

Increase FY 2022 Funding for Global Child Nutrition Programs

****Deadline – COB Thursday, April 22nd****

NGO Support: *1,000 Days, Action Against Hunger, Alliance to End Hunger, Bread for the World, CORE Group, CARE, Farm Journal Foundation, Food for the Hungry, Global Citizen, Global Communities, Grandmother Project - Change through Culture, HarvestPlus, Hellen Keller International, John Snow, Inc. (JSI), PATH, Pathfinder International, PCI – a Global Communities Partner, RESULTS, RISE Institute, World Vision International*

Dear Colleague,

We invite you to join us in supporting increased funding in FY 2022 for the Nutrition sub-account under Global Health Programs to support desperately needed interventions addressing child nutrition, malnutrition, food insecurity and nutritional deficiencies.

The significant and dire impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had and continues to have on the world's most vulnerable children is reason enough to significantly increase funding. But most importantly, these high impact life-saving and life-changing nutrition interventions can most easily and swiftly be expanded and scaled up in response to the urgency of the current crisis.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, one in three children under five years old was suffering from malnutrition. Experts writing in the medical journal *The Lancet* estimate that an additional 9.3 million children under the age of five are likely to suffer from acute malnourishment (wasting) as a result of the pandemic, leading to as many as 10,000 additional children dying each month. Save the Children estimates that pandemic-related malnutrition is projected to kill an average of 153 children a day over the next two years if further action is not taken.

To join the letter, or for further information, please contact Cindy Buhl (McGovern) at cindy.buhl@mail.house.gov or Evan Schuler (Fitzpatrick) at evan.schuler@mail.house.gov. Deadline to sign onto the letter is **COB, Thursday, April 22nd**.

Sincerely,

James P. McGovern

Brian Fitzpatrick

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

LETTER TEXT

Dear Chairwoman Lee and Ranking Member Rogers,

As you determine priorities for the Fiscal Year 2022 State, Foreign Operations and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, we respectfully request than you **provide \$300 million for the Nutrition Account within the Global Health Programs account at USAID.**

This Committee has long been committed to supporting critical, life-saving investments in global health, food security, and nutrition. In 2019, USAID reached 27.2 million children with high impact, life-saving nutrition interventions. Between 2000 and 2019, the number of stunted children under five years of age declined from 198 million to 144 million.

The centrality and high value impact of these nutrition interventions are why we are taking the extraordinary step in requesting a doubling of funds for the Nutrition Account. The significant and dire impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had and continues to have on the world's most vulnerable children is reason enough to significantly increase funding. But most importantly, these nutrition interventions can most easily and swiftly be expanded and scaled up in response to the urgency of the current crisis.

As you are aware, the Nutrition programs focus on evidence-based interventions that affect the very foundations of a child's physical and cognitive development and survival. They prevent or treat anemia, stunting and wasting (acute malnutrition), and they promote breastfeeding during the first two years of a child's life. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, one in three children under five years old was suffering from malnutrition. Experts writing in the medical journal *The Lancet* estimate that an additional 9.3 million children under the age of five are likely to suffer from acute malnourishment (wasting) as a result of the pandemic, leading to as many as 10,000 additional children dying each month. Save the Children estimates that pandemic-related malnutrition is projected to kill an average of 153 children a day over the next two years if further action is not taken.

The Nutrition Account has received only the most modest increases for years. The scale of the challenges brought on by the pandemic require us, however, to respond in kind. We respectfully urge you to **provide \$300 million for the Nutrition Sub-Account for FY 2022** and to accordingly increase the overall funds for the Maternal Child Health account and the Global Health Programs in order to accommodate this necessary increase for nutrition interventions.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or require additional information.