



U.S. GOVERNMENT GLOBAL NUTRITION COORDINATION PLAN 2016–2021
ANNUAL SUMMARY OF INTER-AGENCY PROGRESS
(SEPTEMBER 2017–SEPTEMBER 2018)



Cover photo

Zambian children eating vitamin-A bio-fortified orange maize, February 2017. (Chando Mapoma/USAID)

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ACRONYMS

CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
GFSS	Global Food Security Strategy
HHS	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
IMMPACT	International Micronutrient Malnutrition Prevention and Control
MCC	Millennium Challenge Corporation
NCD	non-communicable diseases
NIH	National Institutes of Health
OSTP	White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
PEPFAR	U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
TWG	Technical Working Group
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture



Jake Lyell/MCC

The 2016 launch of the U.S. Government Global Nutrition Coordination Plan helped to formalize and create accountability for enhancing the impact of the many diverse nutrition investments across the U.S. Government. Through improved inter-agency communication, coordination and concerted efforts to link research and nutrition, the agencies involved are making good on commitments to optimize existing resources available to improve global nutrition outcomes. Multiple agencies are engaged in enhancing U.S. Government nutrition action and investment.¹ One of many coordination actions laid out in the Coordination Plan was a commitment to releasing an annual summary of inter-agency coordinated activities.² This second summary describes progress made in year two of Coordination Plan implementation and provides a brief outline of potential plans for the next year.

¹ Agencies and departments are: Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), Peace Corps, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Treasury and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

² Additional background information on the formation of the Coordination Plan, the coordination action items, the technical working group (TWG) and sub-working groups can be found in the U.S. Government Global Nutrition Coordination Plan (2016–2021) and the First Annual Summary of Interagency Progress, both available at: www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/global-health/nutrition/usgplan

Progress on Inter-Agency Collaboration under The Coordination Plan

Technical Working Group Progress

During the second year of implementation (2017–2018), the Coordination Plan’s technical working group (TWG) was led by three co-chairs, two from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and one from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). In year two, the TWG focused on clarifying various roles and responsibilities of agencies and individuals involved in the Coordination Plan. This included updating the TWG’s terms of reference to formalize USAID’s role as the Secretariat/Operations Hub for the Coordination Plan to manage the TWG’s administrative, knowledge management, communications and meeting logistics needs. In addition, the TWG refined how the various sub-groups, Secretariat/Operations Hub, senior officials and other key groups and individuals interact through the Coordination Plan, which is depicted in an updated organogram (see [Annex 1](#)).

During implementation year one, the TWG formed sub-groups to focus on the following eight nutrition technical areas: 1) the first 1,000 days, 2) nutrition information systems, 3) micronutrient delivery platforms, 4) food safety, 5) nutrition-related non-communicable diseases, 6) nutrition and infectious diseases, 7) the Global Food Security Strategy, and 8) implementation science. The TWG continued to oversee and monitor progress made in these technical areas throughout the second year of implementation.

During this second year, nutrition staff involved in the Coordination Plan participated in outreach activities coordinated by other parts of the U.S. Government and in external fora. Members of the TWG and sub-groups introduced the Coordination Plan at the USDA’s Intra-Departmental Nutrition Workshop in November 2017 to familiarize additional USDA

staff on cross-agency nutrition collaboration through the Coordination Plan. In February 2018, at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Coordination Plan members shared their observations of and experiences in successful cross-agency collaboration since the Coordination Plan’s inception. At the American Society for Nutrition conference in June 2018, TWG members presented at the “Connect with Feds Forum” to discuss with the greater academic nutrition community how the U.S. Government is breaking down silos to improve global nutrition programming and implementation through the Coordination Plan. Additionally, a TWG member discussed coordination efforts in a plenary panel at the “USAID/Tufts University Food Assistance for Nutrition Evidence Summit.”

