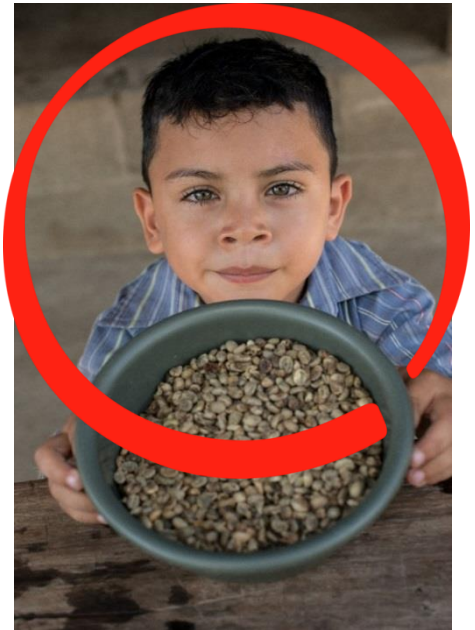


Global Food Security and Nutrition

Background

Food security is more than just having enough food—it is also about ensuring that children have the right nutrition at the right time. While global efforts over the past two decades have succeeded in cutting extreme poverty and hunger by nearly half, nearly 800 million people globally are facing food insecurity and over 160 million children suffer chronic malnutrition every year. Chronic malnutrition leads to stunted growth and cognitive development as well as lower levels of educational attainment, reduced productivity later in life, lower lifetime earnings and slowed national economic growth.

Factors that contribute to hunger in the U.S and abroad are complex and varied but are often interconnected. A population too malnourished to work suffers long-term economic consequences. Malnourished children who survive past their fifth birthdays are often permanently scarred with poor physical, mental and social development, further perpetuating a cycle of poverty and hunger. The 2012 Copenhagen Consensus concluded that for every \$1 spent in nutrition yields \$16 in productivity returns. By providing people with the tools they need to move tackle poverty and malnutrition, we can create a more prosperous and stable world.



The Nutrition account within USAID Global Health Programs supports good maternal nutrition, integrates key hygiene actions and scales up community management of nutrition to reach every last child. Feed the Future investments integrate agriculture and global health investments to ensure outcomes that not only increase household income but also lead to improve nutrition for women and children.

U.S. Leadership

The U.S. is the world's largest provider of global food aid that saves 56 million lives on average every year. In 2015, Feed the Future's food security and nutrition investments directly helped more than 9 million households, increasing the yield of their farms and fields, which in turn, helped reach 12 million children with nutrition programs that prevent and treat undernutrition, saving children's lives. The U.S. has a multi-sectoral nutrition strategy and a whole-of-government nutrition plan that informs how the U.S. approach to reducing food insecurity and malnutrition. The U.S. has joined with other world leaders to commit to ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030. It also committed to reducing stunting among 2 million children under the age of 5 by 2017. U.S. investments in food security and nutrition interventions have led to a number of countries – such as Ethiopia, Bangladesh and Rwanda – reducing stunting by over 10 percent.

Save the Children's Work

Save the Children's Hunger and Livelihoods program focuses on food supply, farming practices and finances of families in need by not only providing food staples but also training women with small-scale farms and generating employment for youth. Specific activities may include such wide-ranging activities as the direct provision of food during the first 1,000 days of a child's life, food for work, village savings, improved health services, or improved infrastructure.

Policy Recommendations

- *Robustly fund the Feed the Future program at \$1.006 billion, Food for Peace Title II at \$1.875 billion, McGovern-Dole program at \$209.5 million, and the Nutrition account in USAID Global Health Programs at \$160 million.*
- *Fulfill the commitments made at G7 and G20 summits and the 2013 Nutrition for Growth Summit.*