**FY23 SFOPS Appropriations Programmatic Request: Nutrition**

- **Agency** - USAID
- **Account** – Global Health
- **Subject/Sector** – Nutrition
- **Type (Funding or Language)**
- FY23 Administration/Budget request level - $150 million for Nutrition
- FY22 Administration/Budget request level – $150 million for Nutrition
- FY23 Enacted level – $160 million for Nutrition
- Your suggested FY23 request level – $300 million for Nutrition
- **Rationale/Justification** –
  
  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. 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.

  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. Additionally, the financial case for increasing nutrition funding is clear:

  - 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

- **Bill or Report Language Recommendation (and please indicate if language recommendation is new or from a previous year)** N/A
