÓN CLÍNICA

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## Description of the initiative

- **Background / context:** The Declaration on the Right to Nutritional Care and the Fight against Disease-related Malnutrition, adopted on the 3rd of May 2019 in Cartagena, Colombia by all the Latin-American societies, was an initiative promoted by The Colombian Clinical Nutrition Association (ACNC) and FELANPE in a joint initiative. The Declaration provides a coherent framework of thirteen principles that serve as a guideline for developing programs and actions in the field of clinical nutrition aiming to fight malnutrition. To translate these principles into concrete actions, we propose a program that should be based on a practical toolkit to be formulated.
- **Rationale for the initiative:** Despite decades of actions, malnutrition is still overlooked and nutritional care is suboptimal. Moreover, to date, no public health policies on nutritional care exist in Colombia. Thus, we propose using the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to address this issue. The Right to Nutritional Care is an emergent human right linked to the right to food and the right to health. It seeks to guarantee that all people, especially the malnourished ill, have access to nutritional care and, in particular, optimal and timely nutritional therapy so as to reduce the high rates of hospital malnutrition and the associated morbidity and mortality, among other things.
- **Objectives and scope:** To create a methodological toolbox kit that will allow the ACNC and other FELANPE societies to promote and implement the 13 principles of the Cartagena Declaration. This approach is a fundamental strategy to determine the role and obligation of different stakeholders (Governments and policymakers, health institutions, patients, healthcare professionals and caregivers). Moreover, this approach is essential to the implementation of the declaration's commitments to support policy formulation and impact assessment and transparency.

## Planned activities & deliverables

### • Outline the steps to be taken:

- Create the 13 principles toolkit. This will be formulated by experts in clinical nutrition through meetings, consensus conferences and workshops.
- Design and develop a web platform to manage data sources, host the toolkit and promote networking.
- Support public health policy formulation in clinical nutrition.

### • What are the concrete deliverables of the project?

1. Educational tool to promote the Cartagena Declaration.
2. Toolkit: a. Guidelines and practical tools to implement the nutritional care process. b. Guidelines and recommendations for patient empowerment in clinical nutrition. c. Consensus on nutritional core curriculum for medical schools. d. Ethics and transparency policy model to manage relations with the industry. e. Strategies and directives for public health policies in clinical nutrition.
3. Framework for performance and compliance indicators of the right to nutritional care.

### What achievements are possible in the next 12 and 24 months?

- 6 months: Educational tools, the call for experts, structuring working teams and development of web platform. 12 months: parts of the toolkit (a, b, c). 24 months: The complete toolkit and the framework for performance and compliance indicators.



<https://www.nutriclinicacolombia.org/propues-ta-declaracion-de-cartagena-2019/>

## Resources & enablers

- **Describe personnel, financial needs:** A part time project manager will be hired (€ 8,000). The financial needs are for the educational tools (€ 3,000), web platform (€ 6,000) and toolkit materials (€ 13,000). The ACNC will give administrative assistance to organize meetings, workshops and conferences.
- **Specify how the grant will be spent:** Salary for the part time project manager € 8,000. Development of videos and e-learning content for the educational tool € 3,000. Cost of the web platform design and management € 6,000. Logistical organization of the meetings and workshops and the tools' development (videos, web material, documents) € 13,000.
- **What factors will make it successful?**
  - A broad reception of the call for experts and its superior networking structure.
  - The interdisciplinary approach used in the tools' formulation.

## Results/outcomes & expected impact

- **How will the findings be implemented?** The findings (toolkit) will be used as a core element to promote the right to nutritional care in different healthcare settings, to promote recognition of this human right and to support public health policy formulation.
- **How will this project advance patient care / contribute to optimal nutritional care?** The toolkit is addressed to caregivers and healthcare institutions to facilitate the identification of patients at nutritional risk, to adequately diagnose malnutrition, and to deliver and monitor optimal nutritional therapy.
- **What makes the project innovative?** The use of the human rights approach and the development of the indicators framework.
- **Will the project be likely to influence national nutrition policy?** This is at the core of the rationale and one of the aims of the program.
- **Is the project transferable to other settings / countries?** Absolutely. The program will be scaled across Latin-American countries throughout the platform in partnership with the FELANPE societies.