



Save the Children
Action Network™

Global Health and Nutrition Programs Save Lives

Ending Preventable Deaths of Moms and Kids Worldwide Could be a Reality

U.S. Leadership Has Helped to Save Millions of Lives

Since 1990, the world – with U.S. leadership – has reduced mortality rates for children under the age of five by more than half. This is one of the greatest success stories in international development.

The U.S. has led a global effort to provide developing countries to keep their children healthy – often with simple, proven, and inexpensive interventions that address leading causes of death, such as diarrhea and pneumonia.

Saving Mothers' and Children's Lives around the World

Since 2008, the U.S. has saved an estimated 4.6 million children and 200,000 women around the world in 24 priority countries. American leadership has encouraged more than 20 countries to develop concrete plans and increase their own resources for health and nutrition programs that reduce child and maternal deaths.

These programs have helped moms and kids like Mwayuma and her daughter Nadya in Tanzania. Nadya was born underweight. Mwayuma learned about Kangaroo Care, in which she placed her baby skin-to-skin to help her grow.

Mwayuma also learned about the importance of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months. She is now feeding Nadya nutritious foods, while still breastfeeding to help her baby grow up healthy and strong.

These kind of low-cost, high-impact health and nutrition programs have saved millions of lives. And funding for these types of programs represent less than one percent of the entire federal budget.

Despite this Progress, We Have More to Do

16,000 children die each day from preventable and treatable causes such as pneumonia, diarrhea and malaria. Every year, nearly one million newborns die on the day they are born, and close to two million newborns die in their first week after birth. Malnutrition is an underlying cause for 45 percent of preventable deaths among children under the age of five. A number of these children grow up in the hardest to reach areas. Additionally, 800 women die each day due to complications during pregnancy or childbirth.



Mwayuma feeds her eight-month-old baby girl, Nadya, in Tanzania.

Factsheet

Watching a child suffer can make a mother feel helpless. When Monera's newborn daughter, Samiba, became sick with pneumonia she was very worried.

About her experience, Monera said, "I am the mother, when the baby is sick I feel bad... If there were facilities nearby, we would visit instead of going to the village doctor. We do not think about the future of our child; future prediction is too difficult."

No child should die from preventable and treatable illnesses like pneumonia.

Together We Can Stop Funding Cuts to Global Health and Nutrition Programs

We know how to end preventable child and maternal deaths, and it is done simply by promoting access to proven, cost-effective treatments.

Despite these successes, maternal and child health programs that have helped millions are in jeopardy. Drastic cuts to proven programs would reverse all the good that America has done to build stronger communities and save lives around the world.

You can help by asking your members of Congress to reject any cuts to international programs including the United States' Agency for International Development (USAID) Maternal and Child Health programs.

Visit SaveTheChildrenActionNetwork.org/SaveMomsandKids today to take action.



Monera holds her daughter, Samiba, 16-days old in Bangladesh. Samiba is sick with pneumonia.

