

March 13, 2023

Nutrition CEO Council Statement on the President's FY24 Budget Request

On March 9, 2023, the Biden Administration released its budget proposal for fiscal year 2024. While we welcome the topline increases in funding for the State Department and USAID, the Administration's proposal to provide no increases to current investments in global nutrition or global maternal and child health, which were flat funded at \$160 million and \$910 million respectively, is insufficient.

The world is more than a year into an unprecedented global hunger and malnutrition crisis. It is fueled by conflict, climate shocks, and economic crises that continue to negatively impact health and food systems and threaten the lives of women and children around the world. Globally, [60 million children](#) were acutely malnourished as of 2022. In the first half of the year, a child became severely wasted [every minute](#) in the 15 hardest-hit countries. Earlier this week, UNICEF released a [new report](#) demonstrating that more than one billion adolescent girls and women suffer from undernutrition, deficiencies in essential micronutrients, and anemia. This crisis is deepening as poor nutrition is passed through generations.

These global challenges require a bold vision and investment to match it. Robust funding for nutrition and maternal and child health programs greatly contributes to the reduction of preventable deaths. Funding for nutrition supports long-term health, cognitive development, and school and work performance later in life.

Long-term investments in food systems to promote food security, agricultural development, and nutritious diets are the most effective way to increase resilience, save healthcare costs, and address chronic poverty and hunger.

Additional leadership from policymakers to support health and nutrition, particularly during the critical first 1,000 days between pregnancy and a child's second birthday, is urgently needed. Failure to provide such support can have lasting, costly, and irreversible consequences for children, their families, and society.

Ultimately, Congress will make the final decision on funding for these vital programs. We urge Congress, as it begins the budget process for fiscal year 2024, to fund State and Foreign Operations accounts at a level that meets the moment, including \$300 million for the Global Health Nutrition account, \$1.15 billion for the Maternal and Child Health account, and \$1.2 billion to support the United States' flagship food security program, Feed the Future.

Sincerely,

Rev. Eugene Cho, President and CEO, Bread for the World
Carrie Hessler-Radelet, CEO, Global Communities
Eric P. Mitchell, Executive Director, Alliance to End Hunger
Michelle Nunn, President and CEO, CARE USA
Charles Owubah, Ph.D., CEO, Action Against Hunger
Kathy Spahn, President and CEO, Helen Keller Intl
Joel Spicer, President and CEO, Nutrition International
Janti Soeripto, President and CEO, Save the Children US

Blythe Thomas, Initiative Director, 1,000 Days an Initiative of FHI Solutions
Mark Viso, President and CEO, Food for the Hungry



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 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.