

May 5, 2021

Ms. Shalanda D. Young
Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Acting Director Young:

As you consider global health budgets for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, we respectfully request that you provide \$300 million for the Nutrition sub-account within the Global Health Programs account at United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The funding in the GHP-Nutrition Sub-account supports some of the most cost-effective, critical, and greatest high-impact interventions to end preventable deaths and save lives. This funding is critical to ending preventable child deaths, safeguarding children's futures, and building the resilient communities that are foundational to global health security.

The United States Government has played a significant role in championing global nutrition, which has undoubtedly been lifesaving for millions of children since almost half of all children under the age of five deaths are malnutrition related. A substantial increase in the Nutrition account would address the leading cause of child mortality by significantly scaling up investments in nutrition.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, [nearly one in three people around the world had at least one form of malnutrition](#) and based on current trends this number is set to rise to one in every two by 2025. [Malnutrition is a leading risk factor for death in children globally – linked to 45 percent of all child deaths](#), yet these losses are almost entirely preventable. Now due to the COVID-19, the world risks backsliding nutrition gains with irreversible impacts on mortality and lost potential. Initial estimates show that without immediate action, levels of child wasting will increase - [with 6.7 million more children under the age of five suffering from this life-threatening form of malnutrition and an estimated 10,000 additional children dying per month](#). In many parts of the world, malnutrition will likely be the most deadly and long-lasting consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic - killing more people than the virus itself.

The Nutrition funding supports many specific and vital nutrition interventions such as Vitamin A supplementation, nutrition education to improve maternal diets, nutrition during pregnancy, exclusive breastfeeding, and infant and young child feeding practices and as well as delivery of micronutrient supplementation and community management of acute malnutrition through specialized therapeutic foods. Increasing FY22 funding in the Nutrition sub-account to \$300 million would allow the US government to scale up these high-impact interventions in USAID priority countries, saving over 800 thousand lives over 5 years.

In addition to being high impact, leading economists consistently rank nutrition interventions as among the most cost-effective ways to save and improve lives around the world. Not only are many nutrition interventions relatively inexpensive to implement, they also have an extremely high return on investment, [with every \\$1 invested yielding up to \\$35 in economic returns](#). These economic returns

accrue to individuals and society, setting both up for future success. If the U.S. aims to maximize the return on its investments across development and humanitarian assistance, nutrition is a smart place to start.

In December 2021, the Government of Japan will host the third Nutrition for Growth summit, where donors and country governments have an opportunity to make financial and policy commitments to address the global scourge of maternal and child malnutrition. Leaders from around the world have already pledged over \$3 billion to global nutrition over the next five years. A bold U.S. government commitment in Tokyo is critical to help avert the projected alarming level of malnutrition caused by the secondary impacts of COVID-19 and put the world on track to meet the global nutrition targets, and ultimately, preventing malnutrition in millions of women and children worldwide.

An increase to \$300 million for this account will send a clear signal that the United States is committed to evidence-based nutrition-specific interventions that are critical to ensuring that children not only survive but thrive and that their mothers will live to see it. The United States poised to lead at the Nutrition Growth conference and that needs to start with a strong prioritization of nutrition in the FY22 budget.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this request to increase the Nutrition funding in the Global Health Programs account.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days, an initiative of FHI Solutions

Alliance to End Hunger

Bread for the World

Edesia

Food for the Hungry

Global Citizen

HarvestPlus

John Snow, Inc. (JSI)