



Learn About the Issues

Poverty-Focused Development Assistance

Foreign aid is a critical investment for the US and the world. Less than 1% of our budget goes to poverty focused aid, and those investments can help bolster America's leadership in the world, support our economy, and improve national security.

Child Health and Nutrition Background

In 1990 the number of under-five child deaths was soaring at over 12 million children each year dying of mainly preventable and treatable causes in the world's poorest places. But, through smart investments in development that have built the foundations for health, and by countries themselves increasing access to cost-effective health programs, the number of children who die each year before age five has shrunk by over half.

While huge strides have been made, over 17,000 children still die each day before they reach their fifth birthday. More must be done to ensure that where a child is born does not determine whether or not she lives. USAID's 2014 report *Acting on the Call: Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths* provides a roadmap to accelerate health outcomes and save lives by prioritizing effective, evidence-based interventions based on country needs.

To reach the goal of ending preventable child deaths by 2035, USAID has set bold, intermediate goals of saving 15 million child lives and 600,000 women's lives by 2020. By working with poor countries to create sustainable change, together we can end preventable child deaths in a generation, if we accelerate momentum.

Why Funding Matters: U.S. investments in maternal and child health are saving lives, providing equal chances for children to survive and thrive, and creating lasting difference.

- Maternal and Child Health: Training skilled birth attendants and frontline health workers, providing treatment for leading killers of kids such as pneumonia and diarrhea, and increasing capacity for technical support are improving health systems in poor countries.
- Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance: Since 2000, Gavi supported the 73 poorest countries to immunize almost half a billion children, which will save over six million lives. Gavi is a global partnership between donor and developing countries to roll out new and underutilized vaccines. As part of a commitment to improve their own child health, all Gavi-eligible countries co-finance a portion of vaccine costs. U.S. funding for Gavi will support its strategy of immunizing an additional 300 million children by 2020, saving an additional 5 million lives.
- Nutrition: Forty-five percent of all under-five deaths are attributed to malnutrition. Ensuring quality nutrition during the "1,000 Day" period from pregnancy to a child's second birthday is critical to saving lives and preventing stunting, which impacts a child's physical and cognitive development and has a life-long impact on education and economic outcomes.

Food Security and Global Agriculture Background



Around the world, approximately 805 million people suffer from hunger, the vast majority of them reliant on agriculture for their livelihoods. Given the fundamental role agriculture can play, not just as a driver of broad-based economic growth, but as a source of improved food security, investing in agriculture is critical to spurring development.

Investments in agriculture are two to four times more effective than investments in other sectors at raising the incomes of poor people. Despite this, agriculture has historically been an area of underinvestment, and small-scale women food producers face the highest barriers of all to getting the resources they need to escape poverty.

In addition to investments in agricultural capacity, the US is the most generous country in the world, with respect to providing food aid to regions hit by famine and disaster, be they man-made or environmental. However, many of our food aid programs are shackled by antiquated rules and red tape, limiting the impact of these programs to save lives – slowing the provision of food aid, and doing so at higher costs.

There has been bipartisan momentum in Congress and the Administration to adopt smart reforms to make food aid programs more effective and efficient, saving more lives in less time, ensuring responsible use of scarce taxpayer dollars, while maximizing the reach and impact of this assistance.

- One in eight people around the world suffer from hunger. Yet hunger is highly concentrated in rural areas where many people rely on food production for their livelihoods.
- **Help right the wrong of farmers and their families going to bed hungry by supporting \$1.2 billion for the Feed the Future Initiative**, which aims to increase agricultural productivity, expand markets and prevent maternal and child malnutrition.
- As a co-chair of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, a unique multilateral funding vehicle, the US needs to show strong leadership in this initiative **by providing \$158.3 million in funding**, a sound investment that will also leverage additional funds from other developed countries.
- **Support funding of \$80 million for the Agriculture Department's Local and Regional Procurement program**, a reform-oriented program that provides much needed flexibility in getting assistance to people who desperately need it, and save lives.