

March 13, 2020

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations and Related Programs  
HT-2, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20512

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations and Related Programs  
1016 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Lowey and Ranking Member Rogers:

As you begin consideration of the Department of State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill for fiscal year (FY) 2021, we strongly urge you to allocate \$900 million for the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) account—including \$290 million for GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance—and an additional \$200 million for the Nutrition account. This funding is critical to preserving effective, evidence-based, poverty-focused assistance that saves lives and helps strengthen economies in developing countries.

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) MCH and Nutrition programs form the backbone of the U.S. commitment to help end preventable child and maternal deaths globally. While reductions in global mortality rates for women and children are two of the biggest success stories in international development, there remain significant gaps that additional investments and continued U.S. support can help close.

For example, in 2018 over 5.3 million children under the age of five died from mainly preventable and treatable diseases. A growing proportion of under-five deaths occur in the first 28 days after birth, with approximately 7,000 newborns dying each day. And while deaths from illnesses such as malaria, and HIV have dropped significantly, progress in preventing deaths from pneumonia and diarrhea have been much slower, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. While there are vaccines to prevent the deadliest cases, pneumonia and diarrheal diseases are still leading killers for children under five. Finally, recent estimates suggest that more than 300,000 women continue to die annually of preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth, almost all in low-resource settings.

To continue progress and address these persistent challenges, MCH programs support the delivery of low-cost, proven, life-saving services in 25 priority countries where the burden of preventable deaths is the highest. USAID's generous investments help provide access to skilled birth attendants and emergency obstetric care; training for frontline health workers; clean water, sanitation, and hygiene; life-saving health commodities; and research and development of innovative tools.

A critical portion of the MCH account supports GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, which provides new and underutilized vaccines to developing countries. This public-private partnership has enabled the immunization of 760 million children since 2000, saving over an estimated 13 million lives. GAVI recently launched its third replenishment with an ambitious goal of immunizing an additional 300 million children by 2025. Continued U.S. support of this partnership is critical to help save up to 8 million lives.

The Nutrition account supports nutrition-specific programs for women and children, focusing on the first 1,000 days between pregnancy and a child's second birthday. These programs can make a tremendous impact on a child's ability to learn and, later on in life, secure employment and provide for their families as healthy adults. Absent quality nutrition and early intervention health services, a child's physical and cognitive development is at risk of being stunted. Almost a quarter of the world's children never reach their full earning, social, and economic potential because of this. U.S. leadership in support of nutrition is particularly critical this year to bolster global commitments to scale up this important intervention.

Again, we urge you to allocate \$900 million for MCH and \$200 million for Nutrition programs in FY21, along with continued support for other programs that contribute to the health and well-being of families and communities in developing countries. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the United States maintains its leadership in this global effort.

Sincerely,

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

Susan W. Brooks  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

Buddy Carter  
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress

Denny Heck  
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress

Frederica Wilson  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Sablan  
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress

Stacey E. Plaskett  
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

Al Green  
Member of Congress

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress

Alcee Hastings  
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress

Don Young  
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress

Harley Rouda  
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress

Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Susan Wild  
Member of Congress

Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress

Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress

Max Rose  
Member of Congress

Jenniffer González-Colón  
Member of Congress

Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress

Bradley S. Schneider  
Member of Congress

Andy Kim  
Member of Congress

Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress

Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress

Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress

John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress

Donna Shalala  
Member of Congress

Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress

Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress

David Trone  
Member of Congress

Abigail D. Spanberger  
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress

Deb Haaland  
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

Jim Himes  
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress

Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

Katie Porter  
Member of Congress

Susie Lee  
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

Cedric Richmond  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress

Xochitl Torres Small  
Member of Congress

Antonio R. Delgado  
Member of Congress

Sean Casten  
Member of Congress

Elaine G. Luria  
Member of Congress

Tom Malinowski  
Member of Congress

Jesús G. “Chuy” García  
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Jeff Van Drew  
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress

Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress

Cindy Axne  
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress

Anthony Brindisi  
Member of Congress

John Lewis  
Member of Congress

Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress

Andy Levin  
Member of Congress

Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress

Ben McAdams  
Member of Congress

David Scott  
Member of Congress

Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

Abby Finkenauer  
Member of Congress

Val Butler Demings  
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

William R. Timmons, IV  
Member of Congress