

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

Nutrition in Global Health

RESULTS requests \$300 million for Nutrition within USAID Global Health.

Globally, we've collectively, consistently failed to secure even the most basic nutrition for many of the world's children. Proper nutrition is critical to healthy growth, laying the building blocks for cognitive abilities, motor skills, and socio-emotional development. During the first 1,000 days between pregnancy and a child's second birthday children's brains grow faster than at any other stage of life. This window of rapid development is also a time of vulnerability. **The consequences of early malnutrition are devastating and permanent, but they are also entirely preventable.**

Most recent accounting shows nearly one out of every five children globally is stunted – meaning they will never meet their full potential. Stunting is the irreversible physical and cognitive result of chronic malnutrition during the critical 1,000-day period. That's a staggering [144 million](#) young children failing to grow well each year because they did not get the right micronutrients and vitamins needed to thrive—and that is before the COVID-19 pandemic caused additional economic pressures and stress on health systems. Pre-COVID-19, malnutrition contributed to [nearly half](#) of the deaths of children under five.

Nutrition and COVID-19

Childhood malnutrition goes hand-in-hand with poverty globally: it is both a devastating consequence and a key driver of poverty. Due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, global extreme poverty is expected to rise for the first time in over 20 years. As many as [150 million](#) additional people will be driven into extreme poverty, defined as living on less than \$1.90 a day, which will have devastating impacts on the nutrition of children in low-income countries. **In [projections](#) of COVID-19-related disruption to health and nutrition services, wasting – a form of severe malnutrition – is the single biggest driver of increased child deaths.**

Food aid is a critical component of U.S. nutrition assistance and the COVID-19 response, but young children need specific nutritional support to feed their growing minds and bodies. It's essential that pregnant women, infants, and toddlers have access to the nutrients *and* calories they need to grow well. Prioritizing nutrition to fortify healthy mother and child immune systems is key during COVID – as acute malnutrition is a pre-existing condition that too often kills. But kids with proper nutrition in the first 1,000 days are far more likely to [overcome](#) other leading childhood killers, such as pneumonia or diarrhea.

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Why Funding Matters

Proper nutrition during the window starting with a woman's pregnancy and ending with a child's second birthday sets children on a path toward reaching their full potential. The critical U.S. investments in the direct nutrition interventions are supported in 22 countries with high rates of under-five child mortality and stunting, but more must be done reach the most vulnerable and at-risk mothers and children.

With additional funding, USAID could:

- Respond to increased malnutrition as a result of COVID through treatment and prevention of wasting, including through the provision of specialized nutritious food such as ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF, e.g., Plumpy'Nut).
- Maintain proven, high-impact nutrition interventions, such as vitamin A supplementation that can reduce deaths by up to 24 percent in children who are deficient, treatment of anemia in women and adolescent girls, and promotion of and support for breastfeeding.

With USAID support, breastfeeding is saving lives in Tanzania



The rate of exclusive breastfeeding of infants under 6 months has increased in Tanzania over the past 10 years. But more work must be done—less than 60 percent of infants under 6 months are exclusively breastfed in Tanzania and 40 percent of children in the country are malnourished.

Isabela Hwinzela Bigendako – also known as Nurse Isabella or “Mama Breastfeeding” – is a passionate advocate and breastfeeding educator. Isabella has been a nurse in Morogoro, Tanzania for nine years. She participated in a USAID-supported mentorship training for community healthcare providers to learn best practices for maternal and child health, including providing breastfeeding education, counselling, and support to pregnant women and new families. Infants that are exclusively breastfed are 14 times less likely to die within their first six months of life. Isabella spreads this lifesaving information in her community through working directly with patients and mentoring and building the skills of other health workers.

Promoting breastfeeding is crucial in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic to provide infants with the nutrients and immune support they need to better fight off infections.

Full story on [USAID Medium](#).

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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 and fighting stunting by requesting funding in the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for Nutrition Account in Global Health.

To do so, please submit a formal appropriations request form for the Nutrition account to Senators Coons and Graham or Representatives Lee and Rogers as Chairs and Ranking Members of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittees of Appropriations. Contact RESULTS staff Crickett Nicovich for support: cnicovich@results.org.

Fiscal Year	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	RESULTS' FY22 Request
Nutrition Account in Global Health	\$125 million	\$145 million	\$150 million	\$150 million	\$300 million