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USAID takes a vital step forward in ensuring that every child, everywhere, has the nutrition she needs to thrive.

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SPECIAL ISSUE

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USAID 2014 - 2025 Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy

Please see this letter from Rajiv Shah, Administrator of USAID:

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to share with you USAID's 2014-2025 *Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy*. With this strategy, we take a vital step forward in ensuring that every child, everywhere, has the nutrition she needs to thrive. By elevating and integrating nutrition into our broader mission, we can help save lives, spur prosperity, and tackle one of the most pervasive and enduring causes of extreme poverty.

At its core, this strategy represents a new model of development that harnesses science and data to inform cutting-edge approaches in nutrition. Over the last few decades, a richer analysis of the causes of hidden hunger and undernutrition has enabled us to target our work in the first 1,000 days of life across our health, agriculture, and humanitarian assistance programs in GH, BFS and DCHA. We know now that nutrition affects every aspect of human development: from our performance in school, to our ability to fight off diseases, to our nation's health, food security, and economic advancement. We also know that stunting is a debilitating, life-long condition that results from being severely malnourished at an early stage in your life.

Today, this clearer understanding of nutrition's impact and robust new baseline surveys have allowed us to establish a bold goal to reduce chronic malnutrition—which leads to stunting—by 20 percent over five years in the areas of focus where we work. Ultimately, this strategy outlines a vision for long-term success through country ownership, alongside deepened engagement from local community, government, and private sector leaders.

Investing in nutrition is fundamental to achieving our goals in improving global health, ending preventable child and maternal death, promoting an AIDS-free generation, reaching starving children during an emergency, and strengthening food security through President Obama's Feed the Future initiative. Every year, these efforts effectively reach millions of people and reduce their risk of undernutrition. In the last year alone, Feed the Future improved nutrition for 12 million children across 19 countries, and Food for Peace helped feed 45 million hungry people in crisis worldwide.

But this nutrition strategy is unique, because it targets a very specific challenge and elevates it across our work. With it, we commit to working across our priorities to ensure that safe and nutritious foods are accessible, healthy dietary practices are followed, and the prevention and treatment of diseases are prioritized. USAID's Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy lays the foundation for a broader, whole-of-government USG Nutrition Coordination Plan now in development which will be launched later this year.

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healthy, well-nourished populations and every child has the potential for a healthy and productive life.

Please find the nutrition strategy here: <http://www.usaid.gov/nutrition-strategy>.

Your points of contact in the three bureaus that oversee nutrition across sectors are: Bureau for Food Security – Richard Greene rgreene@usaid.gov; Bureau for Global Health – Katherine Taylor ktaylor@usaid.gov; and Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance – Jed Meline jmeline@usaid.gov

Thank you,

Rajiv Shah

If you are not already on our e-mail list, sign-up [here](#). We welcome news of events, tools, trainings, country updates and other content from the broad FSN Network community. Please send any suggested content to news@fsnnetwork.org.

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The FSN Network is being spearheaded by TOPS, a USAID/FFP funded program seeking to build the capacity of FFP grantees and other food security and nutrition implementers. The program is working to improve the quality of implementation through fostering collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing around food security and nutrition best practices. For more information about TOPS please click [here](#).



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