

USAID Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy

For more than 50 years, USAID has worked in nutrition, nutrition research, food assistance, food security, micronutrients, infant and young child feeding, capacity building, etc. Despite global progress in improving nutrition, under-nutrition continues to contribute significantly to maternal and child deaths around the world.

The USAID nutrition strategy is guided by both U.S. Presidential initiatives: Global Health and Feed the Future, and our U.S. Government commitments to the World Health Assembly targets for nutrition for 2025, as well as the Nutrition for Growth commitments for 2020.

These commitments and our related nutrition activities now are all together under one strategy based on the latest evidence of high- impact interventions for nutrition-specific and nutrition sensitive activities. Over the course of 9 months, we received excellent input from experts in the field, from other donors, from our country programs, and civil society implementers and advocates. The strategy spans 12 years and we plan to review the strategy for needed adjustments around 2016 and 2020.

The purpose of the strategy is to guide the Agency's policies and programs for nutrition in both development and emergency settings, with the goal of improving nutrition to save lives, build resilience, increase economic productivity, and advance development.

Our goals are to:

1. Contribute to reducing the prevalence of child stunting by 20% where our programs work.
2. Reduce the number of stunted children by 2 million over 5 years in our program areas.
3. In humanitarian crises, keep moderate and severe acute malnutrition levels below 15%.

How will we reach our goals?

1. Set and rigorously track nutrition targets
2. Manage nutrition funds and programs in a rigorous manner
3. Focus on high-impact actions.

We are going to invest in more intensive nutrition activities that:

1. Include regular, quality contacts with mothers/direct care-givers
2. Use SBCC messages reinforced through coordinated SBCC plans
3. Advocate for improve nutrition-sensitive actions in health, agriculture and WASH
4. Improve the quality, expanded collection and use of data for decision-making

Now the work begins! We are working on plans to roll-out the strategy to inform our country programs as they are updating country cooperation strategies, or planning health or food security programs or strategies. We are preparing technical updates, briefs, webinars and regional meetings, and planning around requests for technical assistance from USAID country missions. These updates will include references and web links to existing materials produced by others – not just by the USG.

We have also been working towards a USG Nutrition Coordination Plan to build on the USAID strategy, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2014.

You can access the strategy on USAID's Global Health website: <http://www.usaid.gov/nutrition-strategy>