

Join the FY24 Letter to Support the Maternal and Child Health, Gavi Alliance, and Nutrition Accounts at USAID

****Deadline COB March 22****

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to join us in signing the attached bipartisan letter to the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, urging the Chair and the Ranking Member to support funding for three key Global Health Programs at USAID. Specifically, it requests \$300 million for the Nutrition account and \$1.15 billion for the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) account, which includes \$340 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

While reductions in global mortality rates for women and children are two of the biggest success stories in international development, progress has slowed over the past 12 years. There remain significant gaps that additional investments can help close. In 2021, 5 million children under age five died from mainly preventable and treatable diseases, with malnutrition as the underlying cause of roughly half of these deaths. Additionally, 300,000 women die annually of preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. Funding these accounts are vital for maintaining U.S. leadership in the global effort to safeguard and improve the health of women and children.

Please use this [Quill link](#) to sign on to this letter. For any questions or concerns, please contact Matthew Clarkin (matthew.clarkin@mail.house.gov) with Representative Fitzpatrick.

Sincerely,

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress

Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Lee,

As you determine priorities for the Fiscal Year 2024 State, Foreign Operations and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, **we respectfully request that you provide \$300 million for the Nutrition account, and \$1.15 billion for the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) account, which includes \$340 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, within the Global Health Programs account at USAID.** Adequate funding for the Nutrition and MCH accounts is critical to preserving effective, evidence-based, poverty-focused assistance that saves lives and helps strengthen economies in low and middle income countries (LMICs).

This Committee has a long-standing record of supporting critical, life-saving investments in global child and maternal health and nutrition. In 2021, USAID helped 91 million women and children access essential health services, reaching 31 million children and 11 million pregnant women with lifesaving nutrition interventions.

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The MCH account supports delivery of cost-effective, proven services in countries where the burden of preventable deaths is often the highest. USAID's lifesaving investments provide access to skilled birth attendants and emergency obstetric care, training for frontline health workers, safe water, sanitation and hygiene in healthcare facilities, health commodities, and nutrition services like breastfeeding support.

A critical portion of the MCH account supports Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, a public-private partnership that has helped to immunize a whole generation—more than 981 million children—and prevented more than 16 million deaths, helping to halve child mortality in lower-income countries since 2000. UNICEF reports for the first time in decades the number of children receiving zero doses of life-saving vaccinations have been on the rise in the wake of pandemic disruptions of the routine immunization programs. Resources for Gavi bolsters efforts to continue necessary immunization and deliver vaccines to lower income countries, USAID's technical support is essential to support these efforts and enable equitable access to vaccines.

The Nutrition account supports nutrition programs for women and children, focusing on the first 1,000 days between pregnancy and a child's second birthday. It is crucial to reach children and their caregivers early in life with interventions like breastfeeding support and vitamin A supplementation to prevent malnutrition. When children are malnourished, early detection and access to therapeutic foods can save lives.

Severely malnourished children are much more likely to have weakened immune systems and are at risk of permanent physical and mental stunting, which prevents them from reaching their full educational, social, and earning potential. Malnutrition costs the world \$3.5 trillion in lost productivity and healthcare costs each year. The current global food crisis, fueled by conflict, climate shocks and the threat of a global recession, continues to threaten the lives of women and children globally. Full funding of the nutrition account is critical for saving lives and reaching USAID's goal of ending preventable child and maternal deaths.

To improve global maternal and child health and nutrition, we respectfully urge you to provide \$300 million for the Nutrition account, and \$1.15 billion for the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) account – which includes \$340 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance – within the Global Health Programs account at USAID.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the United States maintains its leadership in this global effort.