

Support Funding for Children and Youth Globally

March 16, 2022

Dear Chairwoman Lee and Chairman Coons, and Ranking Members Rogers and Graham,

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to respectfully urge you to protect and increase investments in children and youth globally through a robust 2023 fiscal year (FY) State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations (SFOPS) bill and to include related Committee report language to further enhance the efficacy and transparency of these funds.

This Committee has a long-standing record of supporting critical, life-saving investments in children and youth. In the last three decades, U.S. foreign assistance has contributed to cutting maternal, infant, and child mortality rates in half globally, reducing child labor by one-third, and enabled 2.4 million babies to be born HIV-free. A prolonged pandemic and increasing global conflicts have negatively affected the trajectory of millions of young people's lives and the investments made on behalf of the American people, including:

- **Loss of Critical Support Systems:** It is currently estimated that approximately [7 million children have lost a mother, father, or other caregiver](#) to COVID-19.
- **Violence:** It is estimated that an additional [85 million children worldwide may be exposed to violence](#). Children with disabilities are three to four times more likely to experience physical or sexual violence. [An additional ten million girls are at risk](#) of child marriage, and [child labor is likely to increase by 8.9 million](#), both due to the pandemic.
- **Humanitarian Emergencies:** Young people often pay the highest price in any humanitarian crisis, whether that involves armed conflict, natural disasters, or famine, increasing their exposure to violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect and lessening their ability to access quality education.
- **Education:** The World Bank estimates that, as result of learning loss during the pandemic, the proportion of 10-year-olds unable to read a short, age-appropriate text has increased from 53 percent to [70 percent of children](#), eroding decades of progress in education.
- **Health Services:** The pandemic has disrupted routine child health care and nutrition services. Since 2020, over [23 million children missed out](#) on essential vaccines, and [50 million children currently suffer from wasting](#), the most life-threatening form of malnutrition. Child mental health issues are increasing at an alarming rate and are estimated to cost economies [\\$390 billion a year](#).

U.S. foreign assistance efforts must intentionally address and prioritize the multifaceted needs of children and youth through appropriately robust funding and reporting language. Yet, foreign assistance for young people has been slowly declining, with a 2021 report showing that just [.08% of the federal budget goes to children's issues internationally](#). U.S. foreign assistance programs for young people have been demonstrated to be some of the best investments we can make—paying dividends not only on the individual lives changed but also in the form of more peaceful, economically stable, and healthy nations globally, which in turn reduces future reliance on assistance.

As advocates who work in collaboration with the administration and members of Congress, we urge you to consider increased transparency in tracking U.S. government investments in children and youth

globally as well as increased flexibility of that funding to address the many needs of young people during this critical moment in human history.

With the exception of accounts dedicated solely to children and youth, it is extraordinarily difficult to know how much foreign assistance benefits children and youth or is explicitly intended to support them and their needs. Current tracking and funding make inter- and intra-agency coordination difficult and has led to gaps in support to children and youth and/or overlapping implementation by different agencies in the same country contexts.

To continue the leadership and influence of the U.S. government and the protection and empowerment of children and youth globally, we request the following report language:

Proposed Report Language

The Secretary of State and the USAID Administrator shall submit a report to the State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee and the State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee no later than 180 days after enactment of this act describing the amounts and uses of funds for programs to promote the protection, education, health, support, and safety of children and youth, disaggregated by country. In this report, which should be published publicly online, agencies should outline steps they will take to improve the tracking of funding intended to benefit children and youth.

The Committee also urges the Secretary of State and USAID Administrator to provide recurring training for partners and field personnel regarding children and youth and their meaningful engagement in U.S. foreign assistance programming.

Age, Gender, and Disability Data Disaggregation – The U.S. government should make significant investments in data disaggregation by sex, age, and disability to assess the impact of development assistance on children and youth throughout their lives.

Fiscal Year 2023 Children & Youth Community Recommendations			
	FY20 Appropriation	FY21 Appropriation	FY23 Recommendation
Global Programs			
Basic Education	\$875,000,000 including funding for bilateral U.S. Government programs, the Global Partnership for Education and Education Cannot Wait	\$950,000,000 including funding for bilateral U.S. Government programs, the Global Partnership for Education and Education Cannot Wait	At least \$1.1 billion, including funding for bilateral U.S. government programs, the Global Partnership for Education and Education Cannot Wait
Combating Child, Early and Forced Marriage	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$30,000,000, including \$7,000,000 to the UNICEF/UNFPA joint program to end child marriage.
Ending Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting	\$5,000,000 for the UNICEF/UNFPA joint program to combat	\$5,000,000 for the UNICEF/UNFPA joint program to combat	\$5,000,000 for the UNICEF/UNFPA joint program to combat

Fiscal Year 2023 Children & Youth Community Recommendations			
	FY20 Appropriation	FY21 Appropriation	FY23 Recommendation
	female genital mutilation/cutting.	female genital mutilation/cutting.	female genital mutilation/cutting.
Global Health Programs			
Vulnerable Children (USAID)	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000	\$35,000,000
Maternal and child health (MCH)	\$851,000,000 (including \$290 million for Gavi and \$61 million for Polio)	\$855,500,000 (including \$290 million for Gavi and \$65 million for Polio)	\$1.1 billion (including \$290 million for Gavi and \$165 million for Polio)
Nutrition	\$150,000,000	\$150,000,000	\$300,000,000
Violence Against Children Surveys (VACs)	Approximately \$5,000,000 from various sources	Approximately \$5,000,000 from various sources	\$5,000,000
International Organizations and Programs (IO&P) Account			
UNICEF	\$134,000,000 towards core resources	\$134,000,000 towards core resources	\$175,000,000 towards core resources
UNFPA	\$32,500,000 (withheld)	\$32,500,000	\$70,000,000
Economic Support Fund			
Women and Girls at Risk of Violent Extremism	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$19,000,000
Children with Disabilities	N/A	N/A - Report language only.	\$25,000,000

Sincerely,

1. Action Against Hunger
2. Advocates for Youth
3. Amal Alliance
4. American Academy of Pediatrics
5. American Red Cross
6. Basic Education Coalition
7. Bethany Christian Services
8. CARE International
9. ChildFund International
10. Childhood Education International
11. Children's HeartLink
12. CORE Group
13. Disability Rights International
14. Education for All Coalition
15. First Focus on Children
16. Friends of UNFPA
17. Futures Without Violence
18. Girl Up
19. Global Campaign for Education-US
20. Global Communities
21. GlobalPartnersUnited (GPU)
22. Humanity & Inclusion
23. Ipas
24. John Snow, Inc. (JSI)
25. Just Like My Child Foundation
26. Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)
27. Maestral International
28. Pathfinder International
29. People Serving Girls At Risk
30. Population Media Center
31. School-to-School International
32. SPOON
33. UNICEF USA
34. University of California Global Health Institute
35. Women Deliver
36. Women Pillar Alliance (WOPA)
37. Women's Refugee Commission
38. World Education, Inc.
39. World Learning
40. World Vision US