



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Why global nutrition programs need **\$300 million**

Soaring rates of severe malnutrition make it plain that now is the time to double U.S. investments in global nutrition. The causes of these dramatic increases are interrelated: the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout, rising prices of basic foods, conflict, and climate change impacts. By the end of 2022, there may be an additional 17 million malnourished children.¹ Nearly half of all preventable deaths among children under five are attributed to malnutrition. Despite progress over the past few decades, the world continues to lose between two and three million young children to malnutrition every year. Those who survive are far more likely to suffer from lifelong health problems and developmental delays. More than one in five of today's adults have suffered permanent damage from early childhood malnutrition.²

It is clear that global inequities play a key role in perpetuating hunger and malnutrition. For example, most people living with malnutrition are concentrated in South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and Central America. The knowledge and resources available today make global hunger and malnutrition completely unnecessary, and the global community should act urgently to avoid suffering and death.

Bread for the World and its partners are asking Congress to provide \$300 million for global nutrition in the fiscal year 2023 budget.

Thankfully, many countries made commitments to do more about global malnutrition during 2021, the Year of Action on Nutrition. The United States made a commitment of \$11 billion over three years. This commitment will save the lives of tens of thousands of young children, each one irreplaceable, as well as saving the health and futures of millions more.

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PRIORITY NUTRITION PROGRAMS

- Nutrition supplements for children, adolescent girls, and pregnant women
- Preventive malaria treatment during pregnancy
- Education and promotion of breastfeeding
- Education and promotion of good eating and hygiene practices for infants and young children
- Treatment of acute malnutrition
- Fortification of staple food crops with nutrients

Although priority nutrition actions backed by extensive evidence have been identified, and governments and organizations in many parts of the world are working to implement and expand programs that include these actions, the world is not on track to meet the nutrition targets that were adopted by many countries to be reached by 2025.

When invested in nutrition programs that are evidence based and proven to be highly effective, **\$300 million** can reach more than **12 million** women and **8 million** children, resulting in:

- Treating **3 million** children with acute malnutrition.
- Saving the lives of more than **30,000** children.
- Preventing stunting for more than **553,000** children.
- Preventing more than **12 million** women from developing anemia, a top cause of maternal mortality.
- Supporting the practice of exclusive breastfeeding for more than **5.5 million** new mothers—the optimal nutritional choice for an infant's first 6 months.



Better nutrition for women and children will enable countries to improve the health of the population as a whole, send more children to school, and strengthen their economies. **Bread for the World and its partners are asking Congress to provide \$300 million for global nutrition in the fiscal year 2023 budget** to honor U.S. commitments, demonstrate leadership that will encourage other donors to contribute, and galvanize much-needed efforts to end all forms of malnutrition worldwide.

For just \$15 per woman or child—about what we would pay for a casual dinner out—the United States can improve the nutrition of millions. Each person, regardless of where she or he was born, deserves the opportunity to live a healthy, flourishing life, and U.S. global nutrition assistance can give that opportunity to millions of people.

Endnotes:

- 1 Globalnutritionreport.org. 2022. A world free from malnutrition: An assessment of progress towards the global nutrition targets. Available at: <https://globalnutritionreport.org/reports/2021-global-nutrition-report/assessing-progress-towards-the-global-nutrition-targets/>.
- 2 S. Osendarp, Akuoku, J., Black, R., et al. 2022. The COVID-19 crisis will exacerbate maternal and child undernutrition and child mortality in low- and middle-income countries.