



U.S. GOVERNMENT GLOBAL NUTRITION COORDINATION PLAN 2.0

YEAR 1 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES



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ACRONYMS

AU	African Union
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
DFC	Development Finance Corporation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDA	U.S. Food and Drug Administration
FNS	Food and Nutrition Service
GNCPP	U.S. Government Global Nutrition Coordination Plan
HHS	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
MCC	Millennium Challenge Corporation
N4G	Nutrition for Growth
NIH	National Institutes of Health
SNC	senior nutrition champion
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
SWG	sub-working group
TOR	terms of reference
TWG	technical working group
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
WHO	World Health Organization



Photo credit: Thais Bessa, ILRG

FOREWORD

We are pleased to share this recap of the first year of the Global Nutrition Coordination Plan 2021-2026. One of the defining features of the current Coordination Plan was to best reflect the purpose and aspirations of this interagency platform by enhancing our Expected Results. We have revised and implemented an annual internal process to document our successes in interagency collaboration, identify opportunities for further action to enable joint initiatives, and share our achievements and next steps with the public.

The launch of the current Coordination Plan in November 2021, which also served as a side event for the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit in December 2021, was a celebratory showcase of the U.S. government's leadership

in global nutrition. The refreshed Coordination Plan outlines the roles that each participating department and agency plays in advancing our collective efforts, and the important partnership of our civil society and advocacy

colleagues. This past year, we were energized to kick off a new operational structure and related actions needed to realize the commitments we set in the new plan, a key N4G deliverable of the U.S. government.

In October 2022, near the close of the first year of the Coordination Plan, President Biden signed the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act. This bill demonstrated strong bipartisan, bicameral support for global nutrition, and importantly codified the Global Nutrition Coordination Plan as a main coordination platform to increase cooperation among U.S. departments and agencies and to leverage our collective technical and financial resources.

In this annual summary, we celebrate milestones, joint activities, and new interagency partnerships that have been made possible by or benefited from the Coordination Plan, as well as recognize key areas where we must further challenge ourselves to bridge the domestic and international nutrition spheres, and to maximize coordination beyond the headquarters level to the country and regional levels. We are proud of the achievements and breakthroughs reached in Year 1 through our collective efforts and optimistic about the opportunities that lay ahead for this interagency platform to advance nutrition impacts around the world.

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Photo credit: Mercy Corps

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Global Nutrition Coordination Plan Steering Group wishes to thank the USAID Advancing Nutrition team, particularly Charlotte Block (lead writer), Yaritza Rodriguez, Lauren Wheeler, and Kelly McDonald for their assistance in developing this annual summary and organizing activities under the Coordination Plan during Year 1.

We remember and pay tribute to our colleague and friend, Tim Quick, who was a central contributor and leader of the Global Nutrition Coordination Plan. Serving as a nutrition specialist for nearly 28 years at USAID, Tim brought technical rigor to the interagency community with his unique combination of expertise in agriculture and health, and showed unwavering commitment and enthusiasm for our shared goals and collaborative efforts.



Photo credit: Naziru Muzungu/Malaika Media for JSI

INTRODUCTION

The *U.S. Government Global Nutrition Coordination Plan 2016–2021* began as an interagency coordination platform to convene domestic and international nutrition technical expertise to strengthen diverse nutrition investments through increased communication, collaboration, support to country-led programs, knowledge sharing, global leadership and partnerships, and linking research to program implementation. A stock-taking exercise in 2020 led to a revision of the plan to consider gaps and lessons and inform the next *U.S. Government Nutrition Coordination Plan (2021–2026)* (the *Coordination Plan*), which started in November 2021. The new plan built on the structures and successes of the first and included strategic changes to intensify the government’s efforts to protect and improve nutrition.

The Coordination Plan offers a roadmap to build connections across department and agency investments and activities to address nutrition programs and policy priorities. For the first time, the Coordination Plan included signatories from the highest level of leadership from USAID, USDA, HHS, U.S. Department of State, DFC, MCC, and Peace Corps, who have joined forces to launch and execute this plan, marking a major milestone in this whole-of-government approach.

While the new plan retains a permanent technical working group (TWG) of representatives from participating agencies and departments who meet regularly to share information on research, programs, and policies, and several sub-working groups to address discrete issues, it also includes:

1. A new senior nutrition champions group to provide strategic direction and further elevate nutrition.
2. Expected results to promote accountability in achieving the plan's purpose.

