

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

Nutrition in Global Health

RESULTS requests \$300 million for Nutrition within USAID Global Health in fiscal year 2023.

All children deserve a strong start in life, regardless of where they are born. As a leader in global health and development, the U.S. has been instrumental in [reducing](#) the number of countries with very high prevalence of child malnutrition by half over the past 20 years—from 67 to 33. But progress is not happening quickly enough. In 2020 alone, [5 million](#) children died before their fifth birthday, and most of these deaths were preventable.

In 2020, nearly [150 million](#) children under 5 were affected by stunting (too short for their age) and over [45 million](#) were affected by wasting (too thin for their height). Both stunting and wasting are forms of severe malnutrition and indicate that a child has not received adequate calories, nutrients, or both, to develop to their full potential.

Proper nutrition is necessary for healthy growth and lays the building blocks for a strong immune system, 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. Each day counts for the world's children and their families—failure to act now will have dire long-term consequences that affect poverty and malnutrition levels for years.

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 increased for the first time in over 20 years. Although some economic recovery is occurring, it is not reaching all regions or communities equally. In the world's most impoverished countries the impact of COVID-19 on poverty is present and [worsening](#), which will have disastrous impacts on the nutrition of children.

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 is key during COVID-19, as kids with proper nutrition in the first 1,000 days are far more likely to [overcome](#) infections, particularly from leading childhood killers, such as pneumonia or diarrhea.

Why funding matters

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

With additional funding, USAID could:

- Respond to increased malnutrition 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—which can reduce deaths by up to 24 percent in children who are deficient, and promotion of and support for breastfeeding.

The financial case for investing in nutrition

- Nutrition is one of the “best buys” in international health, with **every \$1 invested** in nutrition resulting in up to \$35 in economic returns
- Malnutrition in all its forms could cost society up to **\$3.5 trillion** per year
- Malnutrition can rob individuals of up to **10 percent of their annual earnings** due to reduced education and productivity

USAID working to support breastfeeding around the world

“I am exclusively breastfeeding our daughter... as a result of this support, my 4-month-old baby Angela doesn't get sick like my 3-year-old who wasn't exclusively breastfed.”

—Susan Alabada

Breastmilk provides the ideal nutrition for infants, supports their cognitive and physical development, and bolsters their immune system. Infants under six months old who are breastfed and three to four times more likely to survive, on average, compared to infants who have not been breastfed.

In Uganda, Susan Alabada received USAID-supported breastfeeding counselling from a local midwife and received support from her husband who attended trainings from the Village Health team.

[*Read the full story here.*](#)

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.

	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	RESULTS FY23 Request
Nutrition Account in Global Health	\$145 million	\$150 million	\$150 million	TBD	\$300 million