

Calendar No. 379

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 260

Recognizing the importance of sustained United States leadership to accelerating global progress against maternal and child malnutrition and supporting the commitment of the United States Agency for International Development to global nutrition through the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 24, 2019

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CASEY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. REED, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MORAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KING, Mr. JONES, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PETERS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. WARNER, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

DECEMBER 18, 2019

Reported by Mr. RISCH, with an amendment and an amendment to the preamble and an amendment to the title

[Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[Strike the preamble and insert the part printed in *italic*]

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of sustained United States leadership to accelerating global progress against maternal and child malnutrition and supporting the commitment

of the United States Agency for International Development to global nutrition through the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy.

Whereas, of all children under 5 years of age worldwide—

- (1) 149,000,000, or 21.9 percent, are stunted or chronically undernourished;
- (2) an estimated 7.3 percent, or nearly 49,000,000, experience life-threatening acute malnutrition (also known as “wasting”); and
- (3) more than 40,000,000 are overweight;

Whereas, in countries highly affected by undernutrition, stunting affects 1 in every 3 children;

Whereas malnutrition directly or indirectly causes 45 percent of all deaths of children under 5 years of age, a total of 2,600,000 deaths annually;

Whereas children who experience malnutrition—

- (1) may experience impaired brain development, lower IQ, and weakened immune systems; and
- (2) are at a greater risk of contracting serious diseases;

Whereas undernourished adolescent girls have impaired cognitive ability and productivity, and the future children of those girls are at increased risk for low birth weight and death;

Whereas iron deficiency anemia, associated with undernutrition, contributes to 1 in 5 maternal deaths, or 20 percent of maternal mortality;

Whereas poor maternal nutrition contributes to poor fetal development and low birth weight, and an estimated 60 to 80 percent of neonatal deaths occur in low-birth-weight babies;

Whereas a large body of scientific evidence supports the benefits of improved breastfeeding practices on the short-term and long-term health and development of children and their mothers;

Whereas a growing body of evidence indicates that reducing maternal and child malnutrition, especially in the critical 1,000-day period between the beginning of pregnancy and the second birthday of the child, is imperative to—

- (1) ending preventable child and maternal deaths;
- (2) improving cognitive and physical development;
- and
- (3) strengthening the immune systems of children to bolster resistance to disease;

Whereas leading economists and Nobel Laureates have identified improving child nutrition as the most cost-effective way to improve global health outcomes and enhance development;

Whereas the approach of the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy of the United States Agency for International Development addresses the direct and underlying causes of malnutrition;

Whereas the focus of the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy on linking humanitarian assistance with development programming helps build resilience to shocks in vulnerable communities;

Whereas malnutrition is a universal issue that no country can afford to overlook;

Whereas countries with populations that experience high burdens of malnutrition, including stunting, wasting, anemia, and micronutrient deficiency, will struggle to achieve sustainable and equitable economic growth;

Whereas the United States plays a leading role supporting the goals of Scaling Up Nutrition, a global movement of 60 countries to prioritize nutrition through effective policy and dedicated national resources, particularly during the 1,000-day window of opportunity between the beginning of pregnancy and the second birthday of the child; and

Whereas, although the world has reduced undernutrition since 1990, global progress has been too slow—

(1) to ensure that each child can attain a full and prosperous future regardless of where that child was born; and

(2) for the global community to reach the global nutrition targets set for 2025; Now, therefore, be it

Whereas of all children under 5 worldwide—

(1) 149,000,000, or 21.9 percent, are stunted or chronically undernourished;

(2) an estimated 7.3 percent, or nearly 49,000,000, experience life-threatening acute malnutrition (also known as “wasting”); and

(3) more than 40,000,000 are overweight;

Whereas, in countries highly affected by undernutrition, stunting affects 1 in every 3 children;

Whereas malnutrition directly or indirectly causes 45 percent of all deaths of children under 5 years of age, a total of 2,600,000 deaths annually;

Whereas undernourished adolescent girls often suffer impaired cognitive ability and productivity, and the future children of those girls are at increased risk for low birth weight and death;

Whereas iron deficiency anemia, associated with undernutrition, contributes to 1 in 5 maternal deaths, or 20 percent of maternal mortality;

Whereas poor maternal nutrition contributes to poor fetal development and low birth weight, and an estimated 60 to 80 percent of neonatal deaths occur in low-birth-weight babies;

Whereas a large body of evidence supports the benefits of improved breastfeeding practices on the short-term and long-term health and development of children and their mothers;

