

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

Nutrition in Global Health

FY21 REQUEST

\$200 million for
Nutrition in Global
Health

What our kids should eat has been the subject of every pediatrician's visit, parenting class, and talk show in recent memory. The perfect answer is still up for debate, but in the meantime **we've collectively, consistently failed to secure even the most basic nutrition for many of the world's most vulnerable children.**

Ensuring kids get a healthy start to life is about more than food aid or adding calories to their diet. It's about making sure pregnant women, infants, and toddlers have access to the essential nutrition – not just the calories – they need. **Childhood malnutrition goes hand-in-hand with poverty globally:** it is both a devastating consequence and a key driver of poverty. Its effects often follow a child throughout her lifetime – from her basic health to how far she's likely to get in school to how much she'll earn. **The consequences of early malnutrition are devastating and permanent, but they are also entirely preventable.**

Why Funding Matters

Almost half of all early childhood deaths are linked to some form of malnutrition. And a staggering one out of every four children globally is stunted. That's 165 million babies and young children failing to grow well each year because they didn't get the right micronutrients and vitamins needed to thrive. Stunting happens in a child's earliest days and months, but its consequences last a lifetime.

Proper nutrition during the window starting with a woman's pregnancy and ending with a child's second birthday sets children on a path toward reaching their full potential. These "1,000 days" have a profound impact on a child's life, from their brain development to their IQ to their immune system to their growth. During pregnancy, infancy, and early childhood, the nutrition a child receives has an irreversible effect – for good or for bad. Once this essential window for physical and cognitive development closes for an individual child, it does not reopen.

Kids with proper nutrition in the first 1,000 days are far more likely to overcome the most common childhood killers, such as pneumonia or diarrhea. They go farther in school. They earn an average of 20 percent more over the course of their lifetimes. They are more than 30 percent more likely to move out of poverty. And they're more likely and able to raise healthy families of their own. What happens in those first 1,000 days starts either a vicious or a virtuous cycle.

The critical U.S. investments in the direct nutrition interventions are supported in 19 countries with high rates of under-five child mortality and stunting, but more must be done reach the most vulnerable and at-risk mothers and children.

Nutrition Supplements Change Lives in Laos

Inside Kokmuang Health Center, a modest wooden structure in Donmai village in Luang Namtha, Laos, USAID-funded nutrition commodities, such as iron, folic acid, vitamin A, and deworming tablets, are distributed to patiently waiting mothers and their children by local health staff with support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). This is part of the regular health outreach efforts performed in the northwest, mountainous part of the country.



*Lin and her baby receive nutrition supplements through a program funded by USAID and UNICEF.
Photo: Barry Bracken (UNICEF).*

In Laos, over one third of children are stunted, or too short for their age. Stunting affects the development of the brain and can have an irreversible impact on cognitive ability. But, U.S. supported micronutrient supplements help meet the nutritional needs of mothers, children, and also prevent stunting. "Women who are pregnant particularly need iron, which they should start from the first three months of pregnancy to aid the baby's brain development and healthy growth," said Dr. Sengpasert Bunthanvong of Luang Namtha's Health Promotion Department. "It also protects mothers from blood shortage or excessive blood loss after giving birth."

Eighteen-year-old Lin benefited from this important program. "During pregnancy, the doctor gave me iron supplements... after taking it, I felt good and healthier, even after just having my new baby. My child's weight at birth was the expected weight for a newborn baby and healthy too." Lin is among the nearly 2 million people who have benefited from USAID/UNICEF-funded nutrition programs in northern Laos. Improving maternal and child nutrition outcomes in the area is giving Laos a chance to unlock its fullest economic potential for generations to come.

Full story: <https://www.usaid.gov/results-data/success-stories/usaid-partners-preventive-nutrition-protecting-mothers-and-children>

RESULTS' Request and Funding History

As members of Congress submit annual appropriations requests to the relevant Appropriations Subcommittees, they can show their support for ending preventable child deaths and fighting stunting by requesting funding in the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for Nutrition Account in Global Health.

To do so, please submit a formal appropriations request form for the Nutrition account to Senators Graham and Leahy or Representatives Lowey and Rogers as Chairs and Ranking Members of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittees of Appropriations. Contact RESULTS staff Crickett Nicovich for support: cnicovich@results.org.

Fiscal Year	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	RESULTS' FY21 Request
Nutrition Account in GH	\$125 million	\$125 million	\$145 million	\$150 million	\$200 million