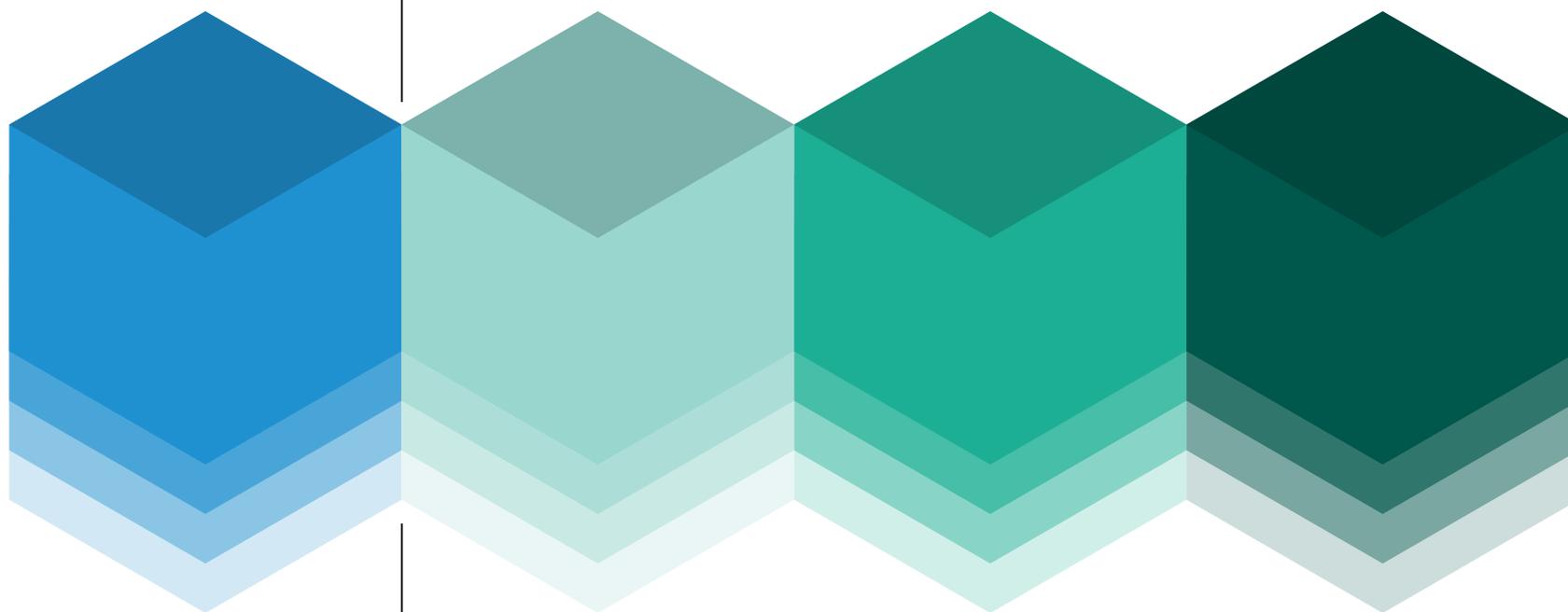


ON THE SIDE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

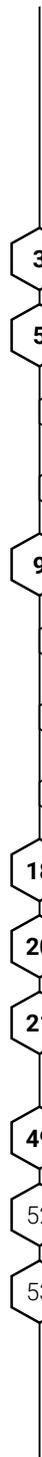
in U.S. government foreign policy and assistance

December 2018

Gillian Huebner



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Following the 2016 U.S. presidential elections, many questions emerged about the future of U.S. government assistance for global children and youth facing adversity.

International partners have counted on support from the U.S. government for global children and youth issues for many years. The U.S. government's investments in international development, technical expertise, research capabilities, and diplomatic outreach have historically been important in addressing young people's vulnerability worldwide.

The future of U.S. government foreign assistance for global children and youth issues became uncertain in 2017. The Trump administration's public commitment to focus on "America first" and its stated skepticism regarding the effectiveness of foreign aid fueled growing concerns about the U.S. government's international assistance for children. The Fiscal Year 2018 federal appropriations process was a dynamic one, with the Trump administration proposing significant cuts to taxpayer-supported programs for international assistance, which would have significantly reduced funding for programs addressing global children and youth issues. Advocates and members of Congress pushed back and protected critical programs that support some of the world's most vulnerable young people. A similar process occurred during the Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations season. Key congressional leaders who have championed programs for children and youth

announced their retirement in January 2019. Their departures and the election of new congressional officials may represent additional challenges for future budget cycles.

Child and youth advocates within and outside the government have continued to pursue progress for vulnerable young people in developing countries. The U.S. government has proceeded to update and build upon certain policies and programs designed to improve conditions for children and youth globally. For example, in September 2017, Congress passed the Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development (READ) Act, leading to the appointment of a Special Coordinator for Education at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the development of a whole-of-government strategy for international basic education. In addition, USAID designated a political appointee to serve as the U.S. Government Special Advisor overseeing a whole-of-government approach to vulnerable children in developing countries, a position mandated by Congress in 2005. Sector-specific coalitions of experts and advocates have continued to emerge and have played an important role in educating policymakers about evidence-informed best practices, including the benefits of investing early and holistically in children's development and protection, whether overseas or at our border, where child rights violations continue to be of grave concern.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

U.S. government policies, programs, and funding levels related to global children and youth issues are complex and regularly in flux. In recent years, there has been no centralized mechanism to monitor, track and report on U.S. government international assistance to children and youth across all agencies and sectors. It is therefore difficult for advocates, policymakers, implementing partners, journalists, and the general public to fully understand what the U.S. government is doing – or not doing – in this realm. The advocacy community continues to develop its scope, expertise, and reach, but has largely remained siloed by sector or issue area, challenging its ability to work collectively to fully understand and protect the diverse U.S. government portfolio of international assistance for the world’s most vulnerable children and youth.

This paper presents an overview of the U.S. government international assistance architecture for children and youth, as well as the advocacy landscape. It maps U.S. government policies, programs, and funding for global children and youth issues by sector, as well as the primary advocacy coalitions working within each issue area (see Annex A). Additionally, this paper summarizes the results of an online survey of U.S.-based individuals and organizations engaged in global child- and youth-advocacy efforts, which probed what has been working well, where there may be gaps, and identified advocacy priorities as well as potential areas for improvement where strategic investments could help to strengthen advocacy efforts (see Annex B). Feedback was kept confidential and used to inform this paper. Findings were further discussed individually and at a May 2018 convening with key stakeholders who shared invaluable insights regarding the advocacy processes that influence and respond to U.S. government policies and programs for children and youth in developing countries.

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Greater constituent advocacy is needed in specific states where Members of Congress as well as the general public still believe that foreign assistance gobbles up 20 percent of the budget.

– Global youth advocate

BACKGROUND

The U.S. government foreign assistance architecture



The U.S. government spends less than one percent of the federal budget annually on foreign assistance.

Only a small fraction of this amount has been appropriated – with bipartisan support – to address global children and youth issues.¹ Even with this limited investment, impressive results have been achieved.

For example, the U.S. government development assistance for global health has contributed to child deaths falling dramatically from 12 million in 1990 to 5.9 million in 2015. U.S. foreign aid has also contributed to important gains for children in other sectors, including emergency response, education, nutrition, and protection:

- The President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), an initiative of the George W. Bush administration that has received continued bipartisan support, has helped to reduce new HIV infections among children by 58 percent since 2000.

- Since 2000, the Department of Labor has helped reduce the number of children in child labor by one-third, with children engaged in hazardous work reduced by half.
- The Department of State has spurred foreign governments to take meaningful action to protect children from trafficking.
- In 2017, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance responded to 50 humanitarian emergencies in 45 countries, assisting tens of millions of disaster-affected individuals around the world, at least half of whom are children.
- Basic education programs have reached more than 80 million learners in over 40 countries since 2011, including 4.1 million children who would have otherwise been out of school as the result of conflict and crisis.
- The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program, run through the Department of Agriculture, has benefited 12.3 million children in just the last three years, resulting in a 46 percent increase in girls’ enrollment in school.

(For further examples, see Annex A).

With its notable investments in international development, the technical expertise and research capabilities embedded within key agencies, and diplomatic outreach, the U.S. government has historically been an important partner in addressing children’s vulnerability worldwide. This has been and should continue to be a source of American pride.

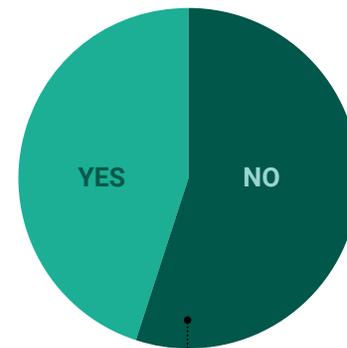
U.S. government funding and programs for vulnerable children and youth in low- and middle-income countries have often focused on single vulnerability cohorts and categories – for example, children affected by HIV/AIDS, in emergencies, or in the worst forms of child labor, including those who have been trafficked. Although such efforts have produced substantial benefits, this diffused approach has resulted in a fragmented response that is channeled through more than 30 offices in seven U.S. government departments and agencies – the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Health and Human Services, and Labor, and State; the U.S. Agency for International Development, and Peace Corps – in more than 100 countries.² There is little focus on or cross-sectoral funding for holistic programming for children and youth and few mechanisms in place to ensure effective coordination across sectors.

There is currently no centralized mechanism to monitor, track, and report on U.S. government international assistance to children and youth across agencies and sectors. Without a proactive effort to coordinate foreign assistance policies and programs for young people, harmonize implementation, and synchronize the measurement of results, program and outcome silos are created, and an important opportunity to maximize results is lost. Similarly, the child- and youth-advocacy community remains splintered by sector or issue area, challenging efforts to work collectively to fully understand and advocate for the diverse U.S. government portfolio of international assistance for young people (see Annex A).

As a result of the current U.S. government foreign assistance architecture and the way in which U.S.-based advocacy around global children and youth issues is organized, there is no “core story” about U.S. government foreign assistance for young people. Instead, policies, programs, funding and advocacy efforts are stitched together like a patchwork quilt. Overlap and gaps are an inevitable aspect of the design. This has significant implications for program implementers who seek to facilitate access to comprehensive services for the most vulnerable

households and families at the county level. It also creates complications for those attempting to measure and assess the overall impact of U.S. government international assistance to young children. As a result, it is difficult to mobilize joint action across coalitions and sectors, rally public support, and present a comprehensive, coordinated and effective case for strategic investments in global children and youth issues to policymakers and appropriators.

Do you feel that you have access to timely and accurate information regarding U.S. policies, programs, and funding related to your sector or global children’s issues more broadly?



55 percent of survey respondents said “no.”

“

I think we need to meet regularly with others working in this space. We may meet on maternal child health or nutrition or some other issue that impacts children, but there is no working group that I am aware of that looks at all the issues that impact children writ large.

– A policy specialist at a large NGO

The advocacy landscape

There are dedicated, expert advocates working to promote various sectors that affect children and youth within U.S. government structures and processes. It is in large part because of the robust and diverse advocacy community that U.S. government foreign assistance for the world’s most vulnerable young people is as generous as it is.

The stove-piped nature of U.S. government foreign assistance for global children and youth issues reflects the siloed nature of advocacy, and vice versa. Advocacy initiatives typically address single issues or specific populations – for example, child soldiers, child marriage, children living in institutions, on the street, or with a disability. The tendency to focus on issue area or sector is certainly not specific to the U.S. government or the advocacy community. Such fragmentation also exists within the United Nations, foreign governments, academia, non-governmental organizations and civil society groups. Regardless of the inclination to tackle one issue at a time, or separately from other issues, young people’s needs and risks are multidimensional. Children and youth require integrated support, including health, nutrition, education, care, justice, and protection. The science of human development explains why. By turning attention and resources toward coordinated advocacy, investments and delivery platforms, it is possible to close the gap between what is known and what is done to support vulnerable children and youth globally.³

Advocacy efforts in the United States are often led by non-governmental organizations, many of which seek and benefit from U.S. government funding to operate humanitarian and development programs. Their advocacy efforts generally reflect their program priorities. Of the hundreds of organizations in the United States working on one or another aspect of global children’s or youth issues, there is not one that is both independent of U.S. government funding and focused on advocating for a holistic, multi-sectoral agenda for children and youth within U.S. government

foreign policy, programs and appropriations. Similarly, there is no coordinated coalition advocating for strategic and sustained U.S. government investments in global children and youth issues across focus areas; nor is there an overarching, coordinated grassroots effort where public support can be mobilized and maintained.

Instead, there are coalitions that advocate for strong U.S. government support for development and humanitarian policies and programs in general, and dozens more that advocate for particular subject-matter policies, program areas, and budget line items (see Annex A). These advocacy coalitions help to bring sector-specific technical expertise into the policy arena. Still, none provides an overall accounting of the U.S. government’s response to global children and youth issues across sectors and agencies. The U.S. government also does not routinely offer such an overview.⁴

“

Coalitions exist on individual issue matters, but the field lacks a cross-cutting budget and advocacy frame for global children’s issues.

– NGO president

Since the early 2000s, there have been two efforts to promote a cross-sectoral global agenda for children in U.S. government foreign policy and programs. Global Action for Children (GAC) was established in 2004 to “increase funding for critical, life-saving programs serving children in developing countries and ensure the funds are allocated appropriately and spent effectively so all children have the health care, education, food and protection they need to grow up safe and healthy.” GAC was formed as a non-partisan, independent voice for children that would not accept U.S. government funding, thereby ensuring that it would “avoid advocating out of self-interest, and be bold on issues affecting children without fear of financial repercussions.”⁵ In addition to coordinating advocacy around issues related to children affected by HIV and AIDS, orphans and vulnerable children, child survival and maternal health, child marriage, children in conflict, child sexual abuse, basic education, and malaria, GAC is credited

“

There have to be deliberate efforts and funding to ensure ongoing analysis and sharing of information. The child protection sector suffers from very weak knowledge management. Information exists, but the right people do not get access to it at the right time.

– Child protection advocate

with generating bipartisan support for the first-ever U.S. whole-of-government response to the world’s most vulnerable children, the Assistance for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-95). The law calls for a comprehensive, coordinated and effective response to vulnerable children in developing countries on the part of the U.S. government. The legislation also requires a U.S. government special advisor, an interagency strategy, a monitoring and evaluation system, and annual reports to Congress.⁶

Between 2006 and 2010, GAC worked to promote full implementation of PL 109-95. It convened a series of meetings with stakeholders to develop civil society recommendations for the effective implementation of the legislation. GAC also provided written responses to the annual reports to Congress on implementation of the law.⁷ GAC was discontinued in 2010 due to lack of funding.

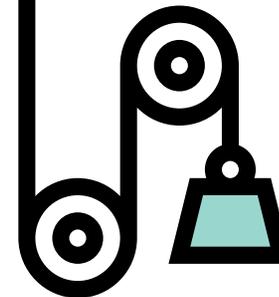
In 2011, U.S. government interagency partners actively began a process to establish whole-of-government guidance and a strategy for children in adversity, in accordance with the legislative requirements set forth in PL 109-95. The U.S. Government Action Plan on Children in Adversity was launched from the White House in December 2012. A five-year framework for international assistance, the Action Plan was the first-ever whole-of-government strategic guidance for U.S. government international assistance for children. According to the Action Plan’s statement of policy, the goal of the plan is “to achieve a world in which all children grow up within protective family care and free from deprivation, exploitation, and danger... The Plan is grounded in evidence that shows a promising future belongs to those nations that invest wisely in their children, while failure to do so undermines social and economic progress. Child development is a cornerstone for all development, and it is central to U. S. development and diplomatic efforts. The Plan seeks to integrate internationally recognized, evidence-based good practices into all of its international assistance initiatives for the best interests of the child.”⁸

In response to the Action Plan, a new coalition was formed in 2012. With the support of more than 100 civil society organizations, the Children in Adversity Policy Partnership (CAPP) committed to accelerating bold and strategic U.S. policy action concerning children in adversity. The coalition sought to ensure that U.S. government investments were strategically planned and implemented so as to improve children’s well-being through a comprehensive approach in line with the Action Plan’s three core objectives: build strong beginnings; put family care first; and protect children from violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect. CAPP was a “coalition of the willing” with no external funding

support and without a dedicated coordinator or facilitator. The coalition dissolved in 2016, with most members reverting to the traditional pursuit of their agencies’ sectoral priorities.