Whereas a growing body of evidence indicates that reducing maternal and child malnutrition, especially in the critical 1,000-day period between the beginning of pregnancy and the second birthday of the child, is imperative to—

- (1) ending preventable child and maternal deaths;*
- (2) improving IQ, and physical, brain and cognitive development; and*
- (3) strengthening the immune systems of children;*

Whereas combatting malnutrition is an economic issue, as well as a global health issue, that is central to reducing poverty and putting communities on a path toward greater self-reliance and economic growth;

Whereas research indicates that—

- (1) adults who were well nourished as children earn up to 46 percent more than adults who were malnourished as children;*
- (2) countries with a very high burden of early malnutrition have lower economic growth rates resulting from lost income and productivity; and*

(3) the cost of child malnutrition is substantial, with estimated losses in Gross Domestic Product of 3 to 16 percent and potential impacts to the global economy as high as \$3,500,000,000 per year;

Whereas leading economists and Nobel Laureates have identified improving child nutrition as the most cost-effective way to improve global health outcomes and enhance development;

Whereas the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) recognizes that it is in the national interest of the United States to help developing countries reduce malnutrition by addressing the direct and underlying causes of malnutrition;

Whereas the linkage between humanitarian assistance and development programming under the USAID Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy helps build resilience to shocks and stresses in vulnerable communities, promotes greater self-reliance, and is essential to reducing long-term reliance upon other forms of United States foreign assistance;

Whereas, in addition to providing bilateral support, the United States plays a leading role in supporting the goals of Scaling Up Nutrition, a global movement of 60 countries to prioritize nutrition through effective policy and dedicated national resources, particularly during the 1,000-day window of opportunity between the beginning of pregnancy and the second birthday of the child; and

Whereas, despite the significant progress in reducing under-nutrition since 1990, global progress has been too slow—

(1) *to ensure that undernutrition no longer inhibits a child's ability to attain a full and prosperous future; and*

(2) *for the global community to reach the global nutrition targets set for 2025: Now, therefore, be it*

1 *Resolved, That the Senate—*

2 ~~(1)~~ *recognizes that—*

3 ~~(A)~~ *food security and good nutrition in*
 4 *early childhood saves lives and lays the founda-*
 5 *tion for healthy physical and cognitive growth*
 6 *and development;*

7 ~~(B)~~ *the potential benefits of good nutrition*
 8 *in early childhood are life-long and influence*
 9 *the entire future of the child, with entire com-*
 10 *munities and nations ultimately prospering;*

11 ~~(C)~~ *the right nutrition—*

12 ~~(i)~~ *helps children learn;*

13 ~~(ii)~~ *helps protect children from illness;*

14 ~~(iii)~~ *increases the productivity and*
 15 *earning potential of children later in life;*
 16 *and*

17 ~~(iv)~~ *supports the well-being and health*
 18 *of the future offspring of those children*
 19 *who receive that nutrition;*

20 ~~(D)~~ *women who are well-nourished and do*
 21 *not suffer from anemia are less likely to die in*

1 childbirth or give birth to children who are mal-
 2 nourished, breaking the intergenerational cycle
 3 of malnutrition;

4 (E) good nutrition is an economic issue
 5 that is central to reducing poverty and putting
 6 countries on a path to economic development;

7 (F) adults who were well-nourished as chil-
 8 dren earn up to 46 percent more than adults
 9 who were malnourished as children;

10 (G) countries with a very high burden of
 11 early childhood malnutrition have lower eco-
 12 nomic growth rates due to lost income and pro-
 13 ductivity; and

14 (H) the cost of childhood malnutrition to
 15 countries is substantial, with—

16 (i) estimated losses in Gross Domestic
 17 Product of 3 to 16 percent; and

18 (ii) potential impacts to the global
 19 economy as high as \$3,500,000,000,000
 20 per year;

21 (2) applauds the leadership of the United
 22 States in helping developing countries meet the nu-
 23 tritional needs of women and children;

1 (3) supports continued efforts by the United
 2 States to help developing countries meet the nutri-
 3 tional needs of women and children;

4 (4) commends the United States Agency for
 5 International Development (referred to in this reso-
 6 lution as “USAID”) for recognizing that nutrition
 7 interventions are among the highest-impact evidencee-
 8 based interventions that—

9 (A) are lifesaving; and

10 (B) support the goal of ending preventable
 11 child and maternal deaths;