Progress in Eight Nutrition Technical Focus Areas

The sub-groups created for each of the eight technical areas met regularly throughout the year to share agency updates, identify sub-group priorities and coordinate and plan actions to address these priorities. Recognizing the numerous intersections and overlap among these nutrition technical focus areas, sub-groups have also collaborated on actions and shared research and programmatic experience, both across U.S. Government agencies and with external stakeholders. They have also worked to enhance coordination across sub-groups for programming that touches on various technical focus areas. Examples of such sub-group collaborations will be explained in more detail in a later section. The following section describes each sub-group’s key actions during the second year of Coordination Plan implementation.

1. The First 1,000 Days: The Synergy in Addressing Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition Co-leads from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and USAID

In year two, the sub-group met on a quarterly basis and has continued to expand on



Karen Kasmauski/MCSP

priority actions established in the first year of the Coordination Plan. Following are examples of progress within the First 1,000 Days sub-group:

- The sub-group continues to engage closely with the USAID Multi-sectoral Anemia Task Force, which was revitalized in 2017. USAID convened headquarters and field-based U.S. Government staff from multiple agencies and implementing partners quarterly via in-person and webinar meetings to share knowledge and best practices related to anemia prevention and management.
- Sub-group members supported the USAID Food Aid Quality Review in Burkina Faso. The focus of the 1,000 Days study was to evaluate the comparative effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of four food aid products in preventing stunting and wasting in children 6-24

months of age in the country. The study results provide important insight into methods for improving the efficiency of food aid for nutritional outcomes in young children.

2. Nutrition Information Systems

Co-leads from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and USDA

This sub-group has continued to build on nutrition surveillance activities initiated in the first year of the Coordination Plan. Following are examples of progress within the Nutrition Information Systems sub-group:

- In collaboration with the Micronutrient Delivery Platform sub-group, USAID and CDC are working together in Nepal to support the Nepal National Micronutrient Status Survey, which was disseminated in Kathmandu in August 2018. The survey provides key data on



David Cooper for USAID

all large-scale nutrition-specific programs in the country and on the micronutrient status of women, adolescents and children. These data are key to understanding policy and program gaps and guiding future activities.

- The sub-group is supporting the planning, design and implementation of national surveys and surveillance systems in Burkina Faso, Guatemala, Nigeria, Rwanda and Vietnam.

3. Micronutrient Delivery Platforms

Co-leads from USAID and USDA

In year two, this sub-group convened quarterly to provide updates on interagency micronutrient activities and to build on efforts from year one to organize and participate in relevant interagency meetings and events. Following are examples of progress within the Micronutrient Delivery Platforms sub-group:

- USAID, in collaboration with this sub-group, organized a visit from Dr. Nancy Krebs, head of the Section of Nutrition and vice chair for academic affairs in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. In a series of three meetings held at USDA, FHI360 and USAID, Dr. Krebs presented summaries of the latest research on developmental determinants of nutrition and growth.
- Members of the sub-group participated in an early childhood development workshop, given the importance of adequate micronutrients to children's development. The meeting summarized latest best practices and highlighted current USAID efforts to include early childhood development initiatives in health and educational projects in Ghana, Zambia, Mozambique and Bangladesh.

- The sub-group hosted a webinar inspired by USAID’s new technical brief, “[Interventions for Addressing Vitamin and Mineral Inadequacies](#).” The webinar provided an overview of micronutrient interventions and discussed biofortification; food fortification; supplementation programs; and assessment, monitoring and evaluation of micronutrient interventions. Both U.S.-based and overseas offices participated, providing a valuable opportunity for learning and sharing.

4. Food Safety

Co-leads from USAID and FDA

The Food Safety sub-group convened quarterly to exchange information and continue work on broadening the reach of food safety efforts, with a focus on awareness raising and education. Following are examples of progress within the Food Safety sub-group:

- In collaboration with USAID’s food security knowledge management team, the sub-group designated March as the Food Safety Month on Agrilinks, the online knowledge-sharing platform for the U.S. Government’s Feed the Future initiative.
- During Food Safety Month, the sub-group launched a series of [food safety hazard fact sheets](#) on Agrilinks and published several blog contributions from the inter-agency and broader global community.
- The sub-group hosted five inter-agency presentations on food safety issues, including topics such as seafood safety and the Food Safety Modernization Act, to raise awareness of key issues and share knowledge across agencies.
- Members of the sub-group helped the Food Safety Network program (a U.S. Government inter-agency partnership established to help strengthen worldwide food safety capacity) develop an assessment of food safety risks that could be mitigated through USAID programming in Niger.