3. A revised operational structure to respond to evolving challenges in global nutrition.

The purpose of the plan is to maximize investments across the continuum of nutrition-related policies and programs to accelerate achievement of global nutrition goals and increase whole-of-government responsiveness to emerging evidence, opportunities, and threats.

The interagency drafting committee that developed the new plan updated a set of expected results to track plan accomplishments to encourage accountability. Accomplishments along the six priority areas (box 1) are aggregated to reflect U.S. government-wide coordination. Plan results are organized under the following action areas.

1. Promote leadership and partnership.
2. Support regional and country-led efforts.
3. Generate, share, and apply knowledge and evidence.

Box 1. Six Nutrition Priority Areas

- Women's nutrition before and during pregnancy and lactation
- Breastfeeding and complementary feeding (0-24 months)
- Prevention and management of wasting in children under 5 years
- Micronutrient sufficiency
- Issues of special emphasis (e.g., COVID 19 and other health emergencies, nutrition during middle childhood and adolescence, overweight/obesity, diet related noncommunicable diseases, environmental health, climate)
- Cross cutting nutrition relevant policies and opportunities for high level engagement



Photo credit: Adam Finch, Root Capital

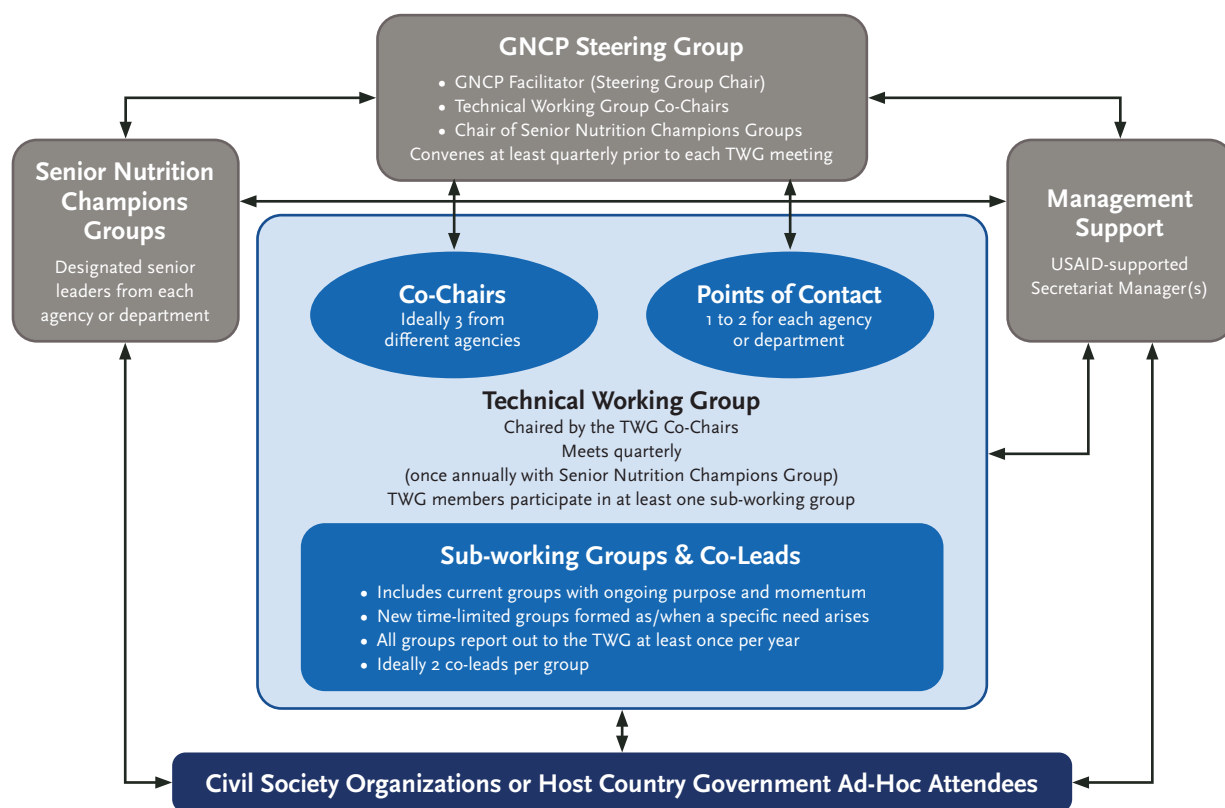
PROGRESS ON INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION

Twelve agencies/departments are participating in the Coordination Plan: U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC); Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC); Peace Corps; U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), including the Office of the Chief Scientist, the Foreign Agricultural Service, and the Food and Nutrition Service; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including the Office of Global Affairs, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and National Institutes of Health (NIH); and the U.S. Department of State.

