

Global Nutrition Recommendations for the Biden-Harris Administration

Strong Investment is Critical to Save Lives

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely strained health systems, fragile economies, food systems, and livelihoods around the world, rendering too many families unable to provide their children with the necessary nutrition for their physical and mental development. Tragically, as a result, an additional **6.7 million children** could suffer moderate to acute malnutrition, and an estimated 10,000 more children could die from malnutrition each month.

According to **new research** from the **Standing Together for Nutrition (STfN) Consortium**, the effects of the pandemic could last for at least the next three years absent quick action now—further lowering the chances of meeting the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and **World Health Assembly Global Nutrition Targets** for stunting, wasting, maternal anemia, and breastfeeding by 2025.

Even before the pandemic, **one in three children** was malnourished, with **144 million children** under five stunted and 47 million children wasted. Undernutrition is linked to nearly half of all deaths of children under the age of five, and **severe anemia** can double the risk of maternal death.

A better world is possible.

Programs that invest in women and girls' nutrition can break the cycle of malnutrition, leading to the birth and growth of healthier babies and children and stronger communities. Good nutrition interventions, particularly in the **first 1,000 days**, are essential to a child's survival and healthy development and are critical elements of the **U.S. commitment** toward ending preventable maternal and child deaths.

Now is a critical time for the Biden-Harris Administration to invest in nutrition. The STfN Consortium estimates **an additional \$1.2 billion each year** is needed to mitigate the devastating impacts of the pandemic on child stunting and wasting and maternal anemia alone. With the **U.N. Food Systems Summit** and global **Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit** convening in 2021, the U.S. has a unique opportunity to reassert strong global leadership to end malnutrition and hunger to help children around the world survive and thrive.

Recommendations

- **Commit to a bold financial pledge and updated targets** that align with the World Health Assembly's 2025 Global Nutrition Targets at the N4G Summit hosted by the Government of Japan in December 2021 and press for greater investment in nutrition at the U.N. Food Systems Summit and at the G7/G20 Summits as well.
- **Provide robust resources for global nutrition programs**, both within the Global Health Nutrition subaccount and in other nutrition-sensitive programming across sectors, including in Feed the Future, Food for Peace, and McGovern Dole Food for Education programs.
- **Further efforts to improve coordination on nutrition** through the USAID Nutrition Leadership Council and the update to the **U.S. Government Global Nutrition Coordination Plan**.



- **Increase focus on and support for women and girls' nutrition** within USG cross-sectoral programming. For example, incorporate nutrition interventions for adolescent girls as part of any initiative around women and girls to help break the cycle of malnutrition.
- **Ensure nutrition is a key element of the strategic framework** towards ending preventable maternal and child deaths. For example, strengthen simplified and community approaches for detection and treatment of acute malnutrition.
- **Include a strong focus on nutrition in any climate action plan.** The World Health Organization has estimated that—without mitigation efforts—by 2030, climate change will lead to nearly **95,000 additional deaths** per year due to undernutrition in children under age five.

About InterAction's Food Security, Nutrition, and Agriculture Working Group

The Food Security, Nutrition, and Agriculture Working Group is InterAction's advocacy arm covering humanitarian and development issues relating to hunger and malnutrition. Our working group supports legislative advocacy on all relevant food security, agriculture, and nutrition appropriations accounts; relevant bills and resolutions including—but not limited to—the U.S. Government's Global Food Security Strategy, Feed the Future Initiative, Food for Peace, USAID's Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy, and international food aid titles within the U.S. Farm Bill; engagement with U.N. agencies and other multilateral organizations/entities; and ensures that Congress continues to prioritize food security and malnutrition as necessary components for implementing sound, impactful, and inclusive U.S. foreign policy.

About InterAction

InterAction is a convener, thought leader, and voice for NGOs working to eliminate extreme poverty, strengthen human rights and citizen participation, safeguard a sustainable planet, promote peace, and ensure dignity for all people.