- The sub-group engaged with several USAID country offices to incorporate food safety, with a focus on informal markets, as a priority in their programming.

5. Nutrition-Related Non-Communicable Diseases

Co-leads from USDA and HHS

This sub-group continued to share evidence, knowledge and experiences on nutrition-related non-communicable diseases across the lifespan and identify areas of shared interest and action across U.S. Government agencies. Following are examples of progress within the Nutrition-Related Non-Communicable Diseases sub-group:

- The sub-group hosted a presentation on the importance of nutrition in older adults from Sarah Booth, director of the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University. The presentation highlighted current research on the role of nutrition in addressing multiple chronic conditions in older populations and prevalent forms of hidden hunger and in changing opportunities to leverage nutrition for optimal functioning and independent living at older ages.
- The sub-group hosted a presentation from the HHS Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion on developing the new Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, developing the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, and intersections with similar efforts underway in other countries. The Dietary Guidelines for Americans, to be released in 2020, will include for the first time a focus on the diet during pregnancy and from birth to 24 months of age, critical windows of opportunity for ensuring healthy birth outcomes and optimum early childhood development and for reducing the risk of nutrition-related non-communicable diseases later in life. U.S. global nutrition efforts will benefit from this U.S. domestic nutrition policy and guidance work.

6. Nutrition and Infectious Diseases

Co-leads from USAID and NIH

The Nutrition and Infectious Diseases sub-group continued to build on work started in implementation year one. Following are examples of progress within the Nutrition and Infectious Diseases sub-group:

- The sub-group hosted a presentation by Dr. Peter Cegielski, team lead of the Prevention, Care and Treatment Global TB Branch in the Division of Global HIV and TB at the CDC. The presentation discussed nutritional risk factors for tuberculosis.
- The sub-group built on year one activities by continuing to extend the nutrition assessment, counseling and support approach, particularly within the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) programming.
- The sub-group continued interagency collaboration on the development of guidelines for the nutritional care and management of adults and adolescents infected with HIV.

7. Global Food Security Strategy

Co-leads from USAID and USDA

In year two, this sub-group continued to meet on a routine basis to share updates on the U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy's (GFSS) implementation and other related activities. Following are example of progress within the GFSS sub-group:

- Several members of the sub-group reviewed the nutrition sections of the GFSS Country Plans, helping to ensure technical quality and increase transparency across agencies working in the U.S. and overseas.
- At one sub-group meeting, the CDC International Micronutrient Malnutrition Prevention and Control (IMMPaCt) project gave a presentation on filling nutrition data

gaps, which provided critical information for the GFSS monitoring, evaluation and learning activities. The presentation also shared key lessons learned from Guatemala and Uganda, which are two GFSS priority countries. This collaboration allowed sub-group members from CDC to meet with experts overseeing GFSS monitoring, evaluation and learning to discuss surveillance and monitoring efforts around several GFSS countries.

8. Implementation Science

Co-leads from USDA and USAID

With a focus on sharing key evidence, knowledge and experiences, the Implementation Science sub-group hosted learning exchanges that enabled members to find ways to apply the implementation science concept and framework in the context of global nutrition programming. Following are examples of progress within the Implementation Science sub-group:

- The sub-group coordinated a presentation on the Society for Implementation Science in Nutrition from David Pelletier, the Society's President and Professor of Nutrition Policy at Cornell University. The presentation described how implementation science can address policy and program implementation challenges in low- and middle-income countries and generated discussion on how the Society for Implementation Science in Nutrition can intersect with the U.S. Government's nutrition programming and implementation.
- The sub-group organized a presentation from the Consortium for Implementation Science, which provided an overview of implementation science and outlined the Consortium's goals and projects.
- The sub-group coordinated a presentation from HHS on developing Healthy People 2030, a strategic framework with measurable



Amy Fowler/USAID

objectives and targets for improving public health and reducing health disparities nationally. The presentation provided an overview of this continuing national initiative and a status update and broad timeline for the development and roll out of Healthy People 2030.

