**FY24 SFOPS Appropriations Programmatic Request: Maternal and Child Health, including Gavi**

**Agency** – USAID

**Account** – Global Health

**Subject/Sector** – Maternal and Child Health, including Gavi

**Type** (Funding or Language)

**FY24 Administration/Budget request level** – $910 million, of which $300 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

**FY23 Administration/Budget request level** – $880 million, of which $290 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

**FY22 Administration/Budget request level** – $879.5 million, of which $290 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

**FY23 Enacted level** – $910 million, of which $290 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

**FY22 Enacted level** – $890 million, of which $290 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

**Your suggested FY24 request level** – *$1.15 billion, of which $340 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance*

**Rationale/Justification** –

Around the world, a birth is often a joyful event. But for far too many families, it is a tragedy. Globally, maternal and child deaths are still unacceptably high, especially in low-income countries. Every year, 300,000 women die from pregnancy related complications. In 2021 alone, over 5 million children died before reaching their fifth birthday—including 2.3 million newborns. We must do more.

Through critical USAID investments, in 2021 Maternal and Child Health programs helped more than 91 million women and children access essential—often lifesaving—care. Investments in high-impact, evidence- based interventions to improve maternal and child health are some of the “best buys” in international development and must be prioritized in U.S. foreign aid.

While gains have been made, progress has stalled. Because of health service interruptions during the pandemic, global vaccination coverage has suffered the largest backslide in 30 years. In 2021, 25 million infants missed out on lifesaving vaccines altogether. The MCH account, which also funds Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, has helped to prevent more than 16 million future child deaths since 2000 and have immunized almost 1 billion children globally.

Gavi’s work to deliver vaccines to lower income countries is critical for fighting leading killers of kids – pneumonia, diarrhea, and malaria. Vaccines are one of the most cost-effective interventions to save lives and prevent illness. Last year, more than 700,000 children died from pneumonia, despite the fact there are safe and inexpensive vaccines (around $2.00 per dose) and community health workers can be trained to provide affordable care in the community, before hospitalization is required.

Additionally – Gavi is now supporting country strategies to roll out the first ever malaria vaccine to hardest hit communities. It’s reported that national immunization programs have never seen such high community level demand for this new life-saving vaccine. Increased resources in FY24 are required to reach the no-dose children – those have not received a single immunization – and to support the roll out of the new malaria vaccine to vulnerable populations.

**Additional information:** <https://results.org/wp-content/uploads/FY24-Nutrition-Appropriations-Memo.pdf>

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**Type** (Funding or Language)

**Bill or Report Language Recommendation** (and please indicate if language recommendation is new or from a previous year) – New Language

*Disadvantaged Geographies*

The Committee directs the USAID Administrator to report to the Committees on Appropriations not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act on how much of the assistance under bilateral Global Health Programs over the past 3 fiscal years was used to provide health services to sub-national populations with an under-five mortality rate higher than 80/1000 live births.

*Preventing Childhood Deaths*

The committee directs USAID to include in the annual Acting on the Call report the annual amount spent on [highest-impact, evidence-based] child health interventions in bilateral GHP, disaggregated by intervention. This list shall include, but is not limited to, interventions to treat childhood pneumonia, malaria, diarrheal dehydration, and severe acute malnutrition, as well as to provide immunizations and azithromycin, and address neonatal sepsis.