

NUTRITION AT USAID

Good nutrition is critical to achieving global development goals—including eradicating poverty, preventing maternal and child deaths, providing a foundation for the economic growth of a country, empowering women, and improving the health of individuals and communities.



Photo: Karen Kasmauski, MCSP

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and its partners work with countries to empower people with the skills, tools, and resources to improve their families' health, diets, and nutrition, especially early in life when it matters most.

WHY NUTRITION MATTERS

Through cost-effective, evidence-based solutions, the world has seen remarkable progress to advance nutrition outcomes in the past few decades. However, there is much work yet to be done to bring these solutions to scale and reach global nutrition targets. Almost half of deaths for children under five years of age are underpinned by malnutrition, and those children who survive malnutrition have compromised cognitive and physical development. Investing in nutrition not only saves lives but is also essential for economic prosperity. Good nutrition supports individuals to be active, productive members of their communities and local economies.

THE CHALLENGE

45% of deaths of children under-five are attributable to undernutrition

82% of young children in low and/or middle income countries receive insufficient diets

\$110 billion loss due to lost productivity and healthcare costs associated with foodborne illness

THE OPPORTUNITY

\$1 invested in nutrition results in up to **\$16 in economic returns**

823,000 children's lives could be saved each year with adoption of universal optimal breastfeeding practices



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ADDRESSING MALNUTRITION

USAID supports countries to accelerate impact by bringing investments in health and food systems and humanitarian response together, in addition to helping partner governments drive effective multi-sectoral coordination. The Agency works across disciplines to achieve the visions set forward under USAID's Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy, the Global Food Security Strategy, and the U.S. government Global Nutrition Coordination Plan.

EVERY SECTOR HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN IMPROVING NUTRITION:



HEALTH



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



AGRICULTURE



PRIVATE SECTOR



WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE



POLICY



EDUCATION



SOCIAL PROTECTION



Photo: Michael Stulman, Catholic Relief Services



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A LEGACY OF IMPACT AND PROGRESS

For 60 years, USAID has been a global leader in nutrition and has addressed the causes and devastating effects of malnutrition by supporting countries to adopt evidence-based, context-specific, and adaptable solutions. To advance nutrition around the world, USAID and its partners reach millions of women and children with interventions, help increase the capacity of health centers to deliver lifesaving nutrition services, and train millions of professionals on nutrition.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:

- USAID has advanced breastfeeding with **rates of exclusive breastfeeding doubling** on average across 20 priority nutrition countries.
- USAID has **reached 2.3 million children with treatment for severe wasting** in partnership with UNICEF in the last two years.
- Across Feed the Future's target countries, **3.4 million more children are not stunted** (2010-2017).
- USAID has been **supporting programs to introduce, improve, and consolidate salt iodization** programs all over the world, with the goal of preventing iodine deficiency disorders for more than 20 years.
- USAID has **promoted micronutrient sufficiency** with support to 34 countries on fortification of staple foods and condiments for more than 50 years.

USAID is committed to safeguarding and advancing nutrition within sustainable food and health systems and humanitarian response so that more children, families, and communities do not suffer the consequences of malnutrition but live healthy and productive lives.

THE FUTURE OF NUTRITION

USAID envisions a world where everyone, particularly women and children, are well nourished. To build toward this future, USAID develops and implements strategies based on the most recent and reliable evidence. Our evidence-based Agency goals for nutrition include prioritizing action to:



Increase access to and consumption of affordable, safe, and nutritious foods, particularly in the critical first 1,000 days from pregnancy through a child's second birthday



Strengthen community and facility-level health systems to deliver high-quality nutrition services



Improve access to quality nutrition services in humanitarian response



Facilitate an enabling environment that supports sustainable food and health systems

► [Learn more at USAID.gov/nutrition](https://www.usaid.gov/nutrition)

