

FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018 NUTRITION SECTOR UPDATE



A health worker screens a child for malnutrition by measuring mid-upper-arm circumference in Turkana County, Kenya. Photo by Michael Gebremedhin/USAID.

Responding to Acute Malnutrition in Ethiopia

Recurrent cycles of insufficient rainfall and resulting drought continue to contribute to food insecurity and acute malnutrition in Ethiopia. Regional conflict and displacement have also disrupted vulnerable households' access to food and livelihood activities, worsening food security conditions in the country.

In response to deteriorating nutrition conditions, USAID/OFDA provided \$6 million to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to support integrated nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs in Ethiopia in FY 2018. In partnership with Catholic Relief Services and Concern, the IRC implemented nutrition interventions and supported local relief organizations to rapidly provide emergency nutrition and WASH assistance to more than 106,000 people.

With USAID/OFDA funding, Concern conducted health facility capacity assessments and trainings for health care workers on the management of moderate acute malnutrition and severe acute malnutrition in Ethiopia's drought-affected Somali Region. The organization also provided essential commodities—including blankets, mattresses, and utensils—to support quality treatment at more than 10 stabilization centers in Afar and Somali regions and conducted regular monitoring visits to more than 60 outpatient therapy program sites.

USAID/OFDA Nutrition Activities FY 2018 FUNDING

Standalone Global and Regional Public Health and Nutrition Programs	\$5,436,827
---	-------------

Nutrition Interventions Worldwide	\$95,768,873
-----------------------------------	--------------

\$101,205,700¹

Sector Overview

USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) is a leader in supporting emergency nutrition response in international humanitarian crises.

USAID/OFDA-supported programs are community-based, combining the strengths of clinical and home-based care to prevent and treat malnutrition. USAID/OFDA partners work with local health systems and use evidence-based approaches to prevent and treat acute malnutrition.

The majority of USAID/OFDA's FY 2018 nutrition programs were based in the Horn of Africa and western Africa's Sahel Region, where drought has severely impacted communities' abilities to access a quality diet and appropriate healthcare, thereby increasing the risk of acute malnutrition among vulnerable populations.

¹ USAID/OFDA supported humanitarian nutrition activities in more than 20 countries in FY 2018, including Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen.

Increasing Technical Capacity for Nutrition-Related Data Collection and Analysis

Due to resource constraints and a lack of access to basic health care services, nutrition needs are often underreported in emergency contexts. To bolster data collection on nutrition conditions, USAID/OFDA continues to support the Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions initiative, an interagency approach designed to collect reliable nutrition and mortality data to inform emergency nutrition response. With \$1.8 million in FY 2018 funding, Action Against Hunger (AAH) is assisting humanitarian organizations to build data collection capacity and improve the quality of data collected. The project, which focuses on the Middle East and Yemen, will contribute to updating survey methodology and data analysis software in order to improve essential data collection in mid- to large-scale crises, as well as support health agencies to implement surveys.

Improving Tools to Assess Child Feeding Practices

USAID/OFDA partner Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US), in collaboration with non-governmental organization (NGO) Valid International, is conducting a survey in Burkina Faso to validate a proposed Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Index developed by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UN World Food Program. The index requires a smaller sample size and therefore can be implemented at a lower cost than current evaluations. If SC/US determines that the index can provide equally precise results, the tool could enable humanitarian agencies to conduct more frequent assessments and facilitate more appropriate IYCF interventions in emergencies.

Providing Rapid Technical Support to Nutritional Emergencies

In many humanitarian crises, the need for technical nutrition support often exceeds relief actors' capacity or expertise. To address this challenge, USAID/OFDA supported International Medical Corps (IMC) with \$500,000 in FY 2018 to manage a global Technical Rapid Response Team (Tech RRT) of nutrition advisors available to deploy to support crisis responses around the world. IMC's Tech RRT nutrition advisors are experts in practices for preventing and treating acute malnutrition, including IYCF in emergencies, community management of acute malnutrition, social and behavior change communication, and nutrition assessments. In FY 2018, Tech RRT specialists supported nutrition responses in Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Uganda. USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$1.5 million for the Tech RRT since 2015, enabling the team to complete 41 deployments in 15 countries from 2015–2018.

Combining Nutrition Counseling and Livestock Support in Kenya

Increased food insecurity during Kenya's annual dry season often contributes to elevated levels of acute malnutrition among vulnerable populations. To mitigate seasonal stresses on household food security, USAID/OFDA provided \$200,000 in FY 2018 funding to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to research the effects of providing livestock feed in combination with nutrition counseling to vulnerable households in Kenya. The study will measure how livestock feed provisions affect household milk availability and household milk consumption, as well as associated levels of acute malnutrition, following receipt of livestock feed and nutrition counseling.

Expanding Global Capacity to Combat Malnutrition in Emergencies

In FY 2018, USAID/OFDA provided \$250,000 to UNICEF to support the Global Nutrition Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian nutrition activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—to provide operational support to country-level emergency nutrition responses. The cluster offers technical nutrition assistance to relief agencies and provides guidance on humanitarian coordination and information management in emergencies to facilitate effective, integrated, timely, and quality nutrition responses.

USAID/OFDA CONTACT: Sonia Walia, Nutrition Advisor, swalia@usaid.gov

USAID/OFDA information products are available at: <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis>