

# APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

## Child Health and Nutrition

In 1990 the number of under-five child deaths was soaring at over 12 million children each year dying of mainly preventable and treatable causes in the world's poorest places. But, through smart investments in development that have built the foundations for health, and by countries themselves increasing access to cost-effective health programs, **the number of children who die each year before age five has shrunk by over half.**

### FY16 FUNDING REQUEST:

- Fund Maternal and Child Health at \$850 million
- Fund Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, at \$235 million
- Fund Nutrition in global health at \$200 million

While huge strides have been made, over 17,000 children still die each day before they reach their fifth birthday. More must be done to ensure that where a child is born does not determine whether or not she lives.

USAID's 2014 report *Acting on the Call: Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths* provides a roadmap to accelerate health outcomes and save lives by prioritizing effective, evidence-based interventions based on country needs. To reach the goal of ending preventable child deaths by 2035, USAID has set bold, intermediate goals of saving 15 million child lives and 600,000 women's lives by 2020. By working with poor countries to create sustainable change, together we can end preventable child deaths in a generation, if we accelerate momentum.

## Why Funding Matters

U.S. investments in maternal and child health are saving lives, providing equal chances for children to survive and thrive, and creating lasting difference.

- **Maternal and Child Health:** Training skilled birth attendants and frontline health workers, providing treatment for leading killers of kids such as pneumonia and diarrhea, and increasing capacity for technical support are improving health systems in poor countries.
- **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance:** Since 2000, Gavi supported the 73 poorest countries to immunize almost half a billion children, which will save over 6 million lives. Gavi is a global partnership between donor and developing countries to roll out new and underutilized vaccines. As part of a commitment to improve their own child health, all Gavi-eligible countries co-finance a portion of vaccine costs. U.S. funding for Gavi will support its strategy of immunizing an additional 300 million children by 2020, saving an additional 5 million lives.
- **Nutrition:** Forty-five percent of all under-five deaths are attributed to malnutrition. Ensuring quality nutrition during the "1,000 Day" period from pregnancy to a child's second birthday is critical to saving lives and preventing stunting, which impacts a child's physical and cognitive development and has a life-long impact on education and economic outcomes.

## D.S.’s Story

Dr. Duresamin Akram, known as D.S., often shares about growing up as a child in Pakistan in the ‘50s and ‘60s in the era of smallpox, polio, and other childhood infectious diseases that younger doctors she taught at Dow Medical University in Karachi, Pakistan now rarely see on pediatric rotations.



Pakistani health worker delivering vaccines. Photo Credit: Gavi/Asad Zaidi

“These diseases infected both the richest and the poorest among us, they did not show favor,” she relates as her own brother almost died of diphtheria as a child. As his older sister, she held him, listening to his struggle to breathe overnight, waiting until morning for a doctor to arrive to diagnose and treat him. Thanks to treatment he received, her brother lived.

In Pakistan, the coverage rate for the diphtheria vaccine (now part of the pentavalent vaccine which was introduced with the support of Gavi) is so high, D.S.’s former students have never seen the disease in person, and only know of it from text books and stories. D.S. says, “The vaccines are working, our infection rates for diphtheria and other diseases are coming down.”

She gives similar accounts on improved nutrition in the country, from extreme cases of kwashiorkor, the worst kind of malnutrition recognized by sight from the extended limbs and swollen bellies in young children. “This we rarely see now. We still have to fight malnutrition and promote 1,000 Days, but we have made progress.” D.S.’s goal both in her work as a pediatrician and in her role as an advocate is to have all of these vaccine-preventable diseases and issues of malnutrition in Pakistan identified by her students only in text books.

## RESULTS’ Request and Funding History

As members of Congress submit annual appropriations requests to the relevant Appropriations Subcommittees, they can show their support for ending preventable child deaths by requesting funding in the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for two accounts within Global Health – the Maternal and Child Health Account, which includes funding for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the Nutrition Account.

To do so, please submit two formal appropriations request forms for the Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition accounts to Senators Graham and Leahy or Representatives Granger and Lowey as Chairs and Ranking Members of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittees of Appropriations. Contact RESULTS staff Crickett Nicovich for support: [cnicovich@results.org](mailto:cnicovich@results.org).

| Fiscal Year                              | FY12            | FY13            | FY14          | FY15          | RESULTS’ FY16 Request |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Maternal and Child Health Account</b> | \$605.6 million | \$627.3 million | \$705 million | \$715 million | \$850 million         |
| <b>Gavi (in MCH)</b>                     | \$130 million   | \$138 million   | \$175 million | \$200 million | \$235 million         |
| <b>Nutrition Account</b>                 | \$95 million    | \$95 million*   | \$115 million | \$115 million | \$200 million         |