



APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

Child Health and Nutrition

With U.S. leadership, the number of children under the age of five that die from preventable and or treatable causes around the world has been cut by more than half, from 12.6 million in 1990 to 5.9 million in 2016. This drastic decrease in mortality means more children are surviving and thriving. While huge strides have been made, over 16,000 children still die each day - mostly from treatable causes like diarrhea, pneumonia, or malnutrition.

FY18 FUNDING REQUEST:

- Fund Maternal and Child Health at \$900 million
- Fund Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, at \$290 million
- Fund Nutrition in Global Health at \$250 million

The world has set the bold, but achievable goal of ending preventable child and maternal deaths in a generation. To achieve this, the U.S. must partner with and invest in poor countries to create sustainable change and accelerate momentum in driving down the leading killers of moms and kids. In 2014, USAID provided a clear roadmap to save lives that prioritizes cost-effective interventions based on country needs. This roadmap is helping save 15 million children’s lives and 600,000 women’s lives by 2020. With a plan now in place, Congress should seize this incredible opportunity by doubling down on smart investments that save lives.

Why Funding Matters

U.S. investments in maternal and child health and nutrition are saving lives, providing equal chances for children to survive and thrive, and creating lasting difference.

- **Maternal and Child Health:** Providing pre-natal care, training skilled birth attendants, and making treatment available for leading killers of kids such as pneumonia and diarrhea are improving health systems and access to care in the poorest places in 25 focus countries that account for over 70 percent of under-five mortality.
- **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance:** U.S. funding for Gavi will support its strategy of immunizing an additional 300 million children by 2020, saving an additional five million lives in the poorest countries in the world. As a commitment to improving their own child health, all 73 Gavi-eligible countries co-finance a portion of vaccine costs.
- **Nutrition:** Forty-five percent of all under-five deaths are attributed to malnutrition. Ensuring quality nutrition during the “1,000 Day” period from pregnancy to a child’s second birthday is critical to saving lives and preventing stunting, which impacts a child’s physical and cognitive development and has a life-long impact on education and economic outcomes. Underfunding nutrition efforts has led to hundreds of billions in global economic loss. Every dollar invested in nutrition in the early years shows \$16 in economic return, and can protect children from both nutritional and developmental risks.

Malawi's MCH Mantra

The village Headman Msumbi proudly pointed to the statistics on the wall – 100 percent – every pregnant woman in his village had delivered her child in a health facility in the first four months of 2016. In the local language, he announces: “Moyo ndi Mpamba!” and the crowd responds: “Usamalireni!” This motto, “Life is precious; take care of it!” is leading the actions for this village.



Chigonere Community Action Group meets with the village to review health goals in the Traditional Authority of Nankumba, Mangochi Province, Malawi. Photo Credit: RESULTS

In 2013, Chigonere Community Action Group (CAG), community women trained with support from USAID, conducted a village-wide evaluation of what health issues were most pressing to the villagers. They found that three to five maternal deaths occurred each month, and even more neonatal deaths were happening because of complications during home delivery. This was due to a lack of skilled birth-attendants trained to take care of moms during the delivery and/or to help babies breathe and stay warm in those critical first moments after they are born. This was one of the community's top concerns along with child undernutrition, HIV/AIDS, and malaria.

CAG then worked with community leaders to identify concrete steps to remedy their most egregious issues first. This led the Headman to pass a new village bylaw requiring that all births take place at a health facility, which put the onus on both men and women in the village to support expecting mothers to get to a health facility early. They popularized the community mantra, “Life is precious, take care of it.” and held trainings on how to improve nutrition for young children. Since 2013, the village has seen dramatic results with only one maternal death per six months, and drastically improved child survival rates.

RESULTS' Request and Funding History

As members of Congress submit annual personal appropriations requests forms, they should protect critical funding for anti-poverty programs in the International Affairs account. RESULTS asks Members to also specifically show their support for ending preventable child deaths by requesting funding in the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for two accounts within Global Health – the Maternal and Child Health and the Nutrition accounts.

To do so, please submit two formal appropriations request forms for MCH and Nutrition to Senators Graham and Leahy or Representatives Rogers and Lowey as Chairs and Ranking Members of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittees of Appropriations. Contact RESULTS' staff Crickett Nicovich for support: cnicovich@results.org.

Fiscal Year	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	President's FY18 Request	RESULTS' FY18 Request
Maternal and Child Health Account	\$627.3 million	\$705 million	\$715 million	\$750 million	\$814.5 million	\$749.6 million	\$900 million
Gavi (in MCH)	\$138 million	\$175 million	\$200 million	\$235 million	\$275 million	\$290 million	\$290 million
Nutrition Account	\$95 million	\$115 million	\$115 million	\$125 million	\$125 million	\$78.5 million	\$250 million