Collaborations across Sub-Groups

As stated in the year one annual report, the Coordination Plan's technical focus areas are interrelated, with overlap and intersection among each of the eight focus areas. This year, the TWG sub-groups made concerted efforts to collaborate more closely. Following are examples:

First 1,000 Days and Nutrition-Related Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD)

These two sub-groups co-hosted a webinar for U.S.-based and overseas offices on “The First

1,000 Days and Non-Communicable Diseases: Intersections and Implications,” featuring presentations³ that discussed the relationship between the early days of life and the development of NCDs. More than 35 people from eight countries participated in the webinar and expressed their appreciation and desire for additional webinars in the future to continue to share experiences and learning on this important topic. The webinar was also recorded and shared broadly with U.S. and overseas stakeholders, reaching an even wider audience.

First 1,000 Days, Micronutrient Delivery Platforms and Nutrition Information Systems

The First 1,000 Days, Micronutrient Delivery Platforms and Nutrition Information Systems sub-groups have continued to focus on joint activities in Uganda, where multiple U.S. Government

3 Presenters: Dr. Solveig Cunningham, associate professor in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University; Mark Hanson, professor at the University of Southampton and president of the International Society of the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease; and Dr. Naomi Levitt, professor in the Division of Endocrinology and Diabetes at the University of Cape Town, South Africa and director of the Chronic Disease Initiative for Africa.



Kate Consavage/USAID

agencies are supporting efforts to improve maternal, infant and young child nutrition. CDC and USAID are collaborating with the Government of Uganda and other country stakeholders to integrate a module for monitoring nutrition indicators into national surveys. Through this collaboration, training for integrating this module and pilots were conducted in January and February 2018, and data collection is currently in process.

Micronutrient Delivery Platforms and Nutrition Information Systems

The Micronutrient Delivery Platforms and Nutrition Information Systems sub-groups co-hosted a technical meeting on assessments

of micronutrient biomarkers in population-based surveys. The meeting covered lessons learned about the assessment of micronutrient biomarkers in low-income countries. Discussions yielded recommendations regarding which indicators are the most reliable and feasible for population-based surveys and how the indicators can be integrated into other national surveys. These recommendations contributed to a technical consultation on measuring nutrition in population-based household surveys, such as the Demographic and Health Surveys.