Currently, there is no coordinated coalition advocating for strategic and sustained U.S. government investments in global children and youth issues across sectors. There is no publicly accessible mechanism to monitor, track and report on U.S. government policies, programs and funding relevant to these issues,⁹ nor are there communication systems that reach across silos and sectors and mobilize public support.

There remains a wide-open opportunity to enhance collaboration across the many diverse coalitions and build a wave that leverages the power of collective concern and action.



“

We do not have a coherent message around children that brings all priorities together, but it’s not clear that is necessary to achieve wins in specific sectors.

– Director of Global Policy and Advocacy at an NGO

CHALLENGES

U.S.-based advocates for global children and youth issues face a number of challenges. Some are structural and systemic. Others are related to the current political and policy environment. The structural and systemic challenges impact the global child- and youth-advocacy communities' ability to navigate and respond to immediate policy and funding concerns.

“America First” and the fight for foreign assistance funding

The year 2017 began with uncertainty regarding the future of U.S. government foreign assistance. The new administration stressed its focus on “America first” and expressed skepticism regarding the effectiveness of foreign aid. As a result, the federal appropriations process for Fiscal Year 2018 was particularly dynamic. The Trump administration released its budget proposal in May 2017. Entitled A New Foundation for American Greatness, it recommended a 32 percent cut to the international affairs budget – a level not seen since September 11, 2001.¹⁰ Per the president’s budget request, significant cuts were proposed to U.S. government programs that have worked for many years to improve the lives of the world’s most vulnerable children and youth.

Advocacy coalitions mobilized to protect the U.S. government’s foreign assistance commitments, with sector-specific organizations and coalitions focused on defending particular accounts and line items. Child- and youth-advocacy organizations pursued a number of strategies and channels, many of which were independent of one another. There was no overarching message or strategy with regard to protecting the multi-faceted portfolio of U.S. government assistance for vulnerable children and youth, leaving some U.S. government programs more vulnerable than others.

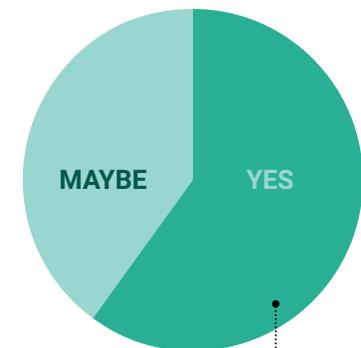
Congress has final say over the budget and pushed back against the administration’s proposed cuts. In the end, Congressional support for continued investments in U.S. government foreign assistance programs came out on top. In March 2018, Congress passed an omnibus appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2018, keeping the government open through September 30, 2018. The omnibus rejected the deep cuts to the foreign assistance budget proposed by the administration.

The Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations process followed a similar trajectory. The administration’s Fiscal Year 2019

budget request was sent to Capitol Hill on February 12, 2018.¹¹ Once again, the proposal cut funding for the International Affairs budget, this time by 30 percent. The administration targeted the same programs that it aimed to cut in Fiscal Year 2018, including zeroing out the Vulnerable Children account, the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program, and USAID’s HIV and AIDS program. Congress and advocates pushed back once again. A Continuing Resolution was passed at the end of September 2018, continuing government funding at enacted levels through December 7, 2018.¹² The Senate Foreign Operations Bill, which funds most of the International Affairs Budget, will be negotiated after the mid-term elections.

The table below highlights how specific funding accounts relevant to global children and youth issues fared throughout the Fiscal Year 2018 and 2019 appropriations processes. A further breakdown of funding by sector or issue area is included in Annex A.

Would you or your organization benefit from a publicly accessible mechanism to monitor, track, and report on U.S. government policy, program and funding decisions related to global children’s issues?



**66 percent of survey respondents said “yes.”
None said “no.”**

State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs

(USD in 1,000s)

Budget Line	FY 2017 President Obama's Request ¹³	FY 2017 Enacted ¹⁴	FY 2018 President Trump's Request ¹⁵	FY 2018 House ¹⁶	FY 2018 Senate ¹⁷	FY 2018 Omnibus ¹⁸	FY 2019 President Trump's Request ¹⁹	FY 2019 House ²⁰	FY 2019 Senate ²¹
STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS TOTAL	50,074,928	57,529,900	37,610,525	47,522,900	51,353,900	54,176,900	40,159,000	54,018,000	54,418,000
GLOBAL HEALTH (USAID + State)	8,724,950	8,724,950	6,480,500	8,321,000	8,590,000	8,690,000	6,702,601	8,690,000	8,792,000
Global Health (USAID)	2,910,000	3,054,950	1,505,500	2,651,000	2,920,000	3,030,000	1,928,000	3,020,000	3,072,000
• Maternal and Child Health	814,500	814,500	749,600	814,500	829,500	829,500	619,600	845,000	829,500
• Family Planning	620,000	607,500	0	461,000	622,500	575,000	302,000	461,000	632,550
• Nutrition	108,500	125,000	78,500	125,000	125,000	125,000	78,500	145,000	135,000
• Vulnerable Children	14,500	23,000	0	23,000	23,000	23,000	0	23,000	25,000
• Malaria	745,000	755,000	674,000	755,000	755,000	755,000	674,000	755,000	755,000
• TB	191,000	241,000	178,000	241,000	261,000	261,000	178,400	302,000	275,000
• Neglected Tropical Diseases	86,500	100,000	75,000	59,000	100,000	100,000	75,000	Continued	105,950
• HIV/AIDS (USAID)	330,000	330,000	0	330,000	330,000	330,000	0	0	330,000
Global Health (State)	5,670,000	5,670,000	4,975,000	5,670,000	5,670,000	5,670,000	4,775,101	5,670,000	5,720,000
• PEPFAR	4,320,000	4,320,000	3,850,000	4,320,000	4,320,000	4,320,000	3,850,000	4,320,000	4,325,000
• Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB & Malaria	1,350,000	1,350,000	1,125,000	1,350,000	1,350,000	1,350,000	925,100	1,350,000	1,350,000
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE	2,959,573	2,995,465	0	2,780,971	2,890,000	3,000,000	0	3,000,000	3,000,000
• Basic Education	561,000	800,000	377,901	800,000	500,000	800,000	0	800,000	515,000
• Global Partnership for Education	70,000	75,000	0	87,500	75,000	87,500	0	90,000	90,000
Feed the Future/Food Security and Agricultural Development	978,000	1,000,600	499,821	1,000,600	1,000,600	1,000,600	518,000	1,000,600	1,000,600
ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND	6,080,607	4,681,558	0	3,395,433	3,959,696	3,968,853	0	3,696,904	4,021,547
Economic Support and Development Fund	0	0	4,938,150	0	0	0	5,063,125	0	0
INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE	2,910,200	4,427,786	2,508,200	2,821,686	3,133,210	4,285,312	3,557,412	4,285,312	4,385,312
MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE	3,059,000	3,359,000	2,746,141	3,109,000	3,110,287	3,359,000	2,800,375	3,360,000	3,432,000
EMERGENCY REFUGEE AND MIGRATION ASSISTANCE	50,000	50,000	0	0	50,000	1,000	0	0	1,000

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

(USD in 1,000s)

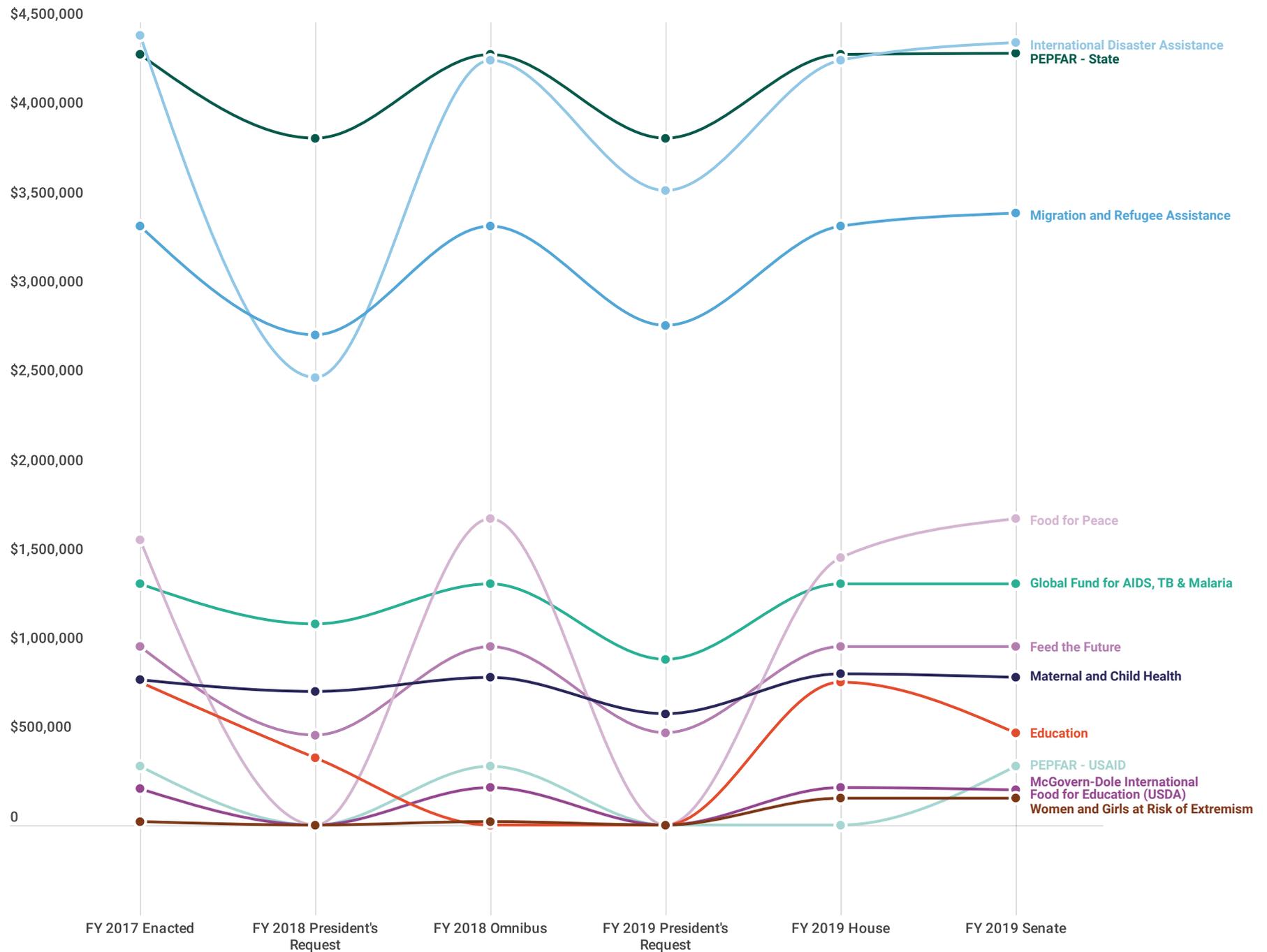
Budget Line	FY 2017 President Obama's Request ²²	FY 2017 Enacted ²³	FY 2018 President Trump's Request ²⁴	FY 2018 House ²⁵	FY 2018 Senate ²⁶	FY 2018 Omnibus ²⁷	FY 2019 President Trump's Request ²⁸	FY 2019 House ²⁹	FY 2019 Senate ³⁰
Department of Labor: Bureau of International Labor Affairs	101,000	86,125	19,000	26,500	86,125	86,125	18,500	18,500	86,125
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Global Health	442,000	435,121	350,000	435,121	433,621	488,621	408,762	488,621	488,621

Agriculture

Budget Line	FY 2017 President Obama's Request ³¹	FY 2017 Enacted	FY 2018 President Trump's Request ³²	FY 2018 House ³³	FY 2018 Senate ³⁴	FY 2018 Omnibus ³⁵	FY 2019 President Trump's Request ³⁶	FY 2019 House ³⁷	FY 2019 Senate ³⁸
Food for Peace	1,350,000	1,600,000	0	1,400,000	1,600,000	1,716,000	0	1,500,000	1,716,000
McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition	182,045	201,626	0	185,126	206,626	207,626	0	207,626	195,255

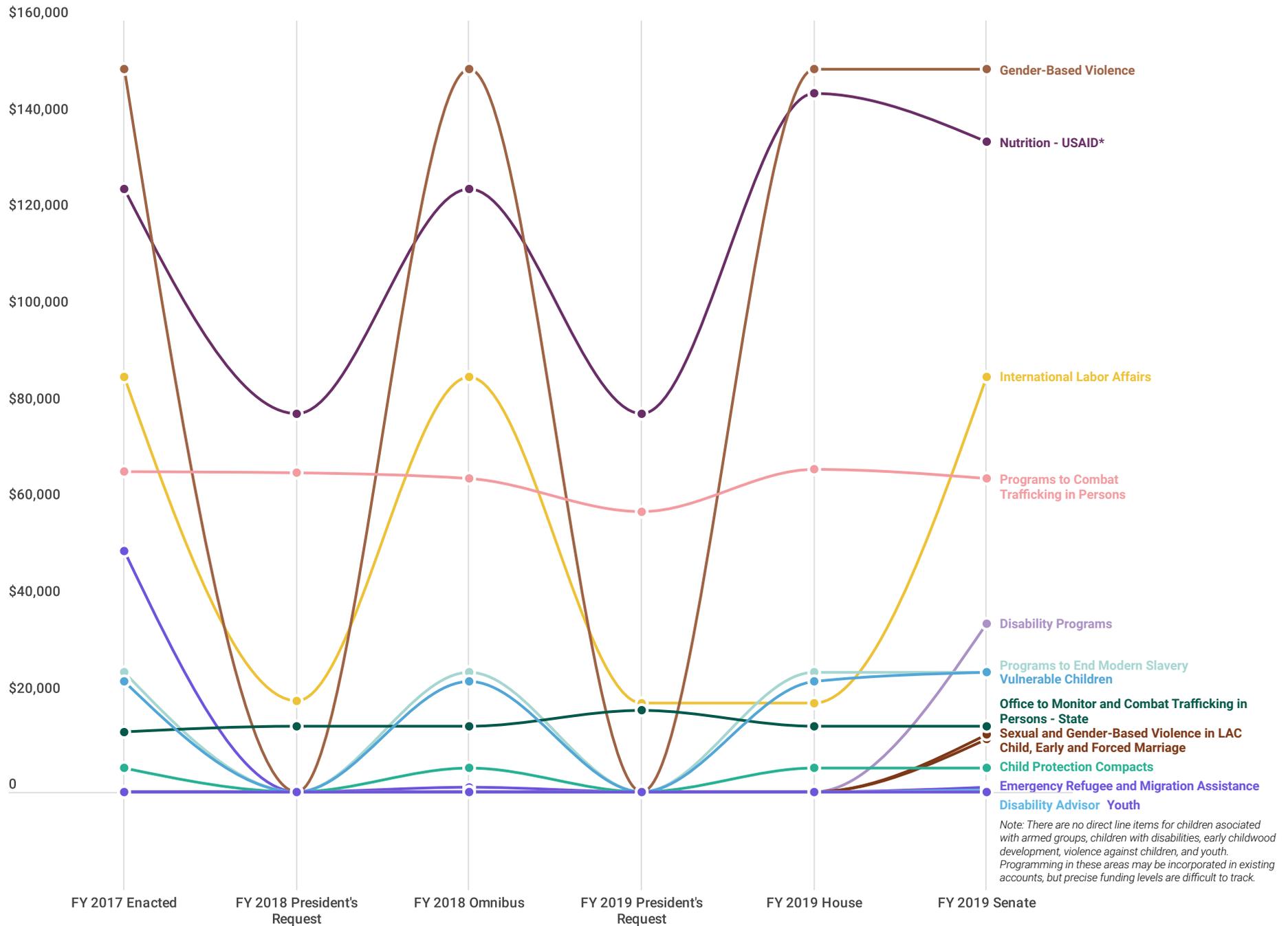
Appropriations related to global children and youth issues (FY 2017 - FY2019)

(USD in 1,000s)



Appropriations related to global children and youth issues (FY 2017 - FY2019)

(USD in 1,000s)



Funding for global children and youth issues (FY 2018 Omnibus)

(USD in 1,000s)



Note: There are no direct line items for children associated with armed groups, children with disabilities, early childhood development, violence against children, and youth. Programming in these areas may be incorporated in existing accounts, but precise funding levels are difficult to track.