12 (5) recognizes the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition
 13 Strategy, the U.S. Government Global Nutrition Co-
 14 ordination Plan, and the Global Food Security
 15 Strategy as platforms through which to reach, by
 16 2025, the global nutrition targets agreed to at the
 17 World Health Assembly in 2012;

18 (6) recognizes the vision and goals of the Seal-
 19 ing Up Nutrition movement, a global partnership
 20 supporting country-led efforts to improve maternal
 21 and child nutrition through the involvement of—

22 (A) governments;

23 (B) civil society;

24 (C) the United Nations;

25 (D) donors;

1 ~~(E)~~ businesses; and

2 ~~(F)~~ researchers;

3 ~~(7)~~ recognizes that progress against global mal-
4 nutrition must be accelerated using innovative;
5 scaled up approaches to improve the systems that
6 affect the health and nutritional status of women
7 and children; and

8 ~~(8)~~ calls for transformative efforts across sec-
9 tors at USAID to accelerate progress to end mater-
10 nal and child malnutrition; including through—

11 ~~(A)~~ country development cooperation strat-
12 egies that align with national nutrition plans;
13 and

14 ~~(B)~~ improved and clear methods to track
15 nutrition funding and outcomes across all global
16 nutrition programs of the United States Gov-
17 ernment; especially those relating to—

18 ~~(i)~~ global health;

19 ~~(ii)~~ food security;

20 ~~(iii)~~ agriculture;

21 ~~(iv)~~ basic education;

22 ~~(v)~~ food assistance; and

23 ~~(vi)~~ water, sanitation, and hygiene

24 ~~(also known as “WASH”).~~

25 *That the Senate—*

1 (1) recognizes that—

2 (A) malnutrition is a universal issue that
3 no country can afford to overlook;

4 (B) food security and good nutrition in
5 early childhood saves lives and lays the founda-
6 tion for healthy physical and cognitive growth
7 and development; and

8 (C) the potential life-long health and eco-
9 nomic benefits of early childhood nutrition influ-
10 ence the future of individual children and fami-
11 lies, as well as entire communities and countries;

12 (2) acknowledges that effective programs to re-
13 duce malnutrition are not only lifesaving, but also
14 critical to the success of United States foreign assist-
15 ance programs to improve global health, end prevent-
16 able child and maternal death, achieve an AIDS-free
17 generation, reach starving children during an emer-
18 gency, strengthen food security, and accelerate inclu-
19 sive economic growth;

20 (3) affirms that it is in the national interest of
21 the United States to help developing countries build
22 their own capacity to reduce malnutrition, address
23 the direct and indirect causes of malnutrition, and
24 meet the nutritional needs of women and children;

(4) recognizes the effectiveness of the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy of USAID, the U.S. Government Global Nutrition Coordination Plan, and the U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy to address the direct and indirect causes of malnutrition and reach, by 2025, the global nutrition targets agreed to at the World Health Assembly in 2012;

(5) supports the goals and principles of the Scaling Up Nutrition movement to end global malnutrition through—

(A) greater collaboration between governments, civil society, international organizations, donors, the private sector, and researchers on multi-sectoral approaches;

(B) cost-effective and inclusive approaches;

and

(C) improved transparency and accountability for results;

(6) recognizes the significant progress made in the fight against global malnutrition,

(7) recommends accelerating improvements to the systems affecting the health and nutritional status of women and children through innovative, scaled-up approaches;

1 (8) *applauds the efforts of USAID to integrate*
 2 *effective nutrition programming across relevant devel-*
 3 *opment sectors; and*

4 (9) *calls for additional transformative efforts*
 5 *across relevant sectors at USAID to accelerate*
 6 *progress toward ending maternal and child malnutri-*
 7 *tion, including through—*

8 (A) *country development cooperation strate-*
 9 *gies that align with national nutrition plans;*
 10 *and*

11 (B) *improved and clear methods to track*
 12 *nutrition funding and outcomes across all global*
 13 *nutrition programs of the United States Govern-*
 14 *ment, especially those relating to—*

15 (i) *global health;*

16 (ii) *food security;*

17 (iii) *agricultural development;*

18 (iv) *basic education;*

19 (v) *food assistance; and*

20 (vi) *water, sanitation, and hygiene*

21 *(also known as “WASH”).*

Amend the title so as to read: “A resolution recog-
 nizing the importance of sustained United States leader-
 ship to accelerating global progress against maternal and
 child malnutrition and supporting the commitment of the
 United States Agency for International Development to

reducing global malnutrition through the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy.”.

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