

Maternal and Child Health, Gavi, Nutrition

RESULTS requests \$1.15 billion for Maternal and Child Health, including \$340 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and \$300 million for Nutrition in FY26.

For most of human history, we were not able to protect children from deadly infectious diseases or ensure safer pregnancies and childbirth. Starting in the 20th century, we've made incredible progress. But maternal, infant, and child deaths are still unacceptably high, especially in low-income countries. **Every day, around 800 women die from lack of basic health care for pregnancy and birth. Over 13,000 children under the age of 5 die each day from mainly preventable or treatable causes.** We can and must do more.

Delivering proven impacts

Routine vaccination [has saved](#) 154 million lives since 1974 — mostly children under 5. That's six lives every minute. But **one in five children [do not have access](#) to lifesaving vaccines.** Every parent should have the resources to make informed choices for their child's health.

Good nutrition is the foundation of health. It's especially critical for women of reproductive age and in the 1,000 days between pregnancy and age 2, when children have unique nutritional needs. **Over half of preschool aged children and two thirds of non-pregnant women of reproductive age are [deficient](#) in at least one micronutrient.** Nutritious diets strengthen immune systems and lower the risk of disease. Vaccines for common childhood killers — like rotavirus, which causes diarrhea — make children less likely to become malnourished from illness.

USAID and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance have [a strong record](#) of developing programs that save lives. **In 2023 alone, USAID helped more than 92 million women and children access essential care. They also reached over 28 million children with nutrition programs.** For every \$1 spent on immunization in Gavi-supported countries, the return on investment is \$54. These high-impact, evidence-based interventions are some of the "best buys" in international development. They must be prioritized in U.S. foreign aid.

Maternal and child health (MCH)

USAID MCH programs focus on countries with some of the highest rates of maternal and child deaths. **They deliver cost-effective, proven services like access to health professionals during birth, emergency hospital care, and training for frontline health**

workers. Since 2000, there has been a 55 percent decrease in under-five child mortality and a 42 percent decline in maternal mortality across USAID's [25 priority countries](#).

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

The MCH account also supports Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. **Gavi has helped vaccinate over 1 billion children, preventing more than 18.8 million deaths.** Last year, [more than 700,000 children](#) died from pneumonia, despite vaccines only costing [\\$2 per dose](#). Vaccines are one of the most cost-effective interventions to save lives and prevent illness. In 2024, the U.S. government made a historic pledge to Gavi of at least \$1.58 billion over five years. A bold commitment from Congress in FY26 will bring other donors to the table.

Nutrition, in global health

USAID also supports [14 countries](#) to strengthen nutrition services through existing health systems. They focus on breastfeeding counseling, safe feeding practices for young children, monitoring child growth, and micronutrient supplements. **Addressing malnutrition like stunting (too short for age), wasting (too thin for height), and anemia saves lives and prevents disabilities.** It also generates hundreds of billions in economic returns. Every \$1 for breastfeeding generates \$35 in benefit to communities and the global economy.

RESULTS' request and funding history

Members of Congress can show their support by submitting a formal appropriations request to SFOPS Subcommittee of Appropriations leadership. Please contact cnicovich@results.org for more information.

Account	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26 President's Budget Request	RESULTS' FY26 Request
USAID Maternal and Child Health	\$910 million	\$915 million	TBD	TBD	\$1.15 billion
Of which, Gavi	\$290 million	\$300 million	TBD	TBD	\$340 million
USAID Nutrition	\$160 million	\$165 million	TBD	TBD	\$300 million