*This funding is not specific to children.

Foreign assistance reform

In addition to the funding cuts, the White House’s 2018 budget proposal also pointed to the possibility of consolidating USAID and the Department of State, noting “the need for State and USAID to pursue greater efficiencies through reorganization and consolidation in order to enable effective diplomacy and development.”³⁹ This coincided with President Trump’s March 13th executive order to reorganize the executive branch within 180 days.⁴⁰

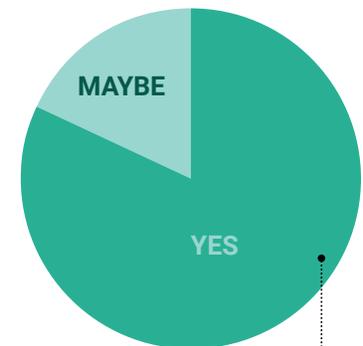
While the international aid community expressed concern regarding the administration’s initial approach to foreign assistance reform, there is also recognition that U.S. aid programs and agencies have not undergone a major overhaul since USAID was created in 1961. The Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network noted, “The underlying legislation that authorizes foreign assistance programs has not been significantly amended since 1985. Instead, new programs, approaches, and legislation have been layered on top of others. The result is a bureaucratic maze of programs spread across over 20 agencies and more than 50 years of outdated regulatory barnacles. While U.S. aid agencies have come a long way in improving their effectiveness and strengthening their systems to efficiently provide assistance, competition for sector resources and a general lack of coherence in country programming still hamper the reach and sustainability of our aid programs. We live in a world far different from that of the 1960s and our aid architecture should reflect current challenges and opportunities.”⁴¹

International assistance to children and youth is not immune to the inefficiencies of the U.S. government’s foreign aid structure. Such assistance is channeled through more than 30 offices in seven U.S. government departments and agencies. Non-governmental organizations working in partnership with U.S. government bilateral aid agencies to deliver assistance to vulnerable children and youth have a stake in the unfolding reform process. Yet, due to the lack of coordination between child- and youth-focused advocacy efforts, the extent to which the structure, coordination, and implementation of

U.S. government programs focusing on global children and youth issues have been factored in to deliberations on foreign assistance reform and restructuring remains unclear.

In late September 2018, Congress took action on bipartisan legislation to strengthen U.S. foreign assistance programs. The Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development (BUILD) Act⁴² streamlines the U.S. government’s development finance tools into a single, full-service international development institution. The BUILD Act will establish the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (IDFC), prioritizing support for projects in low- and lower-middle-income countries where such aid is deemed to further U.S. national security and economic interests, and where the project can be shown to have a demonstrable development outcome. Other than a reference to adhering to child-labor laws, the BUILD Act does not reference programs that would address global children and youth issues.

Would U.S.-based advocacy efforts be helped if further efforts were made to analyze, develop, and amplify messages regarding the importance of U.S. government investments in global children’s issues across sectors?



More than 80 percent of respondents answered “yes.”

“

There are fairly sophisticated tools and messages for child health, thanks in large part to Gates Foundation-funded research, but there need to be new messages and approaches for addressing the changing political environment and creating a shared narrative, advocacy approach, and messaging toolbox for cross-sectoral children's issues beyond survival or even health.

– Member of a donor collaborative

CHALLENGES

Four challenges faced by advocacy networks

Over the past 25 years, advocacy networks have proliferated. Changes in the way they organize and collaborate could strengthen their effectiveness even further.

Professor Jeremy Shiffman has studied the differing degrees of effectiveness of various global health networks in a number of countries, and has identified four challenges that they face in generating resources and attention for the issues that concern them.⁴³ It is worth exploring his findings to consider whether their relevance extends beyond the global health advocacy sphere as it functions in other nations, and indeed whether they may apply to global child- and youth-advocacy networks in the United States as well. The four key challenges identified by Shiffman are:

I

Problem definition: This is a challenge internal to each network, and has to do with how network members understand the focal problem and its solutions. According to Shiffman, “[G]lobal health networks often become embroiled in conflict over problem specification and solutions, hampering their ability to act collectively.” As noted above, there is currently no U.S.-based advocacy network that seeks to advance global children and youth issues across sectors. As a result, there is no effort to define the problem outside of specific sectors or population groups.

II

Positioning: This challenge begins internally, but extends beyond any given network, pertaining to how the network portrays its issue of focus to external audiences. Shiffman states, “Any issue can be portrayed in multiple ways, and only some may resonate with the external actors whose resources are needed to make progress in addressing a problem.”

According to a recent survey of development leaders, there is widespread recognition that the status quo is not working with aid messaging. Only 2 percent of respondents felt that the development community is getting the messaging right on foreign aid; this is “a remarkable collective realization that approaches to date have not yielded the hoped-for results.”⁴⁴ While many in the aid community are frustrated that the public perceives U.S. government foreign-aid spending to be far greater than it is, and does not have a better understanding of the effectiveness of U.S. foreign-aid programs, they have been less willing to acknowledge that their own messaging has at times undercut the notion of progress.⁴⁵

The community of actors working to promote U.S. government support for global children and youth issues has yet to come together to consider ways to frame messages to build public will and policymaker support for continued investments across sectors. Effectively mobilizing public support will require smart and targeted approaches from the global children and youth advocacy sectors.

“

We still need better grassroots coordination and more connections with religious communities that can go beyond talking about adoption or sex trafficking only.

– Director of global policy and advocacy at an NGO

III

Coalition building: This challenge pertains to the recruitment of allies beyond core proponents. Shiffman notes that, “Many global health networks are insular: they consist largely of individuals and organizations within the health sector and with a specific focus on the issue. Research indicates that those networks that build coalitions that reach beyond the health sector – a task that necessitates engagement in the politics of the issue, not just its technical dimensions – are more likely to achieve their objectives.” While there are numerous child- and youth-advocacy networks focused on specific issues, there is currently no coalition of global child- and youth-advocacy networks working across sectors in such a way as to form a “coalition of coalitions.” In the course of the last 15 years, the two coalitions that formed to advocate for children’s issues across sectors both disbanded within six years.

IV

Governance: This challenge pertains to the establishment of institutions to facilitate collective action. According to Shiffman, Provan and Kenis, there are three primary modes of network governance: “(1) shared, where most or all network members interact on a relatively equal basis to make decisions; (2) lead organization, where all major network-level activities and key decisions are coordinated through and by a single participating member; and (3) network administrative organization, where a separate entity is set up specifically to govern the network and its activities. It is not that one mode is better than others: the question is whether the mode is congruent with particular characteristics of the network.”⁴⁶ The U.S.-based child-advocacy community has some experience with the first and third models. The Children in Adversity Policy Partnership was structured as a shared network while Global Action for Children operated as a network administrative organization. There is currently no institution or mechanism to facilitate joint messaging and action on the part of a coalition of child- and youth-advocacy coalitions.

“

We would welcome any efforts to promote collaboration between partners in fields that are often left in their own silos. There is an enormous amount of territoriality and we will all be stronger if we can work together.

– Disability rights advocate

THE ROLE OF DONORS

Global private philanthropy is influencing the development landscape like never before. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by world leaders in September 2015, underlines the important role philanthropy must play to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.⁴⁷ Public-private partnerships continue to emerge in all development sectors, including that of global children and youth issues. Saving Lives at Birth, the Early Childhood Development Action Network, the Global Partnership for Education, the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, and the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action are all current examples of public-private partnerships that are making a genuine difference for children. The U.S. government has played an important role in some of these partnerships.

In an effort to map the contributions of philanthropic organizations to the development sector, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) conducted a large-scale data survey to collect detailed information from the most active and influential philanthropic foundations, funds, trusts, and corporations involved in development cooperation. The survey results indicate that philanthropic giving for development amounted to \$22.7 billion between 2013 and 2015, or an average of \$7.6 billion per year. Philanthropic giving is targeted predominantly toward the health sector, which accounted for 53 percent of the total between 2013 and 2015. Investments made by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation encompass 76 percent of the philanthropy sector's total contribution to the health sector.

Approximately what percentage of your organization's budget is spent on U.S.-based advocacy?

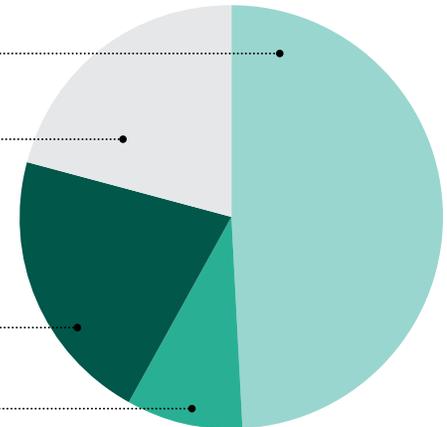


Less than 10%

Not sure

More than 20%

Less than 20%



Investments in health are followed by philanthropic commitments to education (9 percent); agriculture (9 percent); and human rights, gender, civil society development, and government transparency and accountability (8 percent).⁴⁸

Despite these significant contributions across sectors, supporting direct services alone cannot fill the gap between society's needs and governments' will and ability to address them. Investment in policy change is critical to achieve sustainable outcomes. Still, many funders are apprehensive about or not permitted to fund advocacy, particularly if it involves direct lobbying. A Foundation Center analysis indicates that only 12.8 percent of overall foundation grantmaking explicitly supports policy, advocacy, and systems reform. The Atlantic Philanthropies observes that advocacy funding is too often "the philanthropic road not taken, yet it is a road most likely to lead to the kind of lasting change that philanthropy has long sought through other kinds of grants."⁴⁹

Yet, when the advocacy road is taken, philanthropic organizations can indeed help enable advocates to achieve major policy reform. For example, the Civil Marriage Collaborative (CMC) played a critical but largely unrecognized role in advancing marriage equality in the United States. A consortium of foundations that pooled and leveraged their resources and strategically aligned their grantmaking, CMC invested \$153 million over an 11-year period, enabling organizations in many states and at the national level to change hearts and minds on a massive scale – and ultimately make marriage equality the law of the land.⁵⁰

Fortunately, grantmaking to influence public policy is growing. This is particularly important as federal spending for development assistance has been reduced. A number of resources have recently been made available to guide funders as they consider investments in advocacy.⁵¹ For instance, the Atlas Learning Project is a three-year effort to synthesize and share lessons from advocacy and policy-change efforts that Atlantic and other funders have supported in the United States, with the goal of helping push philanthropy and advocacy in bolder and more effective directions. "Over the course of two years and hundreds of interviews with foundations, advocates, evaluators, and other experts, a consistent theme emerged around the need for foundations to be more aggressive and adaptive in their support for advocacy and policy change. This theme runs through more than 20 different reports, publications, and other resources. In each case, what arises from all this research is a clear sense that grantmakers should better understand their roles in the broader advocacy ecosystem, and foundations that do engage in supporting advocacy should consider a wider range of bolder and more effective approaches."⁵²

Private sector donors can play a supporting role by creating space to share timely, accurate, and strategic information; enabling collaboration and coordination between partners and across sectors and agendas; and bridging global child- and youth-advocacy constituencies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The survey of advocates, research, and additional consultations have helped identify a number of initiatives that would help strengthen the impact of advocacy on global children and youth issues in the United States. The following windows of opportunity remain wide open for strategic investment and action:



Develop a publicly accessible mechanism to monitor, track, and report on U.S. government policy and program and funding decisions related to global children's issues. [The Kaiser Family Foundation](#) offers an excellent example of a private foundation that has facilitated this work in the area of national and global health policy. The [Children's Budget](#), produced annually by First Focus to track U.S. government spending on domestic children's issues, is another useful model.



Analyze, develop, and amplify messages regarding the importance of U.S. government investments in global children's issues. Skillfully framing the issues that matter to advocates for global children and youth issues working in the U.S. policy context is critical to their success. As an example, the [FrameWorks Institute](#) has developed a process that involves identifying expert consensus, comparing it to prevailing public conceptions, and creating a master narrative that bridges the distance between these ideas. When broadly diffused, the resulting narrative becomes a critical tool that unites disparate advocacy messages, enables greater agreement across coalitions, and facilitates broad understanding of and support for issues by explaining simply what might otherwise be complicated science- and evidence-based solutions. Calls to action benefit greatly from a sound communications strategy that can be shared across groups, thus catalyzing and informing a long-term social movement.



Create a hub within an independent, non-partisan organization, where advocates, researchers, implementers, and policymakers can engage in policy analysis, innovative research, and communications focusing on strategic investments in global children and youth issues across sectors.



Build capacity for proactive, sustained, and flexible policy action, including direct advocacy and lobbying. This could include flexible funding and adaptive grants able to evolve with advocates' capacity needs and the demands of the policymaking process, combining general operating support with additional, targeted support for specific purposes.



