

Global Poverty FY24 Appropriations Request

## Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition

**RESULTS requests \$1.15 billion for Maternal and Child Health within USAID, \$340 million for Gavi, and \$300 million for Nutrition within USAID in FY24.**

Around the world, a birth is often a joyful event. But for far too many families, it is a tragedy. Globally, maternal and child deaths are still unacceptably high, especially in low-income countries. Over the past thirty years, we've made incredible gains through targeted interventions, but progress has begun to stall. Every year, [300,000 women and girls](#) die from lack of basic healthcare for pregnancy and birth.

Additionally, because of health service interruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic, global vaccination coverage has suffered the largest backslide in 30 years. In 2021, [25 million infants](#) missed lifesaving vaccines. This is happening against a backdrop of a global food crisis and rapidly rising malnutrition which is creating a perfect storm for child health. In 2021 alone, [over 5 million children died](#) before reaching their fifth birthday—including 2.3 million newborns. **We must do more.**

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is the primary federal agency that administers foreign aid and development assistance. Over the past 60 years, USAID has demonstrated a strong record of developing programs and partnerships that save the lives of women, newborns, and children. In 2021 alone, USAID helped [more than 91 million women and children](#) access essential—often lifesaving—care. Investments in high-impact, evidence-based interventions to improve maternal and child health and nutrition are some of the “best buys” in international development and must be prioritized in U.S. foreign aid.

### Maternal and Child Health

USAID operates maternal and child health (MCH) programs in [25 priority countries](#) which together account for more than two-thirds of maternal and child deaths. The MCH account supports delivery of cost-effective, proven services like access to skilled birth attendants, emergency obstetric care, training for frontline health workers, etc. Annual investments to MCH provide life-saving treatments for leading killers of kids, such as pneumonia and diarrhea, but also technical support for crosscutting needs, such as improving the cold chain, the critical backbone for child immunization services reaching last mile programs.

### Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

The MCH account also supports Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, a public private partnership that has helped to prevent [more than 16 million future child deaths](#) since 2000. USAID provides essential technical support to support Gavi's efforts to continue lifesaving immunization

services and deliver vaccines to lower income countries. Vaccines are one of the most cost-effective interventions to save lives and prevent illness. Last year, [more than 700,000 children](#) died from pneumonia, despite the fact there are safe and inexpensive vaccines ([around \\$2.00 per dose](#)) and community health workers can be trained to provide affordable care in the community, before hospitalization is required.

## Nutrition, in Global Health

With resources from the nutrition account, USAID helps [14 Nutrition Priority Countries](#) strengthen their ability to deliver and monitor nutrition services—particularly for pregnant people, newborns, and children—through existing health structures. Counseling for breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding practices, monitoring child growth, and providing micronutrient supplements are pillars of this account. Nutrition investments in stunting (too short for age), wasting (too thin for height), anemia (low blood iron) and breastfeeding save lives, prevent disabilities, and generate hundreds of billions in economic returns. For example, the World Bank reports every dollar invested in breastfeeding yields \$35 in economic returns for a community.

Nutritious diets strengthen children’s immune system and lowers their risk of disease. When children are vaccinated against common childhood killers—like rotavirus which causes diarrhea—they are less likely to become malnourished from illness. These programs create mutually reinforcing protection for children and their families. Millions of children born today have a better chance of survival than in 1990. But progress is not happening quickly enough and there are significant gaps. Critical investments are needed.

## RESULTS FY24 Appropriations Request

As members of Congress submit annual appropriations requests to the relevant Appropriations Subcommittees, they can show their support by submitting a formal appropriations request form to Senators Coons and Graham or Representatives Diaz-Balart and Lee as Chairs and Ranking Members of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittees of Appropriations for MCH, Gavi, and Nutrition at the below funding levels. Contact RESULTS staff Crickett Nicovich for additional information: [cnicovich@results.org](mailto:cnicovich@results.org).

Account	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	RESULTS' FY24 Request
<b>USAID Maternal and Child Health</b>	\$851 million	\$855 million	\$890 million	\$910 million	\$1.15 billion
<b>Of which, Gavi</b>	\$290 million	\$290 million	\$290 million	\$290 million	\$340 million
<b>USAID Nutrition</b>	\$150 million	\$150 million	\$155 million	\$160 million	\$300 million