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# *The Weekly Pulse*

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NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



**Vol. 106: The International Day of the Girl, First Focus & ForeignAssistance.gov, and the "What Makes Me?" Report.**

October 17, 2022.

Call to Action

**First Focus is seeking organizations' [support](#) in requesting President Biden and Vice President Harris to issue a Presidential Proclamation recognizing World Children's Day on November 20.** Since 1954, "World Children's Day has been celebrated on November 20 to elevate visibility and advocate for children. The compounding crises of [COVID, conflict, and climate](#) have upended the lives of children around the world and undermined decades of progress on their well-being. A Presidential Proclamation would demonstrate the United States' commitment to advancing the interests and needs of children, no matter where they live." If your organization is interested in signing on, please do so by **COB, Wednesday, October**

**19th using the link [here](#).** If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Sacco at [kathys@firstfocus.org](mailto:kathys@firstfocus.org).

## Quick Summary

First Focus held an event on **“Tracking Investments for Children Internationally: A tutorial on navigating ForeignAssistance.gov.”** Representatives from USAID the U.S. Department of State walked participants through [ForeignAssistance.gov](#), how to effectively use various filters, and how to interpret specific results. Additionally, participants were shown how to navigate [USAID Dollars to Results](#), the platform that tracks how USAID receives and distributes funds.

**First Focus’ [Children’s Budget Coalition](#) is inviting members of the Coalition interested in international children’s issues to [participate](#) in the coalition’s new International Subcommittee. According to this [year’s budget book](#), only about \$.085 of every \$1 of foreign assistance investments benefitted children, and the children’s international share of total federal spending is only .10%. If you are interested in participating in the Children’s Budget Coalition International Subcommittee, please sign up [here](#).**

**The Thrive Coalition hosted a briefing and discussion with UNICEF and Fetzer Institute on the "What Makes Me?" Report.** This [report](#) “explores how ‘core capacities’ – or cornerstones of more familiar concepts such as life skills and competencies – develop over the early part of the life course, and how they contribute to children’s well-being and development.” [Xiaoan Li](#), the Senior Program Advisor at Fetzer, [Stacey Finkel](#), President of SMF Consulting, and [Dominic Richardson](#), the Chief of Social Policy and Economic Analysis at UNICEF, Office of Research – Innocenti, walked participants through the research process, including methodology, ethical concerns, and results. The report found that some capacities are gateway capacities, such as relaxing, listening, and discerning patterns, core capacities are not inherently positive or negative, personal and social attributes can matter, adults and children (need to) use core capacities differently, and enabling environments matter for children. The report also recommended that policymakers:

- Recognize the connections of core capacities with child development, child poverty, parenting, and work-family balance.
- Maintain and promote green / natural spaces in all communities, as part of a rich 'living' environment
- Provide safe spaces for children, this implies the absence of violence in all forms.
- Gather and implement in public policy evidence on age-related core capacity development, starting from first public contact.

- Promote applied human skills in all child professions, and professional environments - time and resources are needed.
- Support innovative and individualized practices in care and education by assessing demands in standardized models.

To read the full report, click [here](#).

**The Youth Alliance Working Group is included on the Children’s Policy and Funding Initiative website.** The page highlights the purpose and goals of the working group, details about a Congressional Caucus on Children and Youth Globally, and information on current members. The Youth Alliance Working Group also has a [LinkedIn page](#) and [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). If you want to follow along, please follow the Youth Alliance Working Group on Instagram and Twitter at [@cpfi\\_yawg](#).

Spotlight: International Day of the Girl

**On the International Day of the Girl, the White House released a [proclamation highlighting the obstacles girls face and the importance of girls globally](#).** The White House announced the proclamation of the International Day of the Girl by underscoring the fact that “both at home and abroad, gender-based violence compromises their safety — from child sexual abuse and exploitation to female genital cutting and child marriage. The direct and indirect impacts of gender-based violence and the effect they have on girls’ potential and opportunity reinforce our commitment to building a world where all people can live free from violence or intimidation.” President Biden also stated that “when girls break barriers, they blaze trails for the generations that follow. Investing in their health, safety, education, and economic security moves us closer to building more just, equitable societies and flourishing democracies. It helps us develop leaders across sectors and enables us to create a strong workforce that is ready to meet the challenges and opportunities ahead.”

**The U.S. Department of State also released a statement on the International Day of the Girl** emphasizing that “In 2022, we are far — too far — from achieving a gender-equitable world. Today, girls and young women are disproportionately impacted by unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 and HIV pandemics, humanitarian conflicts, and crises, and the growing numbers of climate-related disasters facing our planet. Girls and young women continue to face risks of violence and discrimination in nearly every sphere — in their homes, schools, communities, and online.” To read the full White House proclamation, click [here](#). To read the full State Department statement, click [here](#).

**The White House Gender Policy Council, Domestic Policy Council, and the Department of Education held a round-table discussion on online child sexual abuse** with youth survivors, educators, youth and adult advocates, and health experts. In the readout of the discussion, a participant highlighted the **“exponential rise in child sexual exploitation online, and of the permanent effects of this trauma on adult survivors as their images continue to circulate online. Another participant emphasized the connection between accelerated social media use during the pandemic and the decline in adolescent mental health, including the alarming increase in teen suicides, especially among girls.”** Participants of the event recommended that the White House Task Force to Address Online Harassment and Abuse work with the tech sector to **“improve safety in the design of their products, and discussed how parents, teachers, school administrators, and law enforcement can compassionately and effectively support youth who have experienced online harassment and abuse.”** Click [here](#) to read the readout of the discussion.

#### Events

- Global Campaign for Education- US [virtual meeting](#) **“Global Campaign for Education-US October Coalition Meeting.”** October 17, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- The Global Coalition to End Child Poverty [virtual event](#) **“Ending Child Poverty: A Policy Agenda.”** October 17, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- The World Food Forum [virtual side event](#) **“Nourishing our future: young people’s opportunity to shape the future of food.”** October 20, 2022, at 5 am ET.
- The Lancet Medical Journal & the O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health at Georgetown University [event](#) **“Advancing Health Equity: Time To Address Racism And Structural Discrimination in Global Health.”** October 21, 2022, at 9 am ET.
- The U.S. Department of State Office of Global Women’s Issues [virtual event](#) **“The Innovation Station: Girl Power 2.”** October 20, 2022, at 1 pm ET.
- The Adolescent2030 Campaign [virtual launch](#) **“1.8 billion campaign.”** October 28, 2022, at 6 am ET.
- Faith to Action [webinar](#) **“Collaborative Communications Meeting.”** November 15, 2022, at 10 am ET.

#### Reports, Articles & Resources

- AP News [article](#) **“How Moscow grabs Ukrainian kids and makes them Russian.”**
- Save the Children [report](#) **“Global Girlhood Report 2022: Girls on the frontline.”**

- AP News [article](#) “**Babies in Tigray dying at 4 times pre-war levels, study says.**”
- FHI360 YouTube [video](#) “**Oulimata’s story: Eliminating one girl’s barrier to education.**”
- The BMJ academic [article](#) “**Adolescents and youth are prioritizing human rights in the climate change agenda.**”
- Teen Vogue [article](#) “**Teen Farmworkers Support the US Agricultural Industry But Have Few Protections.**”
- MyVision [resource](#) “**Improve Internet Accessibility for Individuals with Impaired Vision.**”
- Peace Direct [report](#) “**Youth Action for Peace – Programme Evaluation.**”



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