The landscape of U.S. government policies, programs, and funding for global children and youth issues

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CHILDREN AFFECTED BY HIV AND AIDS

In 2015, 36.7 million people globally were living with HIV, up from 33.3 million in 2010. This has been the result of continuing new infections, the fact that people today live longer with HIV, and general population growth. This number includes 1.8 million children. Approximately 1.1 million people died of AIDS in 2015, a 45 percent decrease since the epidemic's peak in 2005. Deaths have declined due in part to antiretroviral treatment (ART) scale-up. Still, HIV remains a leading cause of death worldwide and the number one cause of death in Africa. Young people between the age of 15 and 24 account for approximately one-third of new HIV infections, and 150,000 new infections among children were reported in in 2015. In sub-Saharan Africa, young women between 15 and 24 account for 25 percent of all new HIV infections among adults, even though they represent only 17 percent of the adult population. Since 2001, new HIV infections among children have declined by more than 70 percent.⁵³

U.S. government policy and advocacy

U.S. legislation	U.S. government lead	U.S. strategy/plan	Results	U.S.-based advocacy coalitions
<p>PEPFAR was authorized by the U.S. Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-25), a 5-year, \$15 billion initiative to combat global HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria primarily for 15 hard-hit "focus countries." PEPFAR was reauthorized in 2008 by the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde U.S. Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-293 or "Lantos-Hyde"), for an additional five years and a cost of up to \$48 billion. In 2013, the PEPFAR Stewardship and Oversight Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-56) extended a number of existing authorities and strengthened the oversight of the program. The PEPFAR Extension Act of 2018 was introduced in the House and Senate (H.R. 6651 and S. 3476) in 2018 to reauthorize PEPFAR, which expired at the end of Fiscal Year 2018, for an additional five years.⁵⁴</p>	<p>PEPFAR's original authorization created the position of U.S. global AIDS coordinator, a presidential appointee requiring Senate confirmation and holding the rank of ambassador who reports directly to the secretary of state. The law also established the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) at the Department of State. Other implementing departments and agencies for HIV activities include USAID; the Department of Health and Human Services, primarily through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH); the departments of Labor, Commerce, and Defense (DoD); and the Peace Corps.</p>	<p>PEPFAR 3.0 outlines the U.S. government's strategy for achieving sustainable control of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. PEPFAR is focused on the following five core priorities: 1) adolescent girls and women; 2) children; 3) key populations; 4) data for impact; and 5) sustainability and partnerships.</p> <p>The PEPFAR Strategy for Accelerating HIV/AIDS Epidemic Control (2017-2020) reaffirms the U.S. government's leadership and commitment, through PEPFAR, to support HIV/AIDS efforts in more than 50 countries, ensuring access to services by all populations, including the most vulnerable and at-risk groups.</p>	<p>As of September 2017, PEPFAR had prevented 2.2 million babies from being born with HIV. In addition, PEPFAR had supported life-saving antiretroviral treatment for 13.3 million people, including 1.2 million children. Moreover, 6.4 million orphans and vulnerable children had received care and support. In 10 African countries, there had been a 25-40 percent decline in new HIV diagnoses among adolescent girls and young women. In FY 2017 alone, 88.5 million people received HIV testing services and 250,000 new health care workers were trained.⁵⁵</p>	<p>The Global AIDS Policy Partnership (GAPP) is a coalition of over 70 civil society, implementing, and faith-based organizations dedicated to achieving an AIDS-free generation. The GAPP advocates for better policy, legislation, and funding for the global AIDS response, and strengthens the global AIDS community by sharing information, best practices, and research.</p> <p>The Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Taskforce is an informal network of non-governmental organizations focusing on PEPFAR's OVC policy and programs.</p>

U.S. government funding overview

PEPFAR continues to be a cornerstone of U.S. global health efforts and of the HIV response around the world. It represents the vast majority of U.S. global health funding and is the largest commitment by any nation to address a single disease. In PEPFAR's original authorization, Congress recommended that 55 percent of funds be spent on treatment, 15 percent on palliative care, 20 percent on prevention, and 10 percent on orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs). For FY 2006-2008, Congress required 55 percent to be spent on treatment, 10 percent on OVCs, and 33 percent of prevention funding on abstinence-until-marriage issues. Lantos-Hyde also required that 10 percent of funds be spent on OVCs and at least half on treatment and care. The PEPFAR Stewardship and Oversight Act continues the spending directives for OVCs and requires at least 50 percent of bilateral HIV assistance to be spent on treatment and care.⁵⁶

FY 2016 enacted	FY 2017 President Obama's request	FY 2017 enacted	FY 2018 President Trump's request	FY 2018 House	FY 2018 Senate	FY 2018 Omnibus	FY 2019 President Trump's request	FY 2019 House	FY 2019 Senate
\$330,000 (USAID)	\$330,000 (USAID)	\$330,000 (USAID)	\$0 (USAID)	\$330,000 (USAID)	\$330,000 (USAID)	\$330,000 (USAID)	\$0 (USAID)	\$0 (USAID)	\$330,000 (USAID)
\$4,320,000 (PEPFAR/State)	\$4,320,000 (PEPFAR/State)	\$4,320,000 (PEPFAR/State)	\$3,850,000 (PEPFAR/State)	\$4,320,000 (PEPFAR/State)	\$4,320,000 (PEPFAR/State)	\$4,320,000 (PEPFAR/State)	\$3,850,000 (PEPFAR/State)	\$4,320,000 (PEPFAR/State)	\$4,325,000 (PEPFAR/State)
\$1,350,000 (Global Fund)	\$1,350,000 (Global Fund)	\$1,350,000 (Global Fund)	\$1,125,000 (Global Fund)	\$1,350,000 (Global Fund)	\$1,350,000 (Global Fund)	\$1,350,000 (Global Fund)	\$925,100 (Global Fund)	\$1,350,000 (Global Fund)	\$1,350,000 (Global Fund)

CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH ARMED GROUPS AND FIGHTING FORCES

Nearly 250 million children live in countries and areas affected by armed conflict.⁵⁷ An estimated 200,000 to 300,000 children under the age of 18 serve as soldiers for rebel groups or government forces in current armed conflicts worldwide. Child soldiers are used in at least 20 countries in the world today. As well as being forced to fight, children are used as spies, couriers, cooks, and cleaners. Girls are often forced into sexual slavery.⁵⁸

U.S. government policy and advocacy

U.S. legislation	U.S. government lead	U.S. strategy/plan	Results	U.S.-based advocacy coalitions
<p>The Child Soldier Prevention Act (CSPA) was signed into law in 2008, requiring the secretary of state to identify countries that have governmental armed forces or government-supported armed groups that recruit and use child soldiers. A list of those countries is published in the annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report. The governments of CSPA-listed countries may not receive certain forms of U.S. military assistance. The president may waive these restrictions in full or in part if he determines that doing so is in the national interest of the United States. The law's definition of child soldiers includes "any person under 18 years of age who takes a direct part in hostilities as a member of governmental armed forces." H.R. 1191 amends the Child Soldier Prevention Act of 2008 to prohibit assistance from being provided to, or licenses for direct commercial sales of military equipment issued to, the government of any country whose police or other security forces recruit and use child soldiers.</p> <p>An additional amendment to the CSPA was proposed in H.R.2200 – Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2017. S. 1862 – Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2017 – also sets forth child soldier protection provisions.</p>	<p>According to the Child Soldier Prevention Act, "the secretary of state, the secretary of labor, and the secretary of defense should coordinate programs." Programs are run through the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL); the Department of Labor's International Labor Affairs Bureau (ILAB); and USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA). Within the State Department, the bureaus of African Affairs; International Organization Affairs; and Population, Refugees, and Migration, along with the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, and the U.S. Mission to the UN are all involved in addressing issues relating to children and armed conflict in some capacity.</p>	<p>–</p>	<p>According to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), more than 100,000 children have been released and reintegrated into their communities since 1998 in over 15 countries affected by armed conflict. The extent to which U.S. government policies, programs, and funding contributed to this is unclear.⁵⁹</p>	<p>In the United States, policy advocacy on this issue is led by an informal coalition that includes the Human Dignity Foundation, Human Rights Watch, the International Justice Mission, the Open Society Foundation and World Vision, in conjunction with a number of other non-governmental, civil society, and faith-based partners. In addition, the Watchlist on Children in Armed Conflict was formed in 2001 by a group of leading human rights and humanitarian organizations. The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action is a global interagency group focused on child protection in humanitarian settings.</p>

U.S. government funding overview

There is no current publicly available data on the amount of funding the U.S. government provides to address the needs of children affected by armed conflict, including children associated with armed forces and groups. According to a 2008 fact sheet produced by the Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Rights, and Labor, the Department of Labor had spent more than \$20 million on five projects that specifically addressed child soldiers in Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Nepal, Sierra Leone, and Uganda. In addition, the DOL funded 14 projects to educate and protect children from exploitation in countries recovering from armed conflict. The fact sheet also notes that USAID had contributed more than \$10 million over the preceding several years toward the demobilization of child combatants and reintegration into their communities in seven countries.⁶⁰ Recent appropriations language directs that U.S. government funds should not be used to support military training or operations that include child soldiers.⁶¹ In one instance, there is specific mention of the demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers in Uganda.⁶²

FY 2016 enacted	FY 2017 President Obama's request	FY 2017 enacted	FY 2018 President Trump's request	FY 2018 House	FY 2018 Senate	FY 2018 Omnibus	FY 2019 President Trump's request	FY 2019 House	FY 2019 Senate
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

CHILDREN IN EMERGENCIES AND “ON THE MOVE”

**This section covers U.S. government laws, strategies, and foreign assistance funding related to children in emergencies and “on the move.” It does not address laws, strategies, and funding for refugee and migrant children once they have entered the United States.*

The world is witnessing continuous growth in the number of children moving across the globe, the largest child refugee crisis since World War II. Children in emergencies and “on the move” include those who have been uprooted due to conflict or natural disaster, refugee children, and internally displaced children. An estimated 50 million children are on the move. More than half of these children, 28 million in total, have fled violence and insecurity. Increasing conflict, rising inequality, and the growing impact of climate change are contributing to a mass displacement of children from their homes, endangering their survival, disrupting their education, and exposing them to severe protection risks, including violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Currently, nearly one in every 200 children globally is a child refugee. Between 2005 and 2015, the number of child refugees under the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees’ (UNHCR) mandate more than doubled. During the same period, the total number of all child migrants rose by 21 percent.⁶³

U.S. government policy and advocacy

U.S. legislation	U.S. government lead	U.S. strategy/plan	Results	U.S.-based advocacy coalitions
<p>The U.S. passed its first official refugee legislation following World War II. Refugee status is defined by Section 101(a)(42) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and based on the UN 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocols relating to the Status of Refugees, which the United States became a party to in 1968. Later, Congress passed the Refugee Act of 1980, which incorporated the Convention's definition into U.S. law and provides the legal basis for today's U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). The overall number of refugees resettled each year through USRAP is determined by the president in consultation with Congress.</p> <p>In 2016, the U.S. endorsed the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. In December 2017, the U.S. ended its participation in the Global Compact on Migration.⁶⁴</p>	<p>USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) is responsible for leading and coordinating the U.S. government's response to disasters overseas. The State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) provides protection and assistance to uprooted populations, ensuring that humanitarian principles are thoroughly integrated into U.S. foreign- and national-security policy.</p>	<p>Each year, a report on proposed refugee admissions is submitted to Congress in compliance with the INA. The Proposed Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 2019 Report was submitted to Congress in September 2018.</p> <p>PRM's FY 2015-2018 Functional Bureau Strategy identified four goals in support of its mission to protect refugees, stateless persons, conflict victims, and vulnerable migrants: 1) developing rapid and coordinated humanitarian responses to emergencies; 2) exerting leadership in the international community through humanitarian diplomacy to address, mitigate, and resolve humanitarian crises; 3) promoting refugee resettlement; 4) fostering programs to help women and children and prevent gender-based violence among refugees, internally displaced persons, victims of conflict, and others.⁶⁵</p> <p>OFDA does not appear to have a publicly accessible strategy or action plan.</p>	<p>The U.S. has a strong history of welcoming refugees, and until recently was the top country for refugee resettlement in the world. Since 1975, the U.S. has welcomed over 3 million refugees.⁶⁶</p> <p>In 2016, PRM contributed more than \$3.4 billion to humanitarian efforts globally, the majority of which went to overseas humanitarian assistance and refugee resettlement.⁶⁷ In 2017, PRM also provided funding to the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and UNHCR to build capacity for the international response for child protection; to improve global resources such as the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and the UNHCR Best Interest Determination guidelines; and to support evidence-based programming through enhanced learning, assessment, and evaluation.</p> <p>OFDA responds to an average of 65 disasters in more than 50 countries every year to ensure aid reaches people affected by rapid-onset disasters.⁶⁸</p>	<p>There are hundreds of U.S.-based advocacy organizations that focus on U.S. refugee and migration policy and programs.</p> <p>InterAction, an alliance of 180 organizations, advocates for the robust funding of humanitarian assistance accounts in the U.S. budget, including the International Disaster Assistance (IDA) and the Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) accounts. InterAction also educates policymakers in Congress and the U.S. government about the importance of prioritizing the needs of the displaced and most vulnerable in responses to crises around the world.</p> <p>The Migration Policy Institute is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit think tank in Washington, DC dedicated to analyzing the movement of people worldwide.</p> <p>The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action is a global interagency group focused on child protection in humanitarian settings. The Alliance engages in advocacy, but it is not U.S.-specific.</p>

U.S. government funding overview

In recent fiscal years, Congress has provided overseas contingency operations (OCO) funds to increase the level of funding for the primary accounts used to respond to international conflicts and disasters, international disaster assistance (IDA), and migration and refugee assistance (MRA). OCO was created to house temporary spending related to operations and programs in frontline states. From FY 2015 to FY 2017, OCO accounted for over 70 percent of appropriated IDA and MRA funding. The Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA) fund is a drawdown account designed to ensure that the U.S. government has sufficient resources for refugee assistance in unanticipated and urgent humanitarian crises. While the rising frequency and severity of humanitarian emergencies have placed increasing demands on this drawdown account, ERMA has been funded at a much lower level than the authorized cap.⁶⁹

FY 2016 enacted	FY 2017 President Obama's request	FY 2017 enacted	FY 2018 President Trump's request	FY 2018 House	FY 2018 Senate	FY 2018 Omnibus	FY 2019 President Trump's request	FY 2019 House	FY 2019 Senate
\$2,794,184 (IDA)	\$2,910,200 (IDA)	\$4,427,786 (IDA)	\$2,508,200 (IDA)	\$2,821,686 (IDA)	\$3,133,210 (IDA)	\$4,285,312 (IDA)	\$3,557,412 (IDA)	\$4,285,312 (IDA)	\$4,385,312 (IDA)
\$3,059,000 (MRA)	\$3,059,000 (MRA)	\$3,359,000 (MRA)	\$2,746,141 (MRA)	\$3,109,000 (MRA)	\$3,110,278 (MRA)	\$3,359,000 (MRA)	\$2,800,372 (MRA)	\$3,360,000 (MRA)	\$3,432,000 (MRA)
\$50,000 (ERMA)	\$50,000 (ERMA)	\$50,000 (ERMA)	\$0 (ERMA)	\$0 (ERMA)	\$50,000 (ERMA)	\$1,000 (ERMA)	\$0 (ERMA)	\$0 (ERMA)	\$1,000 (ERMA)

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

By one widely used estimate, some 93 million children – or one in 20 of those aged 14 or younger – live with a moderate or severe disability of some kind. Such global estimates are essentially speculative. They are dated – this one has been in circulation since 2004 – and derived from data of a quality too varied and methods too inconsistent to be reliable.⁷⁰

U.S. government policy and advocacy

U.S. legislation	U.S. government lead	U.S. strategy/plan	Results	U.S.-based advocacy coalitions
<p>The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is an international treaty adopted by the United Nations in 2006. The CRPD was inspired by U.S. leadership in recognizing the rights of people with disabilities through its own Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The United States signed the treaty in 2009 and transmitted it to the U.S. Senate for its advice and consent in May of 2012. On December 4, 2012, the United States Senate considered the ratification of the CRPD but fell short of the super-majority vote required.</p> <p>Previously, Congress passed the Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-406), which supports the participation of individuals with intellectual disabilities in Special Olympics events within and outside of the United States.</p>	<p>The National Council on Disability (NCD) is an independent federal agency charged with advising the president, Congress, and other federal agencies regarding policies, programs, practices, and procedures that affect people with disabilities. NCD is comprised of a team of presidential and congressional appointees, an executive director appointed by the chair, and a full-time professional staff.</p> <p>The position of special advisor for international disability rights was created following U.S. signature of the CRPD. This office is located within the State Department’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL). As the senior disability-focused human-rights position at the State Department, the special advisor leads on disability-related human-rights issues across the Department. This position is currently vacant.</p> <p>USAID’s Office for Democracy, Human Right and Governance has an Empowerment and Inclusion (EI) Division that promotes disability-inclusive development. EI engages in the development and promulgation of agency disability-related policies and directives, develops and implements training programs, and manages the Disability Funding Program. This program, which provides financial and technical assistance across the agency, promotes the inclusion of persons with disabilities in USAID programs, and builds the capacity of local disabled people’s organizations. USAID’s coordinator for disability and inclusive development resides in the EI Division.</p>	<p>The objectives of the USAID Disability Policy Paper (1997) are: 1) to enhance the attainment of United States foreign assistance program goals by promoting the participation of and equalization of opportunities for individuals with disabilities within the context of USAID policy, country and sector strategies, activity designs and implementation; 2) to increase awareness of issues relating to people with disabilities, both within USAID programs and in host countries; 3) to engage other U.S. government agencies, host-country counterparts, governments, implementing organizations, and other donors in fostering a climate of non-discrimination against people with disabilities; and 4) to support international advocacy for people with disabilities.</p>	<p>Since 2005, USAID’s disability programs have supported more than 110 programs and activities in 65 countries. Programs have improved national laws and policies, thus furthering the rights of people with disabilities; increased the numbers of children with disabilities attending school and improved the quality of instruction they receive; provided job training to youth with disabilities and opened up opportunities for competitive employment; and trained humanitarian relief workers and first responders to better incorporate the needs of people with disabilities in disaster risk reduction.</p>	<p>The U.S. International Council on Disabilities (USICD) works to promote the rights and full participation of persons with disabilities through global engagement and in the context of United States foreign affairs. USICD’s core membership consists of NGOs and individual actors committed to promoting equality, inclusion, empowerment, and the human rights of people with disabilities worldwide.</p>

U.S. government funding overview

In 2005, Congress appropriated funding specifically aimed at increasing the participation of people with disabilities in USAID programs, and at strengthening the capacity of and services provided by local disabled people's organizations. In addition to USAID's disability programs, the Leahy War Victims Fund, which was originally established as an earmark to Congressional legislation in 1989, assists persons severely disabled as a result of armed conflict.

