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# Why we need **\$250 million** for global nutrition programs

Bread for the World believes that better nutrition for children will lead to a better tomorrow. When children do better, the world does better.

Nearly half of all child deaths worldwide—that is, nearly 2.5 million preventable deaths of children under the age of 5 every year—are related to malnutrition. Much larger numbers of young children—149 million, or nearly one in every four—are affected by chronic malnutrition.

Malnutrition should not claim young lives and damage children's health and futures in our time—particularly on such an enormous scale. The persistence of malnutrition is, at its core, an issue of global inequities as the majority of impacted families live in countries in South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and Central America.

But there is good news! We have the knowledge and tools to improve nutrition, and global nutrition programs have worked. Peru, Ghana, and Kenya have rapidly reduced their rates of stunting (a sign that children have survived chronic malnutrition very early in life) since 2000. Perhaps best of all: more than 16 million fewer children under the age of 5 are stunted today than in 2012.

**Bread for the World and its partners are asking Congress to provide \$250 million for global nutrition in the fiscal year 2020 budget.**

Improved nutrition for women and children will allow countries to improve health overall, put more kids in school, and expand their own economic growth. Bread for the World and its partners are asking Congress to provide \$250 million for global nutrition in the fiscal year 2020 budget to jumpstart efforts to make faster progress on global nutrition and help the United States spur action from other partners.

## 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

Even with these successful programs, the world is not on track to meet the global nutrition targets we have set for ourselves.

If invested in high impact, evidence-based nutrition programs, **\$250 million** could reach more than **10 million** women and **7 million** children resulting in:

- Saving more than **25,000** children's lives.
- Preventing stunting for more than **461,000** children.
- Preventing anemia for more than **10 million** women—a top cause of maternal mortality.
- Supporting more than **4.6 million** new mothers to exclusively breastfeed their children—the optimal nutritional choice for infants.
- Treating more than **2.5 million** acutely malnourished children.



For just under \$15 per woman or child—the cost of a casual dinner out—we can make a difference in millions of lives. It's a small price to pay to ensure that every child—regardless of where she or he was born—has the opportunity to live a healthy life and reach her or his full potential.