Under the Coordination Plan, the TWG is led by three co-chairs representing different U.S. departments/agencies. In Year 1, these rotating roles were held by representatives from CDC, MCC, NIH, and USAID. Each participating agency/department has at least one point of contact. There are currently six sub-working groups, both standing and ad hoc, each led by

two people from different agencies. The more than 100 TWG members are encouraged to join one or more sub-working groups aligned with their interests and expertise. Finally, senior nutrition champions represent each member agency/department, elevating nutrition-related work within and across the U.S. government to upper leadership.

Figure 1. Operating Structure of the Plan



Launch of the Coordination Plan (2021–2026)

The Coordination Plan was introduced at a high-profile virtual event on November 30, 2021, co-hosted by Bread for the World and 1,000 Days as a side event and key U.S. government deliverable for the Nutrition for Growth Summit. The event included words of support from Representative Young Kim (R-CA) and a summary of the plan purpose,

objectives, and key components, featuring 12 senior nutrition champions from participating departments and agencies. The event concluded with two senior nutrition champions (Shawn Baker, Chief Nutritionist at USAID and Nafisa Jiwani, Managing Director for Health Initiatives at U.S. International Development Finance Corporation) responding to questions from co-hosts and participants. A video recording of the event is [here](#).

Nutrition for Growth Summit

The Government of Japan hosted the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Tokyo on December 7-8, 2021. This milestone event convened a global cross-section of stakeholders to put forth financial and policy commitments to accelerate progress in ending malnutrition. During the event, USAID Administrator Samantha Power announced on behalf of the White House that the United States intends to invest up to \$11 billion over three years, subject to Congressional appropriations, to combat global malnutrition. Administrator Power shared highlights from the newly launched Global Nutrition Coordination Plan as a platform which guides the collaborative work of participating U.S. government agencies engaged in scaling up proven approaches to better nutrition.

The U.S. government also announced several global and domestic programmatic commitments that demonstrate longstanding U.S. dedication to ending malnutrition in all forms, including policy action to advance nutrition security in the U.S.; expansion of global nutrition data availability and use; prevention

and treatment of child wasting; breastfeeding promotion and support; and improved diets in older children. The Coordination Plan platform proved critical for facilitating coordination, collaboration, and strategic communication in the planning and finalization of the U.S. government's engagement and commitments at Nutrition for Growth. Visit this [White House Fact Sheet on Nutrition for Growth](#) for more information.

White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health

In 2022, government agencies prepared for the September White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health—the first to be held in over 50 years. While the conference had a domestic focus, it called on a whole-of-government approach and in particular relied heavily on coordination among multiple agencies and offices across USDA and HHS. The Coordination Plan members continue to emphasize that the connection between domestic and international evidence generation and sharing is imperative to strengthen impact in both U.S. and global efforts.



Photo credit: Morgana Wingard, USAID

ELEVATING NUTRITION ACROSS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

Participating members noted that during Year 1, nutrition continued to move toward center stage, and even in agencies where nutrition has not historically been a prominent priority, members have witnessed an “upward trajectory” toward nutrition becoming an essential issue due in part to involvement in the interagency plan; public engagement in nutrition; and events for the Nutrition for Growth Summit, the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, and the African Union Year of Nutrition; and emerging global initiatives and partnerships.

Legislative Commitment

In October 2022, President Biden signed H.R. 4693, the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act of 2021 into law, authorizing USAID to support and encourage efforts to prevent and treat malnutrition globally, including codifying the role of the Coordination Plan to increase cooperation and coordination across member agencies. Shortly thereafter, on December 23, President Biden signed the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act of 2022 into law, which in addition to reauthorizing Feed the Future through 2028, requires a whole-of-government approach to reduce food insecurity and includes improving maternal and child nutrition.

Accountability of Investments

U.S. departments and agencies continued to report on their consolidated financial contributions to global nutrition via central reporting led by USAID, including submission of 2020 disbursements data to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee's public reporting system and the Global Nutrition Report 2022. The reporting process and results of the Global Nutrition Report 2022 U.S. government submission were presented to the Coordination Plan TWG at a quarterly meeting. USAID continues to fund analyses and technical assistance to support the application of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development nutrition policy marker to track investments in global nutrition.