FY 2016 enacted	FY 2017 President Obama's request	FY 2017 enacted	FY 2018 President Trump's request	FY 2018 House	FY 2018 Senate	FY 2018 Omnibus	FY 2019 President Trump's request	FY 2019 House	FY 2019 Senate
-	Report language ⁷¹	-	Report language ⁷²	-	\$445 (Special Advisor for Disability Rights) \$30,500 (disability programs)	Report language ⁷³	Report language ⁷⁴	Report language ⁷⁵	\$445 (Special Advisor for Disability Rights) \$35,500 (disability programs)

CHILD LABOR

An estimated 150 million children worldwide are engaged in child labor. In the least developed countries, nearly one in four children (ages 5 to 14) are engaged in labor that is considered detrimental to their health and development. Approximately 85 million children work in hazardous labor. Of these children, 5.5 million are in forced labor. The economic costs of child labor amount to between 2.4 percent and 6.6 percent of the world's gross national income each year.⁷⁶

U.S. government policy and advocacy

U.S. legislation	U.S. government lead	U.S. strategy/plan	Results	U.S.-based advocacy coalitions
<p>In 1999, President Clinton issued Executive Order 13126 on the Prohibition of Acquisition of Products Produced by Forced or Indentured Child Labor to ensure that U.S. federal agencies do not procure goods made by forced or indentured child labor. It requires the Department of Labor, in consultation with the departments of State and Homeland Security, to publish and maintain a list of products, by country of origin, which the three departments have a reasonable basis to believe might have been mined, produced, or manufactured by forced or indentured child labor.</p> <p>The Trade and Development Act (TDA) was signed into law in 2000, establishing new eligibility criteria requiring that countries make efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in order to receive trade benefits under other agreements. The TDA requires the secretary of labor to issue annual findings on beneficiary country initiatives to implement their international commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.</p> <p>On January 10, 2006, President Bush signed into law The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2005. Section 105(b)(1) of Act directs the Secretary of Labor, acting through the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB), to "carry out additional activities to monitor and combat forced labor and child labor in foreign countries."</p> <p>The 2008 Farm Bill established a Consultative Group to Eliminate the Use of Child Labor and Forced Labor in Imported Agricultural Products, composed of 13 members including ILAB's Deputy Undersecretary. The mandate of this Consultative Group was to develop guidelines for companies that import agricultural products to address child labor and forced labor in their supply chains. The Group issued detailed guidelines and completed its work in 2012.</p>	<p>The International Labor Affairs Bureau (ILAB) leads the U.S. Department of Labor's efforts to ensure that workers around the world are treated fairly and are able to share in the benefits of the global economy. ILAB's mission is to improve global working conditions, raise living standards, protect workers' ability to exercise their rights, and address the workplace exploitation of children and other vulnerable populations.</p> <p>The mission of ILAB's Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking (OCFT) is to promote the elimination of child labor and forced labor through policy, research, and technical-assistance projects. OCFT was created in 1993 in response to a request from Congress to investigate and report on child labor around the world. As domestic and international concern about child labor has grown, OCFT's activities have significantly expanded. These activities include: 1) research and publication of major reports on international child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking; 2) funding and oversight of projects to eliminate exploitive child labor and forced labor around the world; and 3) assistance in the development and implementation of U.S. government policy on international child labor, forced labor, and human-trafficking issues.</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>ILAB is the only U.S. office that works to end exploitative child labor, and is part of a global effort that has seen the number of children subjected to hazardous labor cut in half since 2000.</p> <p>ILAB engagement and technical-cooperation initiatives to address the worst forms of child labor have made a critical difference in helping reduce the number of child laborers worldwide by 94 million over the past two decades. Collectively, ILAB projects have rescued and provided education to nearly 2 million children and supported nearly 170,000 families in meeting basic needs without relying on child labor. More broadly, ILAB's work to monitor and enforce the labor provisions of trade agreements and preference programs, which include prohibitions on child labor and forced labor, helps ensure fair competition and a level playing field for U.S. workers and businesses. ILAB's efforts to eliminate hazardous and exploitative labor practices also respond to concerns by U.S. consumers that the imported products they buy should be made in a way that is consistent with their values.⁷⁷</p>	<p>The Child Labor Coalition serves as a national network for the exchange of information about child labor; provides a forum and a unified voice on protecting working minors and ending the exploitation of child labor; and develops informational and educational outreach programs for the public and private sectors to combat child-labor abuses and promote progressive initiatives and legislation. The coalition brings together 22 groups, including several of America's largest labor unions, all of which are committed to reducing exploitative child labor and child trafficking. It is the only coalition in the U.S. that is tackling a broad array of child-labor issues with both a domestic and international focus.</p>

U.S. government funding overview

ILAB's international grants support projects to combat some of the most abusive labor practices, including the use of child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking in global supply chains. ILAB-funded projects also promote trade partners' compliance with the labor requirements contained in U.S. trade agreements and preference programs, which help to ensure a fair global playing field for workers in the United States and around the world.

FY 2016 enacted	FY 2017 President Obama's request	FY 2017 enacted	FY 2018 President Trump's request	FY 2018 House	FY 2018 Senate	FY 2018 Omnibus	FY 2019 President Trump's request	FY 2019 House	FY 2019 Senate
\$86,000	\$101,000	\$86,125	\$19,000 ⁷⁸	\$26,500 ⁷⁹	\$86,125	\$86,125	\$18,500	\$18,500	\$86,125

EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

At least 250 million children – 43 percent of the world’s children – are at risk of suboptimal development, including 156 million children under five who are stunted. Only 17 percent of eligible children in low-income countries are enrolled in preprimary education, and more than 16 million children were born in conflict settings in 2015. Reaching children in their early years can disrupt intergenerational cycles of violence and poor health, and boost lifetime incomes by 25 percent.⁸⁰

U.S. government policy and advocacy

U.S. legislation	U.S. government lead	U.S. strategy/plan	Results	U.S.-based advocacy coalitions
<p>The Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development Act – the READ Act – was signed into law in September 2017. The bill aims to provide access to education for some of the 263 million children and adolescents who are currently not in school, or who do not have access to education because of conflict or political instability. The bill’s definition of “basic education” includes “early childhood, preprimary education, primary education, and secondary education, which can be delivered in formal or non-formal education settings.”</p>	<p>The READ Act establishes the position of senior coordinator of United States international basic education assistance at USAID.</p>	<p>The U.S. Government Action Plan on Children in Adversity (2012-2017) includes three core objectives, one of which is to <i>build strong beginnings</i>: “The U.S. government will help ensure that children under five not only survive, but also thrive by supporting comprehensive programs that promote sound development of children through the integration of health, nutrition, and family support.” This whole-of-government strategy is currently under revision. The new strategy is expected to be released in early 2019.</p> <p>PEPFAR’s Guidance for Orphans and Vulnerable Children Programming (2012) includes a focus on early childhood development.</p> <p>The U.S. Government Global Nutrition Coordination Plan (2016-2021) and USAID’S Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy (2014-2025) recognize the important linkages between appropriate nutrition and the holistic growth, health, and development of young children.</p> <p>The U.S. Government Strategy on International Basic Education for Fiscal Years 2019-2023 was released in September 2018. The Strategy demonstrates the U.S. government’s commitment to international education and presents an opportunity to advance global diplomatic and development leadership on pressing international education challenges, as called for in the READ Act. The Strategy recognizes the importance of early childhood development and states that “U.S. government programs, in both state and non-state schools, will focus on two areas in early childhood – child nutrition and health programs and preschool programs – that foster the physical, cognitive, linguistic, and social-emotional development of young children.”</p> <p>USAID is in the process of developing an Agency Education Policy to replace the 2011-2015 USAID Education Strategy (extended through December 31, 2018), which did not include a focus on early childhood development.</p>	<p>Early childhood development outcomes are not currently tracked within the U.S. government’s foreign assistance program portfolio.</p>	<p>The Global Agenda for Children working group is an informal advocacy network promoting the inclusion of early childhood development in U.S. government foreign assistance policies, programs, and funding. It is currently spearheaded by the American Academy of Pediatrics and RESULTS, and includes the participation of a variety of non-governmental organizations working across sectors.</p>

U.S. government funding overview

U.S. government appropriations continue to provide robust support for important global health, nutrition, and education programs, though none of the corresponding funding directives includes funding specifically for early childhood development programs. In recent years, references to early childhood development have been made in appropriations language concerning the nutrition and basic education account. In addition, the president's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has historically promoted integrated programs for children affected by HIV and AIDS, including early childhood development, as part of its Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) portfolio.

FY 2016 enacted	FY 2017 President Obama's request	FY 2017 enacted	FY 2018 President Trump's request	FY 2018 House	FY 2018 Senate	FY 2018 Omnibus	FY 2019 President Trump's request	FY 2019 House	FY 2019 Senate
-	-	-	-	Report language references early childhood development. ⁸¹	-	-	-	Report language references early childhood development. ⁸²	-

EDUCATION

Despite great progress in school enrollment in many parts of the world, the number of children aged 6 to 11 who are out of school has increased since 2011.⁸³ Approximately 263 million children and youth are not in school.⁸⁴ Certain groups are more likely to never attend school, or to drop out, including girls and women, children engaged in child labor, individuals affected by conflict, individuals with disabilities, and other marginalized and vulnerable populations. Even for those in school, enrollment does not automatically lead to learning; 387 million children of primary school age (56 percent) are not reaching minimum proficiency levels in reading and math.⁸⁵

U.S. government policy and advocacy

U.S. legislation	U.S. government lead	U.S. strategy/plan	Results	U.S.-based advocacy coalitions
<p>The Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development Act – the READ Act – was signed into law in September 2017. The bill aims to provide access to education for some of the 263 million children and adolescents who are currently not in school, or who do not have access to education because of conflict or political instability. It sets a truly admirable goal of reaching universal basic education, while at the same time aiming to improve the quality of that education. The bill's definition of "basic education" includes "early childhood, preprimary education, primary education, and secondary education, which can be delivered in formal or non-formal education settings."</p> <p>The Protecting Girls' Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act was introduced in the House and the Senate in 2017 (H.R. 2408 and S. 1580). It passed the House in October 2017. The bill would help to ensure that displaced children have access to educational services and receive quality education, and that the educational needs of girls and women are considered in the design, implementation, and evaluation of U.S. foreign assistance programs.</p> <p>The Keeping Girls in School Act (H.R. 7055 and S. 1171) was introduced in the Senate in May 2017 and in the House in September 2018. The bill focuses on overcoming the barriers faced by more than 130 million adolescent girls in accessing education. If passed, the bill would codify the U.S. Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls and establish an Adolescent Girls Education Challenge Fund from which funds may be made available for the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and other federal agencies to work with external partners to implement innovative programs to ensure that adolescent girls enroll and succeed in school.</p>	<p>The READ Act establishes the position of senior coordinator of United States international basic education assistance at USAID.</p> <p>The READ Act provides an opportunity for the U.S. government to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its international basic education programs and partnerships by increasing coordination and leveraging each department, agency, and official's unique experience and expertise at the global and country level. These departments, agencies, and officials include the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Labor, the Department of Education, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, the chief executive officer of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the national security advisor, and the director of the Peace Corps.</p>	<p>The U.S. Government Strategy on International Basic Education for Fiscal Years 2019-2023 was released in September 2018. The Strategy demonstrates the U.S. government's commitment to international education, and presents an opportunity to advance global diplomatic and development leadership on pressing international education challenges, as called for in the READ Act. The Strategy recognizes the importance of early childhood development and states that, "U.S. government programs, in both state and non-state schools, will focus on two areas in early childhood – child nutrition and health programs and preschool programs – that foster the physical, cognitive, linguistic, and social-emotional development of young children."</p> <p>USAID is in the process of developing an Agency Education Policy to replace the 2011-2015 USAID Education Strategy (extended through December 31, 2018). The initial education strategy included three goals: 1) improved reading skills for 100 million children in primary grades by 2015; 2) the improved ability of tertiary and workforce development programs to generate workforce skills relevant to a country's development goals; and 3) more equitable access to education in crisis and conflict environments for 15 million learners by 2015.</p>	<p>According to the U.S. Government Strategy on International Basic Education for Fiscal Years 2019-2023, Department of Labor projects have rescued close to 2 million children from some of the worst forms of child labor, and provided them with an education. Since 2011, USAID has provided early-grade reading instruction to almost 70 million children. The Millennium Challenge Corporation has built or rehabilitated 791 schools and education facilities and trained 216,201 learners. Every year Peace Corps Volunteers teach English, math, science, and literacy to approximately 260,000 students around the world.</p> <p>According to the USAID Education Strategy Progress Report, over the 2011-2015 strategy period, USAID supported 151 basic education programs in 46 countries, directly benefiting more than 41.6 million children and youth (20.2 million females, 21.4 million males). The annual reach of basic education programs aligned with the goals of the Education Strategy grew from 7.6 million children and youth (3.8 million female, 3.8 million male) in 29 countries in 2011, to 25.7 million children and youth (12.4 million female, 13.3 million male) in 45 countries in 2015. USAID supported activities central to achieving the education goals of partner countries, including improved pedagogy through training for an average of 450,000 teachers annually, increased parental and community engagement through support for an average of 26,000 parent-teacher associations or community-based school-governance structures annually, and the provision of 146 million essential teaching and learning materials.</p> <p>More specific program results are summarized in these fact sheets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Children Reading • Youth Workforce Development • Education in Crisis and Conflict • Higher Education <p>In March 2015, President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama launched Let Girls Learn, which brought together the Department of State, USAID, the Peace Corps, the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), as well as the U.S. President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), to address the range of challenges preventing adolescent girls from receiving high-quality educations that empower them to reach their full potential. Since the launch of Let Girls Learn, USAID has invested over \$600 million dollars on Let Girls Learn programs in 13 countries across Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America.</p>	<p>The Global Campaign for Education, U.S. (GCE-US) is a broad-based coalition of more than 70 U.S. organizations including non-profit organizations, teachers' unions, foundations, faith-based groups, and think tanks dedicated to mobilizing political will in the United States and internationally to ensure universal high-quality education.</p> <p>The Basic Education Coalition (BEC) is a group of leading U.S.-based organizations and academic institutions working together to promote global peace and prosperity through education. By leveraging their collective technical expertise and combining advocacy efforts, BEC members raise a unified voice to ensure U.S. policymakers support and strengthen education for the developing world.</p>

U.S. government funding overview

U.S. government appropriations include funding for basic education (BE), which includes contributions made to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), channeled through USAID's Development Assistance Account.