PRIORITIES AND PLANS FOR 2019

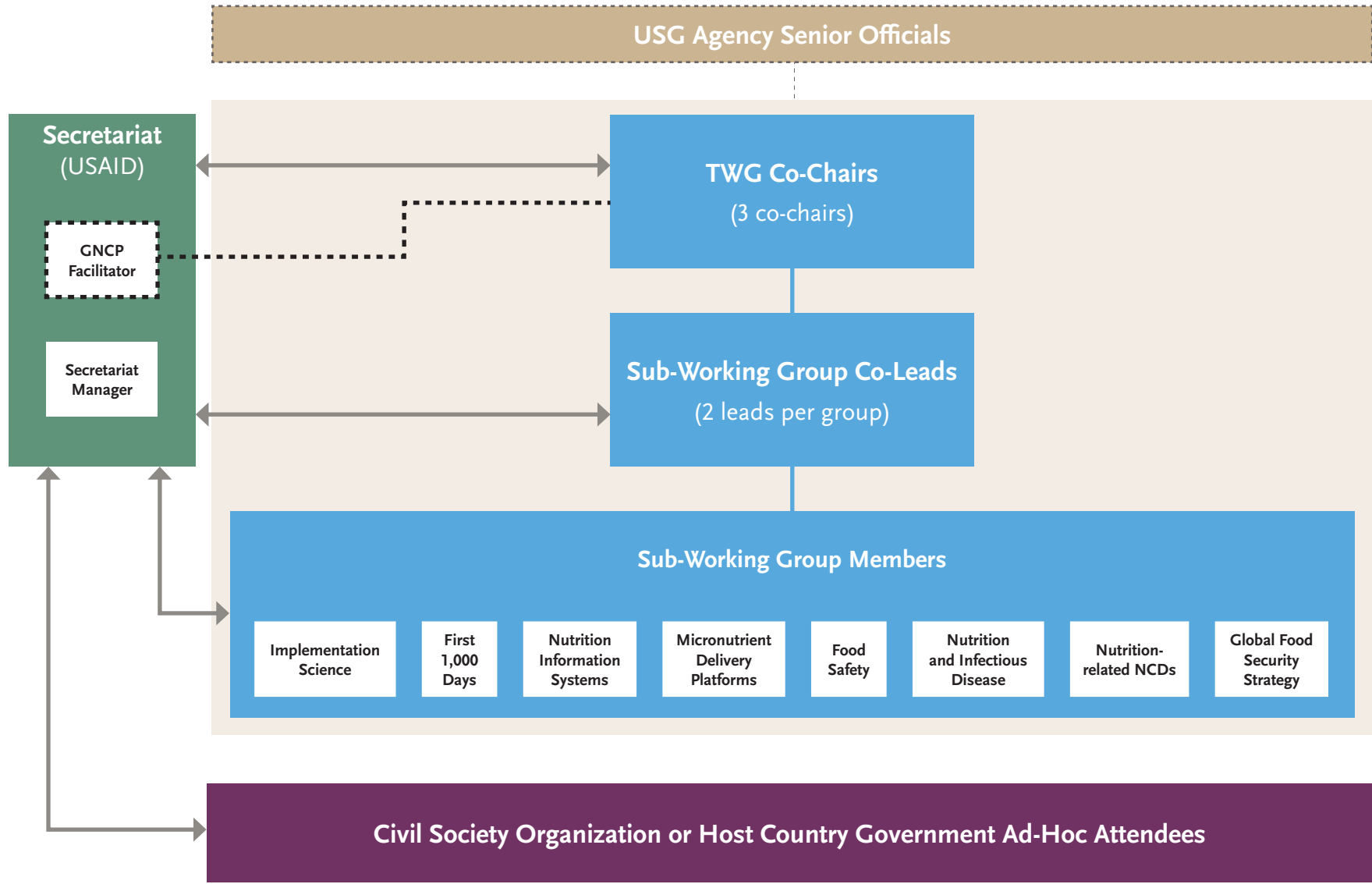
Sub-groups will continue planning the technical priorities and actions for 2019. Sub-group activities planned the third year of the Coordination Plan include:

- Creating a central repository for sharing food safety-related materials and project information across the U.S. Government.
- Conducting a webinar on the intersection of climate, nutrition and food security, with the goal of strengthening knowledge and identifying new opportunities within the U.S. Government's nutrition work to mitigate impacts on the environment while maximizing nutrition outcomes.
- Organizing a meeting with all TWG sub-groups, hosted by the Implementation Science sub-group, to discuss 1) using the Society for

Implementation Science's framework as a template to define implementation science in the context of the Coordination Plan, and 2) how to use implementation science in global nutrition programming and monitoring.

The formation of a TWG to lead implementation of the Coordination Plan has served as an important platform for coordination and collaboration across U.S. Government agencies. To strengthen regular coordination in year three, each U.S. Government agency in the Coordination Plan will identify one point of contact who will serve as the primary liaison between the TWG and their respective agency. In addition, new TWG Co-chairs will rotate starting in early 2019. As participating agencies continue to identify and enhance areas for collaboration through the Coordination Plan, the U.S. Government is strengthening its contributions to global nutrition targets.

Annex 1. Global Nutrition Coordination Plan Technical Working Group Structure



The U.S. Government Global Nutrition Coordination Plan (GNCP) 2016–2021 is an inter-agency effort to strengthen both domestic and international nutrition interventions thereby ensuring efficient and effective use of American investments. The GNCP aims to harness the power of the many diverse investments across the U.S. Government through better communication and collaboration and by linking research to program implementation. By embracing cross-U.S. Government partnerships and coordination, the impact of resources can be enhanced to improve nutrition worldwide.

Learn more at www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/global-health/nutrition/usgplan