Photo credit: Clément Tardif, NCBA CLUSA

SUB-WORKING GROUP PROGRESS

During the Coordination Plan planning, it was determined that an ad hoc mechanism was needed for sub-working groups, which would allow the TWG to be flexible and respond to challenges, projects, and other work areas in nutrition that would benefit from interagency exchange and collaboration. The list of sub-working groups combines both carryover from groups started under the first plan that maintain relevance and momentum and new or ad hoc groups chosen from TWG suggestions. The sub-working groups each developed terms of reference that outline objectives, activities, workplan, and membership.

Implementation Science (IS)

Co-leads from NIH and USAID

The IS sub-working group aims to identify activities for global nutrition and corresponding point of contacts across U.S. government agencies, and build technical skills and knowledge on the role and application of IS in global nutrition programs. This will be accomplished through an IS landscape review, dissemination webinar(s), and sharing resources and lessons specific to IS methods, tools, and frameworks for global nutrition. The sub-working group is a resource for those interested in nutrition IS and connects agency and trans-agency groups working on it, including the Interagency Committee on Human Nutrition Research, NIH's Nutrition Research Coordinating Committee, and National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research.

During Year 1 of the Coordination Plan, the sub-working group co-leads created terms of reference, met to introduce and learn members' interests, and have met regularly to design and discuss the landscape analysis. The co-leads have the analysis outline and have collected a substantial amount of data. They are hoping to receive more input, particularly from country-led research activities. Once analysis is complete, the sub-working group will plan next steps for dissemination, capacity building, and cross-sharing.

Ecology of Parental, Infant, and Child Nutrition (EPIC)

Co-leads from NIH and USAID

The EPIC sub-working group evolved from the 1,000 Days, Micronutrient Delivery Platforms, and Nutrition Information Systems sub-working groups under the first Coordination Plan. Its purpose is to support the Coordination Plan member agencies and global partner efforts to

translate and implement current and emerging evidence on parental, infant, and child (including adolescent) nutrition and its influence on health. Areas of interest include breast milk composition, anemia, biomarkers and bio-indicators of micronutrient status, guidance for micronutrient delivery interventions, and frameworks to assess the effects of current and emerging infections on nutrition and health.

In the Coordination Plan Year 1, EPIC hosted several webinars:

- **March 23:** [Advancements in Understanding Breastmilk: Learning from the BEGIN Project](#)

EPIC is engaged in a global dialogue about how to translate new approaches to infant feeding as informed by efforts such as the NICHD/NIH effort on the ecology of human milk (the Breastmilk Ecology: Genesis of Infant Nutrition: BEGIN Project).

- **September 13:** [Exploring the Anemia Ecology: A New Approach to an Old Problem](#)

EPIC is contributing to the WHO Alliance for Anemia Actions by sharing USAID Advancing Nutrition Anemia Task Force outputs, involvement in Alliance for Anemia Actions (AAA) consultative processes, and sharing task force and AAA outputs with the Coordination Plan members.

- **October 13:** [BOND-KIDS: an integrated approach to addressing the impact of school meals on school health](#)

EPIC has engaged with the Biomarkers of Nutrition for Development-Knowledge Indicating Dietary Sufficiency project, which focuses on assessment of the impact of interventions targeting nutritional support of school-age children (5–19 years). It is a consortium including USDA/FAS/FNS, ARS, CDC, USAID, NICH/

NIH, WHO, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, and civil society organizations.

Climate/Environmental Change, Health, Agriculture and Nutrition: A Global Ecology (CHANGE)

Co-leads from NIH and MCC

The CHANGE sub-working group is new under the Coordination Plan. Its purpose is to create a harmonized cross-government response to the challenges facing diet, nutrition, and health in a changing climate and global environment. It will do this by engaging with the Coordination Plan community and civil society to apply an ecological approach and share research, data, and lessons to improve global nutrition and health.

As a new sub-working group, CHANGE laid the foundation for its work during Year 1 of the Coordination Plan. The work plan and specific deliverables will be decided by group members and include dissemination of relevant reports, use of webinars, and the CHANGE platform to perform ad hoc projects. CHANGE held two member meetings in 2022.

Food Safety

Co-leads US Department of State and USAID

The Food Safety sub-working group has a history of interagency coordination stemming from the Coordination Plan 1.0. It provides a platform to exchange information and experiences in food safety and coordinate communications and learning to increase and broaden the effectiveness of food safety activities, contributing to the effectiveness of nutrition investments.