FY 2016 enacted	FY 2017 President Obama's request	FY 2017 enacted	FY 2018 President Trump's request	FY 2018 House	FY 2018 Senate	FY 2018 Omnibus	FY 2019 President Trump's request	FY 2019 House	FY 2019 Senate
\$800,000 (BE), which includes \$70,000 (GPE)	\$561,000 (BE), which includes \$70,000 (GPE)	\$800,000 (BE), which includes \$70,000 (GPE)	\$377,901 (BE) \$0 (GPE)	\$800,000 (BE), which includes \$87,500 (GPE)	\$500,000 (BE), which includes \$75,000 (GPE)	\$800,000 (BE), which includes \$87,500 (GPE)	–	\$800,000 (BE), of which \$90,000 (GPE)	\$515,000 (BE), of which \$90,000 (GPE)

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

There are nearly 800 million people going hungry in the world today. Malnutrition is the underlying cause of nearly half of all child deaths and approximately 3 million children die each year because of malnutrition. Stunting affects an estimated 22.9 percent of children under five globally, or a total of 155 million children. More than 52 million children under five, or 7.7 percent, are wasted. Also of concern, 41 million children under five, or 6 percent, are overweight.⁸⁶ Good nutrition during the 1,000 days between the beginning of a woman’s pregnancy and her child’s second birthday builds the foundation for human health and development and economic growth for entire generations. Improving nutrition during the 1,000-day window can reduce the 11 percent of GDP lost every year to malnutrition-related factors in Africa and Asia. Nutrition is one of the most effectual aid buys, with every \$1 invested resulting in \$16 in economic returns through decreased health care costs and increased human productivity.⁸⁷

U.S. government policy and advocacy

U.S. legislation	U.S. government lead	U.S. strategy/plan	Results	U.S.-based advocacy coalitions
<p>The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program (IFEP) is a food aid program authorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-171, Sec. 3107, known as the “2002 farm bill”), which provides for the donation of U.S. agricultural commodities and associated financial and technical assistance to carry out preschool and school-based feeding programs in foreign countries. Maternal, infant, and child nutrition programs also are authorized under this program.</p> <p>The Global Food Security Act of 2016 codifies the U.S. government’s commitment to the productivity, incomes and livelihoods of small-scale producers, particularly women, by working across agricultural value chains and expanding farmers’ access to local and international markets. It strengthens the Feed the Future initiative’s existing accountability mechanisms, and establishes parameters for robust congressional oversight, monitoring, and evaluation of impact regarding this commitment. The Act was reauthorized in September 2018 (S. 2269).</p>	<p>According to the U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy, USAID will continue to lead interagency coordination efforts. Each relevant federal department and agency is required to designate a representative plus one additional person to participate in the interagency working group and serve as a communication and coordination focal point with their department or agency.</p> <p>The U.S. government departments and agencies engaged in scaling up proven approaches to better nutrition and conducting U.S. human nutrition research include the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Peace Corps, the Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of State, the Department of Treasury, and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. The roles of each office are outlined in the U.S. Government Global Nutrition Coordination Plan (2016-2021).</p>	<p>Created in the wake of the 2007/2008 global food-price crisis, Feed the Future is an American initiative that combats global hunger.</p> <p>USAID’S 2014-2025 Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy aims to decrease chronic malnutrition by 20 percent. Within Feed-the-Future-targeted intervention areas, USAID aims to reduce the number of stunted children by a minimum of 2 million. In humanitarian crises, USAID aims to mitigate increases in acute malnutrition with the goal of maintaining global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates below the emergency threshold of 15 percent.</p> <p>The U.S. Global Food Security Act calls for an integrated, whole-of-government strategy. The U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy (2017-2021) charts a course for the U.S. government to contribute to the achievement of global food security and the range of Sustainable Development Goals, together with partners across the globe. The Strategy includes agency-specific implementation plans for the 11 participating U.S. government agencies and departments, with a focus on 12 target countries. The Strategy is the guiding document for what Feed the Future seeks to achieve as well as how it is implemented.</p> <p>The U.S. Government Global Nutrition Coordination Plan (2016-2021) strengthens the impact of the many diverse nutrition investments across the U.S. government by providing for better communication and collaboration, and by linking research to program implementation. The Plan identifies six technical-focus areas, including 1) food fortification, 2) nutrition information systems, 3) food safety, 4) the first 1,000 days (pregnancy up to two years of age), 5) nutrition-related non-communicable diseases, and 6) HIV and nutrition.</p>	<p>With Feed the Future’s help, 9 million more people are living above the poverty line and 1.8 million more children have escaped the devastating, lifelong consequences of poor nutrition. Poverty rates have dropped by an average of 19 percent and child stunting rates by 26 percent across target regions in Feed the Future’s focus countries since the initiative began in 2011.⁸⁸</p>	<p>InterAction hosts a Food Security and Agriculture Working Group that seeks to increase and sustain donor investments in food security and agriculture, and to improve the quality of donor and NGO programming. Through information sharing, peer learning and the documentation of best practices, InterAction supports member organizations in strengthening their field programs and in shaping the policies of the U.S. government and multilateral institutions.</p>

U.S. government funding overview

The United States has a long history of supporting global efforts to improve nutrition, and is the largest donor to nutrition efforts in the world. Historically, funding for global nutrition efforts was included within broader maternal and child health (MCH) funding, and was not specifically delineated. In Fiscal Year 2010, the Obama administration created a nutrition-specific funding line, elevating attention to these resources. Most of the government's funding for global food security and nutrition is currently channeled through Feed the Future (FTF) and Food for Peace (FFP) programs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture manages the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program.

FY 2016 enacted	FY 2017 President Obama's request	FY 2017 enacted	FY 2018 President Trump's request	FY 2018 House	FY 2018 Senate	FY 2018 Omnibus	FY 2019 President Trump's request	FY 2019 House	FY 2019 Senate
\$125,000 (nutrition)	\$108,500 (nutrition)	\$125,000 (nutrition)	\$78,500 (nutrition)	\$125,000 (nutrition)	\$125,000 (nutrition)	\$125,000 (nutrition)	\$78,500 (nutrition)	\$145,000 (nutrition)	\$135,000 (nutrition)
\$1,000,600 (FTF)	\$978,000 (FTF)	\$1,000,600 (FTF)	\$499,821 (FTF)	\$1,000,600 (FTF)	\$1,000,600 (FTF)	\$1,000,600 (FTF)	\$518,000 (FTF)	\$1,000,600 (FTF)	\$1,000,600 (FTF)
\$201,626 (USDA/M-D)	\$182,045 (USDA/M-D)	\$201,626 (USADA/M-D)	\$0 (USDA-M-D) ⁸⁹	\$185,126 (USDA/M-D)	\$206,626 (USDA/M-D)	\$207,626 (USDA/M-D)	\$0 (USDA-M-D)	\$207,626 (USDA/M-D)	\$195,255 (USDA/M-D)
\$1,716,000 (FFP)	\$1,350,000 (FFP)	\$1,600,000 (FFP)	\$0 (FFP)	\$1,400,000 (FFP)	\$1,600,000 (FFP)	\$1,716,000 (FFP)	\$0 (FFP)	\$1,500,000 (FFP)	\$1,716,000 (FFP)

GIRLS: CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE, FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION

Globally, 250 million adolescent girls live in poverty. One in three girls in the developing world is married by the time she is 18, and one in nine is married by the age of 15. Every year, millions of girls undergo female genital mutilation/cutting. Millions more are exposed to HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence, trafficking, and other forms of discrimination and violence. At least 62 million girls, half of whom are adolescents, are not in school. These girls face diminished economic opportunities and greater risk of exploitation and abuse.⁹⁰

U.S. government policy and advocacy

U.S. legislation	U.S. government lead	U.S. strategy/plan	Results	U.S.-based advocacy coalitions
<p>The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) – first passed in 1994, and reauthorized in 2000, 2005, and 2013 – is comprehensive legislation that specifically seeks to protect victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and attempts to remedy laws and practices that have historically subjected women to these crimes, through federal grant programs, research, and criminal penalties. VAWA 2013 expands and improves upon earlier protections and programs in a number of substantive ways and includes provisions to prioritize the reduction of child marriage internationally. Specifically, it requires the U.S. secretary of state to “establish and implement a multi-year, multi-sectoral strategy to prevent child marriage.”</p> <p>In 2013, President Obama released the Presidential Memorandum on the Coordination of Policies and Programs to Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women and Girls Globally. Obama also issued Executive Order on Instituting a National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security as well as an Executive Order 13623 directing departments and agencies to implement the first-ever U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally.</p> <p>In 2015, President Obama signed into law the Girls Count Act, authorizing the Department of State and USAID to support programs that promote sustainable registration systems and ensure children are able to access health, education, and social services. Despite its name, the Act makes it U.S. policy to encourage other countries to ensure that both girls and boys of all ages are full participants in society.</p> <p>The Women, Peace, and Security Act was signed into law in October 2017. The Act expresses the sense of Congress that 1) the United States should be a global leader in promoting the participation of women in conflict-prevention, management, and resolution and post-conflict relief and recovery efforts; 2) that the political participation and leadership of women in fragile environments, particularly during democratic transitions, is critical to sustaining democratic institutions; and 3) that the participation of women in conflict-prevention and conflict-resolution efforts helps promote more inclusive and democratic societies and is critical to country and regional stability.</p> <p>The International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA) (H.R. 5034 and S. 2120) was introduced in the Senate in November 2017 and in the House in February 2018. The bill seeks to help the United States better tackle the global crisis of violence against women. If passed, the bill would streamline the government’s preexisting efforts to create a more efficient and effective plan to combat gender-based violence and ensure that ending violence against women and girls is a U.S. foreign-policy priority. The bill would not require additional appropriations.</p>	<p>The State Department has an office devoted to women’s issues. With origins dating back to 1995, the Secretary’s Office of Global Women’s Issues has a mandate to promote the rights and empowerment of women and girls through U.S. foreign policy. If passed, the International Violence Against Women Act would make the Office of Global Women’s Issues a permanent fixture in the State Department.</p> <p>In 2013, President Obama signed a presidential memorandum to help ensure that advancing the rights of women and girls remains central to U.S. diplomacy and development around the world – and that these efforts will continue to be led by public servants at the highest levels of the United States government. Following on Obama’s appointment of the United States’ first-ever ambassador-at-large for global women’s issues at the beginning of his administration, his presidential memorandum ensures that the ambassador-at-large, reporting directly to the secretary, heads the State Department’s Office of Global Women’s Issues.</p> <p>USAID also hosts a senior coordinator for gender equality and women’s empowerment.</p>	<p>As directed by Executive Order 13595 in 2011, the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security describes the course the U.S. government will continue to take to accelerate, institutionalize, and better coordinate efforts to advance women’s inclusion in peace negotiations, peacebuilding activities, and conflict-prevention efforts; to protect women from gender-based violence (GBV); and to ensure equal access to relief and recovery assistance in areas of conflict and insecurity.</p> <p>The first-ever U.S. Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls, launched in March 2016, brings together four U.S. government agencies to tackle barriers that keep adolescent girls from achieving their full potential. As part of the strategy, each agency – the State Department, USAID, the Peace Corps, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation – has its own implementation plan. The goal of U.S. government efforts under this strategy is to ensure that adolescent girls are educated, healthy, economically and socially empowered, and free from violence and discrimination, thereby promoting global development, security, and prosperity. Efforts aim to enhance their access to high-quality education; to reduce their risks of child, early, or forced marriage (CEFM); to reduce their vulnerability to gender-based violence, including harmful norms and practices such as female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C); and to provide them with the tools necessary to fully participate in their societies, claim their rights, and make informed decisions about their lives.</p> <p>Executive Order 13623, “Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Women and Girls Globally,” directed all departments and agencies to implement the United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence Globally. Since that time, significant strides have been made across federal departments and agencies in furthering the strategy’s goals. The 2016 Update to the United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence Globally is informed by the results of those evaluations and various consultations with U.S. departments and agencies, civil society organizations, the United Nations, and other donor agencies and multilateral institutions.</p> <p>In accordance with the Women, Peace and Security Act of 2017, the Trump administration is due to release a Women, Peace and Security Strategy by October 2018.</p>	<p>Three-year evaluations (2012-2015) of the implementation of the Strategy conducted by the U.S. Department of State and USAID, released in December 2015, found specific achievements and progress under each of the four strategy objectives and identified internal and external challenges and opportunities for full and sustainable implementation. The United States has made significant progress in its efforts to address gender-based violence specifically, including through the development of the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security; the launch of the Let Girls Learn and the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) DREAMS initiatives; the work of the President’s Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons; and the incorporation of gender-based-violence programming into humanitarian response activities. Results of these initiatives are outlined in the annual reports for the respective strategies and in the U.S. Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.</p>	<p>The Coalition for Adolescent Girls (CAG) is a member-led and member-driven organization dedicated to supporting, investing in, and improving the lives of adolescent girls. CAG improves existing and drives new programming, policies, and investments that will promote the rights and opportunities of adolescent girls.</p> <p>The Coalition to End Violence Against Women and Girls Globally includes more than 200 organizations whose combined expertise, experience, programmatic work, and collaboration with local activists make it a powerful resource and ally on issues related to the prevention of and response to violence against women and girls.</p> <p>The Ending Violence Against Children Taskforce coordinates advocacy efforts to address violence against children and youth. It includes ChildFund, Futures Without Violence, Save the Children, and World Vision.</p>

U.S. government funding overview

Funding for programs related to girls, including child, early and forced marriage (CEFM), female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), gender-based violence (GBV) and discrimination is channeled through multiple accounts, including development assistance, the Economic Support Fund, global health programs, international narcotics control and law enforcement programs, migration and refugee assistance, and PEPFAR, making it difficult to draw a full picture of U.S. government support for these initiatives. The funding levels are not disaggregated by age of the aid recipient. Many programs and activities may indirectly impact the prevention of and response to gender-based violence, but may not be captured within the gender-based violence attribution.

