

## Maternal and Child Health, Gavi, and Nutrition

**RESULTS requests \$1.15 billion for Maternal and Child Health, including \$340 million for Gavi, and \$300 million for Nutrition in FY25.**

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. Over the past thirty years, we've made incredible gains through targeted interventions, but progress has begun to stall. **Every year, [300,000 women and girls die from lack of basic healthcare for pregnancy and birth.](#)**

In 2022, [14.7 million children](#) in lower-income countries were still missing out on lifesaving childhood vaccines such as measles, pneumococcal, and rotavirus vaccines. And there were 10.2 million “zero-dose” children in 2022, meaning they hadn't received any vaccine at all, and likely no other formal health care either. This is happening against a backdrop of a global food crisis and rapidly rising malnutrition which is creating a perfect storm for child health. Every year about [5 million children die](#) before reaching their fifth birthday — including 2.3 million newborns. We must do more.

When children have nutritious diets, it strengthens their immune system and lowers their risk of disease. When children are vaccinated against common childhood killers — like rotavirus which causes diarrhea — they are less likely to become malnourished from illness. These programs create mutually reinforcing protection for children and their families.

USAID is the primary federal agency that administers foreign aid and development assistance. Over the past 60 years, USAID has demonstrated a strong record of developing programs that save the lives of women, newborns, and children. **In 2021 alone, USAID helped increase access to essential care for more than 59 million women and children, and in 2022 their nutrition programs reached over 32 million children under age 5.** These investments in high-impact, evidence-based interventions are some of the “best buys” in international development and must be prioritized in U.S. foreign aid.

### Maternal and Child Health

USAID operates maternal and child health (MCH) programs in [25 priority countries](#) which account for more than two-thirds of maternal and child deaths. **The MCH account supports delivery of cost-effective, proven services like access to trained health**

**professionals during birth, emergency hospital care, and training for frontline health workers.** USAID's annual investments provide life-saving treatments for leading killers of kids like pneumonia and diarrhea. They also provide technical support for crosscutting needs, like improving the "cold chain", so that vaccine doses remain cold and effective by the time they reach the last mile.

## **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance**

**The MCH account also supports Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, a public private partnership that has helped to vaccinate over 1 billion children, preventing more than 17.3 million child deaths since 2000.** USAID provides essential technical support to support Gavi's efforts to continue lifesaving immunization services and deliver vaccines to low-income countries. Last year, more than 700,000 children died from pneumonia, despite the fact there are safe and inexpensive vaccines (around \$2.00 per dose). Vaccines are one of the most cost-effective interventions to save lives and prevent illness. Later this year, world leaders will come together to reinvest in Gavi — and a bold commitment from Congress this year will help bring other donors to the table.

## **Nutrition, in Global Health**

With resources from the nutrition account, USAID supports 14 Nutrition Priority Countries to strengthen delivery and monitoring of nutrition services — particularly for pregnant people, newborns, and children — through existing health structures. Counseling for breastfeeding, safe feeding practices for young children, monitoring child growth, and providing micronutrient supplements are pillars of this account. **Nutrition investments in stunting (too short for age), wasting (too thin for height), anemia (low blood iron) and breastfeeding save lives, prevent disabilities, and generate hundreds of billions in economic returns.** For example, the World Bank reports every dollar invested in breastfeeding yields \$35 in economic returns for a community.

## **RESULTS' Request and Funding History**

Members of Congress can show their support by submitting a formal appropriations request form to Senators Coons and Graham or Representatives Diaz-Balart and Lee as Chairs and Ranking Members of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittees of Appropriations for MCH, Gavi, and Nutrition at the below funding levels. Contact RESULTS staff Crickett Nicovich for additional information: [cnicovich@results.org](mailto:cnicovich@results.org).

<b>Account</b>	<b>FY22</b>	<b>FY23</b>	<b>FY24 House</b>	<b>FY24 Senate</b>	<b>RESULTS' FY25 Request</b>
<b>USAID Maternal and Child Health</b>	\$890 million	\$910 million	\$910 million	\$920 million	\$1.15 billion
<b>Of which, Gavi</b>	\$290 million	\$290 million	\$300 million	\$300 million	\$340 million
<b>USAID Nutrition</b>	\$155 million	\$160 million	\$172.5 million	\$160 million	\$300 million