During Year 1 of the Coordination Plan, the sub-working group held two brown bag events.

The first was a presentation with FDA 2021 Traceability Challenge winner atma.io. The second was a collaboration with USDA/ARS to close knowledge gaps in antimicrobial resistance.

African Union Year of Nutrition and Food Security

Co-leads from US Department of State and USAID

This is an ad hoc sub-working group created as a platform for U.S. government coordination in support of African Union (AU) nutrition and food security priorities. It supported communications and engagement with the AU throughout 2022 (the Year of Nutrition and Food Security). The sub-working group aims to collaborate with other sub-working groups, such as Food Safety, to enhance support and coordination.

During Year 1 of the Coordination Plan, the sub-working group was a platform for convening partners and disseminating information about the AU Year of Nutrition and Food Security. Events included the United States-African Union Commission High-Level [Dialogue](#) in March; the Africa's Policy Priorities for Food Security and Nutrition [event](#) at the Wilson Center in May; the African Union Humanitarian Summit in May; and the African Green Revolution [Forum](#) in September.

Wasting

Co-leads from CDC and USAID

The Wasting sub-working group is also ad hoc. It was formed to ensure that members are updated on the WHO wasting guideline review and key developments in wasting programming/protocols to inform a more strategic, cross agency approach to programming. The sub-working group also aims to provide techni-

cal leadership and coordination on global wasting initiatives including linking to the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting.

Finalizing the [WHO guidelines](#) has been delayed, hindering progress on this sub-working group's activities. It met once, and the co-leads met frequently, including convening with the EPIC sub-working group to identify opportuni-

ties for research in wasting. These two groups also collaborated on creating an information sharing platform. It is expected that, with the finalization of the WHO guidelines on wasting; the USAID sub-strategy on wasting; and other relevant U.S. government activities, policy, guidance, and research, the need for interagency coordination will increase.



Photo credit: Paul Mugisa, People and Nature Initiative

PRIORITIES AND NEXT STEPS 2023

The Coordination Plan continues the legacy of the first, fostering coordination and elevating nutrition successes across U.S. government agencies. As naturally occurs when there is a restructuring, time is needed for learning and adaptation. Year 1 of the new plan welcomed a new system for sub-working groups and introduced the senior nutrition champion group, allowing agencies to respond to and elevate relevant work. However, some of the refocusing noted during the stock-taking at the end of the first plan remains unresolved. These include strengthening the bridge between domestic and international nutrition work within and across agencies; building in time and support for members to actively participate in TWG and sub-working group activities; and determining how the TWG can engage with advocacy and civil society organizations to strengthen nutrition programming.



Photo credit: Fintrac, Inc.

Over the next year, the co-chairs are committed to working with sub-working group co-leads, the senior nutrition champions, and the greater TWG to enhance the effectiveness of the operating structure. The format for sub-working groups evolved from the first to the second plan and these changes require additional attention to be effective. The sub-working groups need to update terms of references annually and the TWG needs to revisit the need for standing and ad hoc groups periodically. Due to the competing priorities of co-leads, sub-working groups would benefit from greater administrative support to manage meetings, complete deliverables, and contribute to a knowledge sharing platform.

The TWG membership is fluid and leadership roles have turned over. The Coordination Plan leadership will prioritize filling senior nutrition champion seats to maintain representation from all member agencies and departments and filling sub-working group co-lead vacancies to maintain momentum. To further support deliverables including the mapping exercise to track U.S. government-wide global nutrition investments, the co-chairs will prioritize engaging additional support (e.g., internship/fellowship) in Year 2.

While the agencies and departments have external partnerships with entities such as the World Health Organization and UNICEF, TWG members have noted that formalized linkages

with advocacy and civil society organizations are lacking. Leadership will explore creating a sub-working group or other mechanism to establish and maintain these important lines of communication and collaboration.

Finally, the Coordination Plan members recognize the continuing need to strengthen the bridge between domestic and international

nutrition work within and across agencies; build in time and support for colleagues to participate in collaborative activities; and consider how this interagency platform can more effectively engage with advocacy and civil society organizations at country and regional levels to enhance U.S. government-supported nutrition programming and advance national, regional, and global nutrition goals.

The U.S. Government Global Nutrition Coordination Plan (GNCP) 2021–2026 is an interagency 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/global-health/health-areas/nutrition/usgplan