

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 FY27.

For most of human history, we could not protect children from deadly infectious diseases or ensure safer pregnancies and childbirth. We have made incredible progress, but maternal, infant, and child deaths are still unacceptably high, especially in low-income countries. **For the first time this century, the number of children dying before their fifth birthday has risen. An estimated 4.8 million young children died in 2025, over 200,000 more than 2024.** We can and must do more.

Delivering proven impacts

Routine vaccination has saved over 154 million lives in the past 50 years, mostly children under 5. 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. Vaccines for common childhood killers also make children less likely to become malnourished.

Good nutrition is the foundation of health. It's especially critical for women of reproductive age and the first 1,000 days from pregnancy to a child's second birthday. Over half of young children and two-thirds of non-pregnant women of reproductive age are deficient in at least one micronutrient. Nutritious diets lower the risk of disease. **Undernutrition is the underlying cause of nearly half of all deaths among children under five.**

U.S. foreign aid and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance have a strong record of developing programs that save lives. In 2023 alone, U.S. support helped more than 92 million women and children access essential care. We also reached over 28 million children with nutrition programs. 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)

Bilateral MCH programs focus on countries with 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 countries prioritized for investment.**

But nearly 300,000 women still die annually of preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. Additional investments will spur progress against these preventable deaths.

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

The MCH account also supports Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. **Gavi has helped vaccinate over 1.2 billion children, preventing more than 20.6 million deaths.** Vaccines are one of the most cost-effective interventions to save lives and prevent illness. Gavi has [a 5-year plan](#) to help countries vaccinate 500 million more children and save 8-9 million more lives.

By pooling donor resources, negotiating lower vaccine prices, and supporting country-led immunization plans Gavi makes vaccines more affordable and predictable for countries with limited resources. In 2024, the U.S. made a historic pledge of at least \$1.58 billion over five years, which was upheld by Congress in FY26. A strong commitment in FY27 will spur global action and prevent deaths from killers like measles, malaria, and diarrhea.

Nutrition, in global health

Bilateral nutrition programs 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 economic returns. Malnutrition costs the world \$3.5 trillion in lost productivity and healthcare costs each year.

RESULTS' request and funding history

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

Account	FY24 Enacted	FY25 Enacted	FY26 House	FY26 Bicameral	FY26 Enacted	RESULTS FY27 Request
Maternal and Child Health	\$915 million	\$915 million	\$915 million	\$915 million	\$915 million	\$1.15 billion
Of which, Gavi	\$300 million	\$300 million	\$300 million	\$300 million	\$300 million	\$340 million
Nutrition	\$165 million	\$165 million	\$72.5 million	\$165 million	\$165 million	\$300 million