

March 27, 2024

Nutrition CEO Council Statement on Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations

On March 23, 2024, Congress passed the final fiscal year 2024 (FY24) appropriations package. We welcome the modest increase of \$5 million each to current investments in global nutrition and global maternal and child health. USAID has demonstrated that even incremental increases in global nutrition funding can lead to significant increases in nutrition programs' reach of women and children.

Yet \$165 million for global nutrition is vastly insufficient when compared to the global need. When combined with a \$130 million decrease in Food for Peace and a \$50 million decrease for Feed the Future, this year's appropriations package falls woefully short of what is needed to respond to one of today's most pressing development challenges.

The world continues to be in an unprecedented global hunger and malnutrition crisis. It is fueled by violent conflict, climate shocks, and economic crises that continue to negatively impact health and food systems and threaten the lives of so many people around the world - especially women and children. Globally, [an estimated 45 million children](#) are acutely malnourished at any given time, with numbers expected to rise as conflicts and crises continue. The number of pregnant and breastfeeding women, along with adolescent girls, suffering from acute malnutrition has [increased by 25 percent since 2020](#) in the 12 hardest-hit countries, according to the World Food Programme. 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, maternal and child health, and food security 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 has lasting, costly, and irreversible consequences for children, their families, and society.

We urge Congress, as it begins the budget process for fiscal year 2025, 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, \$1.2 billion to support the United States' flagship food security program, Feed the Future, \$1.8 billion for Food for Peace, and \$265 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education program.

Signed,

Joanne Carter, Executive Director, RESULTS/RESULTS Educational Fund, Co-Chair
Rev. Eugene Cho, President and CEO, Bread for the World, Co-Chair
Charles Owubah, CEO, Action Against Hunger
Eric Mitchell, President, Alliance to End Hunger
Solianna Meaza, Interim Director, 1,000 Days of FHI 360

Michelle Nunn, President and CEO, CARE
Sarah Bouchie, President and CEO, Helen Keller Intl
Arun Baral, CEO, Harvest Plus
Saskia Osendarp, Executive Director, Micronutrient Forum
Carrie Hessler-Radelet, President and CEO, Global Communities
Tessie San Martin, CEO, FHI 360
Janti Soeripto, President and CEO, Save the Children US
Joel Spicer, President and CEO, Nutrition International
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.