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## **Nutrition CEO Council Welcomes \$200 million Commitment from U.S. Agency for International Development to Save Malnourished Children**

*Statement issued on behalf of Nutrition CEO Council members 1,000 Days, an initiative of FHI Solutions; Action Against Hunger; Alliance to End Hunger; Bread for the World; CARE; Food for the Hungry; Global Communities; Harvest Plus; Helen Keller International; Micronutrient Forum; Nutrition International; RESULTS; Stronger Foundations for Nutrition.*

Washington, D.C. – Yesterday, following months of a worsening [global food](#) and [nutrition](#) crisis, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Samantha Power [announced](#) a historic commitment of \$200 million to provide life-saving treatment to severely malnourished children. This announcement comes as part of nearly \$1.3 billion in humanitarian and development assistance focused on the U.S. response to the global hunger and malnutrition crisis through immediate humanitarian aid, long-term agricultural investments, and diplomatic engagement. This \$200 million commitment is the largest single investment in malnutrition treatment in history.

Malnutrition is the greatest threat to child survival worldwide, contributing to more child deaths every year than [AIDS](#), [malaria](#), [tuberculosis](#), and [COVID-19](#) combined. The deadliest form of malnutrition, known as wasting, is increasing dramatically. Recent modeling predicts COVID-19-related disruptions alone will result in an additional 13.6 million wasted children by the end of this year, and in vulnerable countries, the escalating global food crisis has forced one additional child to become severely wasted [every 60 seconds](#). In order to survive, many of these children will need to be treated with ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), a mix of vitamins and minerals, milk powder, and peanuts that costs less than \$1 per day<sup>1</sup>.

The \$200 million committed by USAID will provide a critical increase in the amount of RUTF available to treat and save the lives of severely malnourished children. This emergency funding will be provided to UNICEF to procure and deliver life-saving treatment, including RUTF, to an additional 2.4 million children suffering from severe wasting in countries with the greatest need in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel region. Match resources from additional donors will be essential to building long-term, sustainable solutions to treat severe wasting. The \$50 million commitment philanthropies announced alongside USAID is a critical step in building these solutions. We join USAID and philanthropic partners in calling on governments, donors, and partners to commit an additional \$250 million to contribute to sustained efforts to prevent and respond to severe wasting in the lead up to the 2022 United Nations General Assembly.

We commend Administrator Power for her recognition that the significant declines in investment in agricultural development have been accompanied by sharply increasing needs for humanitarian assistance, including RUTF. We welcome her announcement to expand and scale

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<sup>1</sup> Nourish the Future (2021). [https://www.endmalnutrition.org/img/nourishthefuture\\_paper\\_v13.pdf](https://www.endmalnutrition.org/img/nourishthefuture_paper_v13.pdf)

programs to combat high food prices, including high quality drought tolerant nutritious seeds, precision fertilizer, and combating food waste. These programs will contribute to more resilient food systems that will deliver nutritious diets communities need to thrive.

The Nutrition CEO Council applauds Administrator Power for these historic announcements and lifesaving action at this moment of crisis. Even with this investment, we have more work ahead of us to ensure every child has access to safe and affordable nutritious food to provide a sound foundation for their health and development. We look forward to continuing to work with USAID to ensure the U.S. government continues to invest in both this emergency response and long-term programs to support nutrition for children and families across the globe.



*The Nutrition CEO Council is a body of leaders from international non-governmental organizations (INGO) that aims to inspire increased support for nutrition from U.S. political leadership through high-level engagement and to advance civil society advocacy, commitment, and support for nutrition as a foundational part of all development success. More information about the Council is available at [NutritionCEOCouncil.com](http://NutritionCEOCouncil.com).*