The First 1,000 Days
A Unique Window of Opportunity

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The Power of the First 1,000 Days

Pregnancy: Pregnancy - Birth

Babies developing in the womb draw all of their nutrients from their mother. Access to healthcare, nutritious foods, and a stable environment are critical for a child’s health and development.

Infancy: Birth - 6 Months

Breastmilk is superfood for babies and serves as the first immunization against illness and disease. Both mom’s and baby’s health and well-being are also essential during this period.

Toddlerhood: 6 Months - 2 years

This sensitive period or “window of opportunity” to eat healthy, nutritious diets protects against risk of childhood obesity and other chronic conditions.

Children who get the right nutrition in the first 1,000 Days:

- Are more likely to be born at a healthy birthweight.
- Have a lower risk of many illnesses and diseases, including obesity and type 2 diabetes.
- Go on to be better learners with fewer behavior problems in kindergarten.
- Enjoy improved health and economic security as adults.

www.thousanddays.org
What is malnutrition?

Malnutrition, in all its forms, includes undernutrition (wasting, stunting, underweight), inadequate vitamins or minerals (micronutrients), and overweight, obesity, and resulting diet-related noncommunicable diseases.

- World Health Organization
#InvestInNutrition

EARLY NUTRITION SUPPORTS HEALTHY BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

Stunted Child

Well-Nourished Child

This figure illustrates the difference between a stunted and a non-stunted child at 2-3 months of age. These findings should be considered preliminary until they can be replicated at the group level.
A Truly Global Issue:

Nearly 3 million children die every year due to malnutrition.

144 million children under age 5 globally have stunted growth (chronically undernourished).

More than one billion women and girls do not have access to the adequate nutrition and healthy diets they need to survive and thrive.

Nearly 1 in 6 children under 6 are food insecure.

Close to 1 in 8 children ages 2-5 has obesity.

Pre-pregnancy obesity is 29% (nearly 1/3) and more than half (56%) of mothers giving birth are overweight or obese.
Spotlight Interventions: The Power 4

Supply all pregnant women with prenatal vitamins

Despite the proven benefits of supplying pregnant women with a full dosage of multiple-micronutrient supplements (MMS), the majority of women do not have access to these critical supplements. MMS increases the chances a baby will be born at a healthy weight and survive to his or her second birthday.

Support breastfeeding mothers

Babies get the best start at life when they drink nothing but breastmilk until they are 6 months old, and continue breastfeeding until they are 2 years old while also consuming other nutritious complementary foods. Even though breastfeeding is the best way to protect newborns from malnutrition, infections, and disease, only 41% of babies around the world are exclusively breastfed. Many mothers who would like to breastfeed cannot access the support and information they need to be successful. One-to-one and group breastfeeding counselling helps provide mothers with the support they need to reach their breastfeeding goals.

Continue large-scale Vitamin A Supplementation

Supplying a child with two high doses of Vitamin A every year is one of the most cost-effective ways to protect children from blindness, diarrhea, and other fatal illnesses. Until recently, Vitamin A supplementation was routine and easily accessible because it had been paired with national polio vaccination efforts. However, now that polio has been mostly eradicated, these vaccination campaigns are being phased out. After years of increasing, the number of children who have access to Vitamin A coverage has started to drop alarmingly. Transitioning national Vitamin A supplementation efforts to a sustainable delivery platform is essential to ensuring children continue to receive this critical preventive regimen.

Expand coverage of specialized foods for treatment

The first priority of any nutrition program should be to make wasting treatment unnecessary by preventing children from ever becoming wasted. Unfortunately, millions of children every year still require wasting treatment. Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) is an energy-dense, life-saving product that gives wasted children the nutrients they need to survive. Yet we are reaching less than a quarter of even the most severely malnourished children. Expanding coverage of services will help ensure no child dies because they don’t have access to the fundamental treatment they need to stay alive.
An Affordable Package to Meet Four Global Nutrition Targets by 2025

Latest COVID-19 models call for an additional $1.2b in addition to the above to mitigate COVID-19's impact on nutrition and financing.
Recent estimates show that by 2022, an additional 12 million children will be severely malnourished, making them up to 11x more likely to die than their well-nourished peers.

Those who do survive a severe bout of malnutrition in early childhood are much more likely to suffer from lifelong illness and impaired cognitive development.

Heads of four key United Nations agencies recently identified a US $2.4 billion ‘Essential Package’ of four life-saving nutrition interventions that can be deployed today to make an immediate impact on the number of child deaths and disabilities this pandemic causes.
Historical and growing bipartisan support from Congress
- Currently there is a FY22 House Global Nutrition Dear Colleague Letter led by Reps. McGovern (D-MA) and Fitzpatrick (R-PA) asking appropriators for $300 million for USAID Nutrition programs in Global Health. The FY2021 enacted level is $150 million.

Key programs at USG Programs:
- **Advancing Nutrition**: USAID’s flagship multi-sectoral nutrition project working to strengthen the enabling environment for and support country-led scale-up of effective, integrated and sustainable multi-sectoral nutrition programs, interventions and food and health systems.
- **Feed the Future**: the U.S. Government’s global hunger and food security initiative working to give families and communities in some of the world’s poorest countries the freedom and opportunity to lift themselves out of food insecurity and malnutrition.
Scaling Up Nutrition: Countries are leading the charge

63 countries and the Indian States of Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh have committed to Scaling Up Nutrition and are working collectively, as a Movement.