

September 2024 Action Sheet, Global Poverty

Ask Congress to sign onto letters on global nutrition

The world is getting better at providing a healthier start to life for all children. Global child deaths have decreased by more than half since 1990. This is due to longstanding support and partnerships. But last year, almost five million children still died before their fifth birthday. Most of these deaths were from preventable or treatable causes in impoverished countries. Malnutrition was the underlying cause of almost half of those deaths. Illnesses are far more dangerous for a malnourished child.

The problem of global malnutrition goes far beyond lack of food. According to the United Nations, we already produce more than enough food to feed the world. We also need to make sure that people have access to the right types of nutritious foods at the right time. Calories alone aren't enough because we all need proper nutrition to thrive. At certain times in life, we have even more unique nutritional needs. Pregnant people, adolescent girls, and young children need specific micronutrients to stay healthy.

We know that over half of preschool aged children worldwide have micronutrient deficiencies. More than 1 billion women of reproductive age have micronutrient deficiencies as well. Millions of people cannot access good nutrition when they need it most. Malnourished children can face lifelong disability or death.

We must prevent malnutrition. We must detect malnutrition early. We must treat childhood malnutrition. This will create positive effects for generations. The return on investment in nutrition interventions is significant. Studies show that for every \$1 invested, society recoups as much as \$35 in economic returns.

Every four years, the host of the Olympics also hosts the Nutrition for Growth Summit. World leaders from governments, businesses, and nonprofits will come together. During the Summit, stakeholders will make pledges and commitments towards ending malnutrition. As a global leader in health, many eyes will be on the U.S. in the lead up to Nutrition for Growth. If the U.S. shows strong positive signals early, it will inspire increased commitments from others. The world must "crowd in" more funds for malnutrition.

Malnutrition contributes to almost half of all child deaths. The U.S. must lead. We need a bold set of policy and funding pledges to support the global community. That's where you come in. Ask your senators and representative to sign onto the Nutrition for Growth Dear

Colleague letters. These letters are bipartisan. Representatives McGovern (D-MA) and Salazar (R-FL) lead the [House letter](#) (deadline is September 12).

Sample Letter to Member of Congress and/or Foreign Policy Aide in EPIC Format

Consider organizing a group or community action-taking activity to call on your members of Congress to take action. Invite RESULTS group members, Action Network members, people from your state's warm leads list, and others who care about these issues to write to and call your congressional legislators. You can find a [sample meeting agenda here](#).

Subject: Please support congressional letters on global nutrition

Engage: Last year, almost five million children still died before their fifth birthday.

State Problem: Most of these deaths were from preventable or treatable causes in impoverished countries. Malnutrition was the underlying cause of almost half of those deaths.

Inform: The return on investment in nutrition interventions is significant. Studies show that for every \$1 invested, society recoups as much as \$35 in economic returns. If the U.S. shows strong positive pledging signals early in the run-up to the Nutrition for Growth Summit, it will inspire increased commitments from others.

Call to Action: Will you sign onto the Nutrition for Growth Dear Colleague letter(s)? These letters are bipartisan. Representatives McGovern (D-MA) and Salazar (R-FL) lead the [House letter](#). (More details on the Senate letter are coming soon.)