FY 2016 enacted	FY 2017 President Obama's request	FY 2017 enacted	FY 2018 President Trump's request	FY 2018 House	FY 2018 Senate	FY 2018 Omnibus	FY 2019 President Trump's request	FY 2019 House	FY 2019 Senate
\$150,000 (GBV)	\$150,000 (GBV) ⁹¹	\$150,000 (GBV) \$15,000 (women and girls at risk of extremism) ⁹²	No direct line item or funding requirement. ⁹³	\$150,000 (GBV) ⁹⁴	\$11,000 (CEFM) \$5,000 (FGM/C) ⁹⁵	\$150,000 (GBV) \$15,000 (women and girls at risk of extremism) ⁹⁶	No direct line item or funding requirement. ⁹⁷	\$150,000 (GBV) ⁹⁸	\$150,000 (GBV) \$11,000 (CEFM) \$15,000 (women and girls at risk of extremism) \$12,000 (LAC) ⁹⁹

INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

The United States has historically welcomed more children into homes through intercountry adoption than any other nation in the world. Over the last decade, Americas have adopted nearly 200,000 children from abroad. In Fiscal Year 2016, a total of 5,372 immigrant visas were issued to children adopted abroad or who were coming to the United States to be adopted by U.S. citizens.¹⁰⁰

U.S. government policy and advocacy

U.S. legislation	U.S. government lead	U.S. strategy/plan	Results	U.S.-based advocacy coalitions
<p>The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption is an international agreement to safeguard intercountry adoptions. Concluded on May 29, 1993 in The Hague, the Netherlands, the Convention establishes international standards of practices for intercountry adoptions. The United States signed the Convention in 1994, and the Convention entered into force for the United States on April 1, 2008.</p> <p>The Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-279) provides for implementation by the United States of The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.</p> <p>The Child Citizenship Act of 2000 allows certain foreign-born adopted people to become automatic U.S. citizens when they enter the United States, eliminating the legal burden of naturalization for intercountry adoptions.</p> <p>The Universal Accreditation Act of 2012 extends the safeguards provided by accreditation to orphans as defined under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) section 101(b)(1)(F), as well as their adoptive parents and birth parents. This is accomplished by ensuring that adoption service providers are all held to the same federal standards.</p> <p>The Vulnerable Children and Families Act (S. 1178 and H.R. 2532) was introduced in the 115th Congress, proposing a realignment of structures and reallocation of resources related to intercountry adoption and child protection. No further action has been taken.</p>	<p>The Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 established the U.S. Central Authority within the Department of State (Office of Children's Issues within the Bureau of Consular Affairs) with general responsibility for U.S. implementation of the Convention and annual reports to Congress. The Department, in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS), interacts daily with the central authorities, competent authorities, and accredited bodies in foreign countries in the processing of intercountry adoptions.</p>	<p>–</p>	<p>The Department of State annual report on intercountry adoptions is available here. All U.S. intercountry adoption statistics are available online.</p>	<p>The National Council for Adoption is a U.S.-based advocacy organization that aims to meet the diverse needs of children, birth parents, adopted individuals, adoptive families, and all those touched by adoption through global advocacy, education, research, legislative action, and collaboration.</p>

U.S. government funding overview

The Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Office of Children's Issues does not administer U.S. foreign assistance resources or programs. Office functions are funded through consular fees.¹⁰¹

FY 2016 enacted	FY 2017 President Obama's request	FY 2017 enacted	FY 2018 President Trump's request	FY 2018 House	FY 2018 Senate	FY 2018 Omnibus	FY 2019 President Trump's request	FY 2019 House	FY 2019 Senate
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MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

An estimated 5.9 million children under the age of five each year – or 16,000 per day – die from preventable causes, including pneumonia, malnutrition, dehydration, or diarrhea. Mothers also face preventable risks, with 800 women dying daily from complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Since 1990, the world has cut both the rate and number of child deaths by more than one-half, saving the lives of an estimated 100 million children. The lives of more than 4.6 million children under five have been saved in less than a decade.¹⁰²

U.S. government policy and advocacy

U.S. legislation	U.S. government lead	U.S. strategy/plan	Results	U.S.-based advocacy coalitions
The Reach Every Mother and Child Act (the Reach Act) was reintroduced in the 115th Congress in August 2017 (House bill H.R. 4022 and Senate bill S.1730). It aims to accelerate the reduction of preventable child, newborn, and maternal deaths, facilitating the global commitment to end these deaths within a generation. It builds upon the success of such global health initiatives as PEPFAR and the President's Malaria Initiative, and would enact key reforms that increase the effectiveness and impact of USAID maternal and child survival programs. The bill has not yet become law.	USAID's Office of Maternal and Child Health in the Bureau for Global Health serves as the lead U.S. office for MCH activities. Its efforts are complemented by those of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and the Peace Corps.	In June 2014, USAID launched Acting on the Call: Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths , an action plan aimed at saving the lives of 15 million children and nearly 600,000 women by 2020. The action plan includes a clear country-by-country roadmap to accelerate health outcomes and save lives by prioritizing effective, evidence-based interventions based on country needs. Acting on the Call annual reports detail the U.S. government's commitment to this goal and approach to achieving it, identifying best-practice interventions, data-driven decisions, and targeted investments.	Since 2008 alone, USAID's maternal and child survival efforts in 24 priority countries have saved the lives of 4.6 million children and 200,000 women. In 2016, USAID helped 82 million women and children access essential health services. ¹⁰³	The Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) Roundtable , hosted by the Global Health Council, brings together 40 of the most influential non-profit organizations working in MNCH. The Global Health Working Group , housed within InterAction, meets once a month to discuss the "how to" of health delivery and the strengthening of health systems within relief and development contexts. The group emphasizes the importance of health integration, identifies best practices, and advocates for appropriate policies within the global health and donor communities.

(USD in 1,000s)

U.S. government funding overview

FY 2016 enacted	FY 2017 President Obama's request	FY 2017 enacted	FY 2018 President Trump's request	FY 2018 House	FY 2018 Senate	FY 2018 Omnibus	FY 2019 President Trump's request	FY 2019 House	FY 2019 Senate
\$750,000	\$814,500	\$814,500	\$749,600	\$814,500	\$829,500	\$829,500	\$619,600	\$845,000	\$829,500

TRAFFICKING

Of the 21 million people trafficked per year, 5.5 million are children who are trafficked for prostitution, pornography, sex tourism, forced marriage, sweatshop work, begging, migrant farming, or armed services.¹⁰⁴

U.S. government policy and advocacy

U.S. legislation	U.S. government lead	U.S. strategy/plan	Results	U.S.-based advocacy coalitions
<p>The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as amended, provides the tools to combat trafficking in persons both worldwide and domestically. The Act was reauthorized in 2003, 2005, 2008, and 2013 (Title XII of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013). In July 2017, the House of Representatives passed the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2017 (H.R. 2200), reauthorizing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. The bill also includes a provision that allows the State Department to use cash rewards to help bring human traffickers to justice.</p> <p>The Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to End the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 (PROTECT Act) seeks to prevent child abduction and the sexual exploitation of children, domestically and across borders.</p> <p>In 2015, Congress passed the Survivors of Human Trafficking Empowerment Act (Section 115 of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015).</p> <p>In 2017, funding authorization for the End Modern Slavery Initiative was passed as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2017. The legislation authorizes funding for a non-profit, grant-making foundation in the District of Columbia that will fund programs and projects outside the United States.</p>	<p>The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 authorizes the establishment of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and the President's Interagency Task Force (PITF) to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons to assist in the coordination of anti-trafficking efforts. The PITF is a cabinet-level entity, which consists of 15 agencies across the federal government responsible for coordinating U.S. government-wide efforts to combat trafficking in persons.</p>	<p>In 2012, USAID launched a Counter-Trafficking in Persons (C-TIP) Policy to reinvigorate and further focus the agency's C-TIP efforts. USAID also developed a set of standard operating procedures to prevent and respond to human trafficking abuses by USAID contractors, sub-contractors, assistance recipients, and sub-recipients. In 2013, USAID published a C-TIP Field Guide to educate mission personnel and partners about human trafficking, and provide technical assistance to integrate, design, implement, and monitor effective programs.</p>	<p>In 2017, the Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office) introduced the Program to End Modern Slavery (PEMS), which focuses on advancing transformational programs and projects that seek to achieve a measurable and substantial reduction of the prevalence of modern slavery in targeted populations in priority countries or jurisdictions.</p> <p>The State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report is intended to raise awareness and spur foreign governments to take action to counter all forms of TIP. The Report is the U.S. government's principal diplomatic tool to engage foreign governments on the issue of human trafficking. It is also the world's most comprehensive resource of governmental anti-human trafficking efforts and reflects the U.S. government's commitment to global leadership on this key human-rights and law-enforcement issue. It represents an updated, global look at the nature and scope of trafficking in persons and the broad range of government actions to confront and eliminate it.</p> <p>USAID has engaged in C-TIP programs in over 68 countries and regions since 2001. USAID has endeavored to pursue innovative, private-sector partnership approaches to C-TIP under the Supply Unchained Initiative – particularly to better identify and counter human trafficking in the fishing industry. USAID's C-TIP approach follows the "4Ps": 1) prevention of trafficking through awareness-raising and addressing root causes; 2) protection of victims and survivors; 3) prosecution of traffickers by building government law-enforcement capacity; and 4) partnership building for a strengthened response.</p>	<p>The Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) is a U.S.-based coalition that advocates for solutions to prevent and end all forms of human trafficking and modern slavery around the world.</p>

U.S. government funding overview

U.S. government funding for programs combatting trafficking in persons is channeled through multiple accounts and U.S. government agencies and departments, including the departments of Health and Human Services, Justice, Labor, and State, as well as USAID.¹⁰⁵ Funding for anti-trafficking in the form of appropriations for foreign operations are programmed through the Department of State's Program to End Modern Slavery; the Advisory Council on Human Trafficking; the Global Human Trafficking Hotline; the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons; the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement; the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; and the Bureau of Populations, Refugees and Migration. USAID also contributes to the anti-trafficking portfolio through the Bureau of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance; the Global Labor Program; and the Human Rights Grant Program. The primary funding directives for anti-trafficking programs through the vehicle of foreign assistance appropriations are programs to combat trafficking in persons (TIP), programs to end modern slavery (PEMS), the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP), and the Child Protection Compacts (CPC). Other than the CPCs, it is unclear how much of this funding is specifically targeted for programs reaching children and youth.

FY 2016 enacted	FY 2017 President Obama's request	FY 2017 enacted	FY 2018 President Trump's request	FY 2018 House	FY 2018 Senate	FY 2018 Omnibus	FY 2019 President Trump's request	FY 2019 House	FY 2019 Senate
\$66,580 (TIP)	\$60,000 (TIP)	\$66,450 (TIP)	\$66,210 (TIP)	\$65,000 (TIP)	\$65,000 (TIP)	\$65,000 (TIP)	\$58,100 (TIP)	\$67,000 (TIP)	\$65,000 (TIP)
\$25,000 (PEMS)	\$25,000 (PEMS)	\$25,000 (PEMS)	\$13,822 (J/TIP)	\$13,822 (J/TIP)	\$12,500 (J/TIP)	\$25,000 (PEMS)	\$0 (PEMS)	\$25,000 (PEMS)	\$25,000 (PEMS)
\$14,465 (J/TIP)	\$12,500 (J/TIP)	\$12,500 (J/TIP)		\$5,000 (CPC)	\$25,000 (PEM)	\$13,822 (J/TIP)	17,000 (J/TIP)	\$13,822 (J/TIP)	\$13,822 (J/TIP)
\$5,000 (CPC)		\$5,000 (CPC)			\$5,000 (CPC)	\$5,000 (CPC)	\$0 (CPC)	\$5,000 (CPC)	\$5,000 (CPC)

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Globally, 1 billion children between the age of 2 and 17 are victims of violence, subjected to regular physical punishment by their caregivers.¹⁰⁶ An estimated 275 million children witness domestic violence every year. Often, intimate partner violence tends to co-occur with the direct victimization of children.¹⁰⁷ One study estimates that the global economic impacts and costs resulting from the consequences of physical, psychological, and sexual violence against children can be as high as \$7 trillion. This massive cost is higher than the investment required to prevent much of that violence.¹⁰⁸

U.S. government policy and advocacy

U.S. legislation	U.S. government lead	U.S. strategy/plan	Results	U.S.-based advocacy coalitions
Legislation addressing violence against children includes the items referenced above in the sections on child soldiers, children in emergencies and “on the move,” girls, and trafficking. There is no legislation that addresses how foreign assistance is used to prevent and address all forms of violence against children. However, in 2018, Congress passed H.R. 910 : Condemning violence against children globally, and encouraging the development of a strategy for preventing, addressing, and ending violence against children and youth globally.	The U.S. government special advisor on children in adversity is based at USAID, and is tasked with the coordination of all forms of U.S. government assistance to vulnerable children in developing countries. The position comes with no oversight or funding authority, per Public Law 109-95 : The Assistance to Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act of 2005. Programs addressing violence against children are channeled through multiple offices within a variety of U.S. government agencies and departments, including the departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and State, as well as USAID and the Peace Corps.	The U.S. Government Action Plan on Children in Adversity (2012-2017) includes provisions on protecting children from violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect as one of three core objectives. Other strategic plans are referenced above under other headings. H.R. 910 calls for the development and implementation of a comprehensive and coordinated strategy built upon evidence-based best practices, including the INSPIRE package of interventions, and the adoption of common metrics and indicators to monitor progress across U.S. government agencies to prevent, address, and end violence against children and youth.	In addition to the achievements referenced above under other headings, the United States has invested in collecting population-based data on the prevalence of violence, in particular domestic violence and, increasingly, violence against children, for the past 25 years. Findings from the CDC’s Violence against Children Studies (VACS) provide reliable evidence enabling countries to make better decisions about allocating limited resources to developing, launching and evaluating violence-prevention programs and child-protection systems.	The Ending Violence Against Children Taskforce coordinates advocacy efforts addressing violence against children and youth. It includes ChildFund, Futures Without Violence, Save the Children, and World Vision.

(USD in 1,000s)

U.S. government funding overview

U.S. government foreign assistance funding is not currently tracked in such a way as to allow for a comprehensive picture of how much is invested in preventing and addressing violence against children.

FY 2016 enacted	FY 2017 President Obama’s request	FY 2017 enacted	FY 2018 President Trump’s request	FY 2018 House	FY 2018 Senate	FY 2018 Omnibus	FY 2019 President Trump’s request	FY 2019 House	FY 2019 Senate
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

VULNERABLE CHILDREN

“Vulnerable children” is a broad term. In the 2006 implementation strategy developed under Public Law 109-95: The Assistance for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act of 2005, vulnerable children are defined as “children and youth who are under 18 years whose safety, well-being, growth, and development are at significant risk due to inadequate care, protection, or access to essential services.” In the context of U.S. government funding, the “vulnerable children” account has funded USAID’s Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF), which provides financial and technical assistance for the care and protection of vulnerable children, particularly those who are separated from their families or who are at risk of losing family care and protection. In its implementation of the DCOF, USAID has given particular attention to children who are in institutional care, affected by war, or on the street, as well as children with disabilities and other disenfranchised or unaccompanied children. Some of these children are orphans who have lost both parents; most are not. Data on the number of children living in such precarious circumstances is scarce, consisting only of scattered estimates from some specific countries.¹⁰⁹ UNICEF and global partners define an orphan as a child under 18 years of age who has lost one or both parents to any cause of death. By this definition, there were nearly 140 million orphans globally in 2015. Of these, 15.1 million have lost both parents. Evidence clearly shows that the vast majority of orphans live with a surviving parent, grandparent, or other family member.¹¹⁰ An estimated 8 million children worldwide live in institutional settings. This is likely a low estimate. Approximately 80 percent of children living in institutions have a living parent. No international monitoring frameworks on the issue exist, and many countries do not routinely collect or monitor data on institutionalized children.¹¹¹

U.S. government policy and advocacy

U.S. legislation	U.S. government lead	U.S. strategy/plan	Results	U.S.-based advocacy coalitions
<p>The Assistance for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-95) was signed into law to promote a comprehensive, coordinated, and effective response on the part of the U.S. government to the world’s most vulnerable children.</p> <p>The Vulnerable Children and Families Act (S. 1178 and H.R. 2532) was introduced in the 115th Congress. It proposes a realignment of structures and reallocation of resources related to intercountry adoption and child protection. No further action has been taken.</p>	<p>Public Law 109-95 established USAID as the primary U.S. government agency responsible for coordinating the identification of and assistance to orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries. The Act also created the position of the U.S. government special advisor on orphans and vulnerable children (renamed as the special advisor on children in adversity in 2012). In 2014, USAID merged the Center on Children in Adversity (CECA) with the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF). The CECA/DCOF program is housed within USAID’s Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance (DRG), within the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA).</p>	<p>The U.S. Government Action Plan on Children in Adversity (2012-2017) is the first-ever whole-of-government strategic-guidance document for international assistance for children provided by the U.S. government. It was developed in response to the requirements of PL 109-95. The goal of the Action Plan is to achieve a world in which all children grow up within protective family care, free from deprivation, exploitation, and danger. It includes three core objectives: 1) building strong beginnings; 2) putting family care first; and 3) protecting children from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect.</p> <p>A second iteration of the Action Plan is scheduled to be released in early 2019.</p>	<p>While the Action Plan on Children in Adversity applies to U.S. government assistance globally, it also identifies a more targeted initial objective for these efforts: to achieve three core outcomes in at least six priority countries over a span of five years. The U.S. government identified 6 priority countries. Through collaboration with other governmental, international, private, faith-based, and academic partners on the six countries, the Plan focused on achieving significant reductions in the number of 1) children not meeting age-appropriate growth and developmental milestones; 2) children living outside of family care (by placing them in appropriate and protective family care); and 3) children who experience sexual violence or exploitation. Annual reports to Congress are accessible here.</p>	<p>In response to the Action Plan, a new coalition was formed in 2012. With the support of more than 100 civil society organizations, the Children in Adversity Policy Partnership (CAPP) committed to accelerating bold and strategic U.S. policy action concerning children in adversity. CAPP dissolved in 2016.</p>

U.S. government funding overview

PL 109-95 is an unfunded mandate. No dedicated funding was appropriated to implement the U.S. Government Action Plan on Children in Adversity Plan until Fiscal Year 2015. Since then, appropriations report language has suggested that approximately \$10 million per year be directed toward its implementation. Annual reports to Congress suggest that multiple U.S. government offices contribute broadly to the Plan's objectives, although most funding to implement the Plan is channeled through the vulnerable-children account, which is primarily used to support USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund, one of five congressionally directed programs that comprise the programs for vulnerable populations.

FY 2016 enacted	FY 2017 President Obama's request	FY 2017 enacted	FY 2018 President Trump's request	FY 2018 House	FY 2018 Senate	FY 2018 Omnibus	FY 2019 President Trump's request	FY 2019 House	FY 2019 Senate
\$23,000	\$14,500	\$23,000	\$0	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$0	\$23,000	\$25,000

YOUTH

Today's global youth generation is the largest in history, totaling approximately 1.7 billion individuals. At least 20 percent of youth in the developing world are not in education, training, or employment. More than 30 percent of new HIV infections globally occur among adolescents ages 15-24; moreover, the number of HIV/AIDS-related deaths in this demographic has not declined over the past 15 years. Nearly 45 percent of the total number of homicides globally involve youth, and 66 percent of young people do not feel that their government cares about what they think. Developing countries that invest in education, health care, and job training for young people aged 12-24 could take advantage of their "demographic dividend" to accelerate economic growth and sharply reduce poverty.¹¹²

U.S. government policy and advocacy

U.S. legislation	U.S. government lead	U.S. strategy/plan	Results	U.S.-based advocacy coalitions
<p>Legislation addressing global youth issues includes the items referenced above in the sections on child soldiers, children in emergencies and "on the move," education, girls, and trafficking. There is no legislation that addresses how foreign assistance is used to promote youth in development more holistically.</p>	<p>The global youth issues portfolio is housed in the Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs at the Department of State. The portfolio is focused on helping the U.S. government better engage young people internationally to help solve the pressing challenges of today while also building greater global connectivity and networks to shape the world of tomorrow. The special advisor for youth issues serves as the principal representative on youth issues for the U.S. Department of State.</p> <p>In response to the Youth in Development Policy, USAID established an Agency youth coordinator position, which is responsible for youth development issues, oversees policy coherence, supports implementation and training, and serves as a senior representative on youth issues in the interagency and external community, in coordination with USAID bureaus, missions, and relevant Agency coordinators.</p>	<p>USAID released its Youth in Development Policy in 2012 to improve the capacities and enable the aspirations of youth so that they can contribute to and benefit from more stable, democratic, and prosperous communities and nations. The policy is informed by principles and practices articulated in the other strategic documents that includes a focus on youth, including the President's Policy Directive on Global Development, the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review, the National Security Strategy 2010, State Department Youth Policy 2012 and USAID Forward. Youth are also addressed in USAID's Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy, the Development Response to Countering Violent Extremism and Insurgency, the Counter Trafficking In Persons Policy, PEPFAR, USAID's Education Strategy, Global Climate Change and Development Strategy; and the U.S. Government Action Plan on Children In Adversity.</p>	<p>Since 1994, USAID has implemented four major global youth-focused mechanisms including: Focus on Young Adults (1994--2000) and YouthNet (2000--2006), both in the Global Health Bureau, and Youth: Work (2008--2013) and EQUIP3 (2003--2012), both in the Economic Growth, Education, and Environment Bureau. Under EQUIP3, USAID funded workforce readiness and cross-sectoral youth projects in 26 countries. Though USAID has been conducting programs targeting and benefiting youth, data has rarely been collected that allowed impact to be evaluated.</p> <p>USAID's current project, YouthPower, seeks to improve the capacity of youth-led and youth-serving institutions while engaging young people, their families, communities, and governments so that youth can reach their full potential. The project is expanding the evidence base regarding what works in positive youth development, while additionally applying improved approaches across programs and sectors. Through YouthPower, USAID has invested over \$400 million for cross-sectoral youth programs in countries throughout the world.</p>	<p>Most U.S.-based youth advocacy efforts are focused on specific issue areas or population groups. For instance, the Coalition for Adolescent Girls (CAG) is a member-led and driven organization dedicated to supporting, investing in, and improving the lives of adolescent girls. CAG improves existing and drives new programming, policies, and investments that will promote the rights and opportunities of adolescent girls.</p>

(USD in 1,000s)

U.S. government funding overview

U.S. government foreign assistance funding is not currently tracked in such a way as to allow for a comprehensive picture of how much is invested in global youth issues across accounts, agencies, and departments.

FY 2016 enacted	FY 2017 President Obama's request	FY 2017 enacted	FY 2018 President Trump's request	FY 2018 House	FY 2018 Senate	FY 2018 Omnibus	FY 2019 President Trump's request	FY 2019 House	FY 2019 Senate
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



Survey – Global child advocacy and the U.S. government

This open, online survey was shared with more than 500 U.S.-based individuals and organizations engaged in global child- and youth-advocacy efforts. It offered an opportunity for individuals and organizations engaged in U.S.-based global child-advocacy efforts to highlight what has been working well and where there may be gaps, while additionally identifying advocacy priorities and potential areas for improvement in which strategic investments could help to strengthen advocacy efforts. Feedback was kept confidential and helped to inform this report. It received only 47 responses, some of which were submitted on behalf of advocacy coalitions or large advocacy organizations.

1. Email address
2. What is your name?
3. Where do you work?
4. What is your title?
5. On which global child-advocacy issues do you or your organization focus? Please check all that apply (we recognize there is cross-over between categories).
 - Child labor
 - Child marriage
 - Child poverty
 - Children affected by armed conflict (including those who are associated with armed groups and fighting forces)
 - Children affected by climate change
 - Children affected by HIV and AIDS
 - Children in emergencies
 - Children living outside of family care (in institutions, on the street, in child-headed households)
 - Children on the move (uprooted due to conflict or natural disaster, refugee/migrant children, and internally displaced children)
 - Children with disabilities
 - Early childhood development
 - Education
 - Intercountry adoption
 - Maternal, newborn and child health
 - Nutrition
 - Reproductive health and family planning
 - Trafficking
 - Violence against children
 - Youth
 - Other



6. With which U.S.-based advocacy coalitions do you or your organization work?
7. What are your organization's top advocacy priorities with regard to U.S. government policies, programs and funding?
8. What is your organization currently doing to advocate for global children's issues with the U.S. government?
- Lobbying/advocacy
 - Grassroots engagement
 - Media outreach
 - Policy analysis
 - Other
9. Please describe any particular strengths in any of the areas noted above.
10. Approximately what percentage of your organization's budget is spent on U.S.-based advocacy?
- Less than 1 percent
 - Less than 5 percent
 - Less than 10 percent
 - Less than 20 percent
 - More than 20 percent
 - I don't know.
11. In your view, what are the most important gains that have been made within your sector in terms of U.S. government policies, programs and funding? What has contributed to these achievements?
12. In your view, what are the biggest barriers to success in increasing U.S. government prioritization of and investments in global children's issues? Please check all that apply.
- Legislative will
 - Congressional composition
 - Congressional leadership on the issue(s)
 - Advocacy coordination and leadership
 - Grassroots engagement
 - Media engagement
 - Other
13. Do you feel that you have access to timely and accurate information regarding U.S. government policies, programs, and funding related to your sector or children's issues more broadly?
- Yes
 - No
14. If so, on which resources do you rely for this kind of information?



ANNEX B

15. Does your organization generate strategic analyses with regard to U.S. government policies, programs and funding for global children's issues?
- Yes
- No
16. If your organization does generate strategic information related to U.S. government policies, programs and funding for global children's issues, is this information shared? Please check all that apply.
- Yes, my organization shares the information publicly.
- Yes, my organization shares this information with partners.
- No, this information is used for in-house purposes only.
17. Would you or your organization benefit from a publicly accessible mechanism to monitor, track, and report on U.S. government policy, program and funding decisions related to global children's issues?
- Yes
- No
- Maybe
18. Do you feel that the U.S.-based global child-advocacy community has the communications tools and frames it needs to successfully influence public opinion and move issues through Congress? If yes, what has worked? If not, what is needed?
19. Do you feel U.S.-based advocacy efforts would be helped if further efforts were made to analyze, develop, and amplify messages regarding the importance of U.S. government investments in global children's issues across sectors?
- Yes
- No
- Maybe
20. Do you have any suggestions about ways to facilitate the flow of strategic information between partners and across sectors so as to empower child-advocacy constituencies and coalitions to work more effectively together?
21. Do you have any additional thoughts or suggestions?

Table of Abbreviations

ART	antiretroviral therapy	OGAC	Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator
ATEST	Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking	OVC	Orphans and vulnerable children
BE	Basic Education	PEMS	Program to End Modern Slavery
BEC	Basic Education Coalition	PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
BUILD	Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development	PITF	President's Interagency Task Force
CAG	Coalition for Adolescent Girls	PRM	Population, Refugees, and Migration
CAPP	Children in Adversity Policy Partnership	READ	Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development
CDC	Center for Disease Control	TDA	Trade and Development Act
CECA	Center on Children in Adversity	TIP	Trafficking in Persons
CEFM	Child, early, and forced marriage	TVPRA	Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act
CMC	Civil Marriage Collaborative	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
CPC	Child Protection Compacts	UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
CSPA	Child Soldier Prevention Act	USCIS	U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
DCHA	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance	USICD	U.S. International Council on Disabilities
DCOF	Displaced Children and Orphans Fund	USRAP	U.S. Refugee Admissions Program
DoD	Department of Defense	VACS	Violence against Children Studies
DRG	Democracy, Human Rights and Governance		
DRL	Democracy, Human Rights and Labor		
EI	Empowerment and Inclusion		
ERMA	Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance		
FFP	Food for Peace		
FTF	Feed the Future		
GAC	Global Action for Children		
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition		
GAPP	Global AIDS Policy Partnership		
GBV	Gender-based violence		
GPE	Global Partnership for Education		
HRSA	Health Resources and Services Administration		
IDA	International Disaster Assistance		
IDFC	International Development Finance Corporation		
IFEP	International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program		
ILAB	International Labor Affairs Bureau		
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act		
MCC	Millennium Challenge Corporation		
MCH	Maternal and child health		
MNCH	Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health		
MRA	Migration and Refugee Assistance		
NCD	National Council on Disability		
NDAA	National Defense Authorization Act		
NIH	National Institutes of Health		
OCFT	Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking		
OCO	Overseas Contingency Operations		
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development		
OFDA	Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance		

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 73. 115th Congress. [Public Law 115-141: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018](#). SEC. 7050 states that funds appropriated by this Act under the heading "Economic Support Fund" shall be made available for programs and activities administered by the United States Agency for International Development to address the needs and protect and promote the rights of people with disabilities in developing countries, including initiatives that focus on independent living, economic self-sufficiency, advocacy, education, employment, transportation, sports, and integration of individuals with disabilities, including for the cost of translation.
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 82. 115th Congress. House Committee on Appropriations. [FY 2019 Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs, Report](#). Report language under the nutrition account states that "The Committee supports effective nutrition interventions, including to reduce stunting and wasting, increase breastfeeding and nutrition supplementation for pregnant women, promote early childhood development, and treat severe malnutrition." Under the basic education account, the report states that "The Committee encourages USAID to continue to strengthen early learning and pre-primary education programming. The USAID Administrator should explore opportunities to promote early child development through ongoing activities and programs, including screening for early development delays and training for caregivers about behaviors that promote brain development. Not later than 45 days after enactment of this Act, the USAID Administrator is directed to submit an updated report to the Committees on Appropriations on the criteria used to determine where pre-primary education programs are funded. The report shall also include a list of countries and funding levels for all current pre-primary education programs."
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91. U.S. Department of State. [Congressional Budget Justification: Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Fiscal Year 2017](#). SEC. 7059.
92. 115th Congress. H.R. 244: [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017](#). SEC. 7059.
93. While the president's request makes multiple references to preventing gender-based violence, a total dollar amount is not suggested.
94. 115th Congress. House Committee on Appropriations. [FY 2018 Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Bill](#) and Report 115-253: [FY 2018 Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Report](#). The report language directs the ambassador-at-large for global women's Issues, the Department of State, and the senior coordinator for gender equality and women's empowerment, USAID, to jointly submit a report on the allocation of funds for gender-related programs and activities for the previous fiscal year. The Committee also recommends funding at not less than the fiscal-year 2017 level for programs that reduce the incidence of child marriage and meet the needs of married girls.
95. 115th Congress. Senate Committee on Appropriations. [Report 115-152: Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill, Report](#). SEC. 7059.
96. 115th Congress. Public Law 115-141: [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018](#). SEC. 7059 includes a directive related to responding to gender-based violence: "Of the funds appropriated by titles III and IV of this Act, not less than \$150,000,000 shall be made available to implement a multi-year strategy to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in countries where it is common in conflict and non-conflict settings." In addition, "not less than \$15,000,000 shall be made available to support women and girls who are at risk from extremism and conflict."
97. While the president's request makes multiple references to preventing gender-based violence, a total dollar amount is not suggested.
98. 115th Congress. House Committee on Appropriations. [FY 2019 Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Bill; FY 2019 Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Report](#). SEC. 7059.
99. 115th Congress. Senate Committee on Appropriations. S. 3108. [FY 2019 Department of State Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill](#); Report 115-282. [Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill, Report](#). SEC. 7059. In addition, SEC. 7045 directs \$12,000,000 toward programs to combat widespread sexual and gender-based violence in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.
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