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# *The Weekly Pulse*

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NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



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Vol. 124: U.S. President's Budget FY24, UNICEF Report, & International Women's Day.

March 13, 2023

Quick Summary

**U.S. President Joe Biden released his budget [recommendations](#) for FY24.** In his proposal, he requested amounts in the following accounts:

- Gender Total (not including Women, Peace, and Security) – **\$2.608 Billion**
- GBV - **\$252,213 Million**
- Women, Peace, and Security - **\$138,375 Million**
- Gender Equality/Women's Empowerment Primary - **\$432,209 Million**
- Gender Equality/Women's Empowerment Secondary - **\$1.9 Billion**
- S/GWI - **\$50 Million**
- UNTF - **\$1.5 Million**
- UN Women - **\$3.5 Million**
- Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict - **\$1.75 Million**

- Humanitarian Assistance (\$6.5 billion through USAID-administered accounts)- **\$10.5 Billion**
- U.S. return to the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)- **\$150 million**
- Integrated HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care, and Treatment Programs- **\$4,169.9 million, of which \$3,952.6 million is in GHP-State and \$217.3 million is in GHP-USAID**
- Preventing Child and Maternal Deaths in GHP-USAID- **\$2,480.0 Million**
- Maternal and Child Health (MCH)- **\$910.0 million**
- Nutrition- **\$160.0 Million**
- Vulnerable Children- **\$30.0 Million**
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)- **\$145.0 Million**
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)- **\$57.5 Million**

In the President’s Budget Request, there was also language around childcare and early childhood education, stating that we need to “**boost federal funding for childcare and early childhood education by billions of dollars, ensuring free preschool for all of the country’s 4 million 4-year-olds.**” To learn more and read the President’s budget request, click [here](#).

**USAID announced the delivery of a pop-up classroom to support education for internally displaced Ukrainians.** The donation also includes “1,210 laptops, backpacks and headsets, 857 tablet notebooks, and six charging trolleys that will help Ukrainian youth continue learning during wartime.” The war in Ukraine has created tremendous challenges for educators and students across the country. Thousands of schools have been damaged or destroyed and according to UNICEF’s Humanitarian Action for Children up to 2.8 million children have been displaced from their homes. To learn more about this delivery, click [here](#).

**UNICEF published a new report warning that “Malnutrition in mothers soars by 25 percent in crisis-hit countries, putting women and newborn babies at risk.”** The report states that “the number of pregnant and breastfeeding adolescent girls and women suffering from acute malnutrition has soared from 5.5 million to 6.9 million – or 25 percent – since 2020 in 12 countries hardest hit by the global food and nutrition crisis...” These hardest hit countries include Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Yemen. The report also highlighted that “more than one billion adolescent girls and women suffer from undernutrition (including underweight and short height), deficiencies in essential micronutrients, and anemia, with devastating consequences for their lives and wellbeing.” To read the report, click [here](#).

**The International Criminal Court (ICC) Office of the Prosecutor announced that they will launch a “public consultation to renew the policy paper on crimes against or affecting children.”** This consultation will help renew and build upon the [2016 OTP Policy on Children](#). The goal of the consultation process is to “develop new and innovative approaches to its work so as to make children more visible in all of its work, and further improve effectiveness in the investigation and prosecution of crimes against or affecting children.” The Prosecutor of the ICC, Mr. Karim A.A. Khan KC stated that “the present consultation process will lead to the review and amendment of the policy on children and will build upon new approaches we have already implemented in the Office and be shaped by the input and advice from many specialists and actors from civil society, national authorities, and international organizations to help ensure we do better by children and affect meaningful change.” **Comments can be sent to [OTP.Policies@icc-cpi.int](mailto:OTP.Policies@icc-cpi.int) by Wednesday, 31 May 2023, 5 pm ET.** The announcement can be found [here](#).

Spotlight: International Women’s Day

International Women’s Day took place last week with various statements, reports, and articles released to celebrate the day and highlight the ongoing global issues women and girls face.

**The White House released a [statement](#) on International Women’s Day highlighting the importance of promoting opportunities for women and girls.** President Biden stated, “despite decades of progress, in far too many places around the world, the rights of women and girls are still under attack, holding back entire communities. We see it in Afghanistan, where the Taliban bars women and girls from attending school and pursuing employment. We see it in Iran, where the regime is brutally repressing the voices of women who are courageously standing up for their freedom. And in the face of Russia’s vicious and unjust invasion of Ukraine, including the use of rape as a weapon of war, we see countless stories of women bravely fighting for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Ukrainians.” He also elaborated on how his administration is working to assist women and girls globally, stating that “working with dedicated partners and local communities in every part of the world to expand economic security for women and girls, defend access to health care—including reproductive health care—safeguard women’s political participation and human rights, and promote the full participation of women and girls in all facets of society.” To read the full statement, click [here](#).

**Administrator Samantha Power of USAID also released a [statement](#) commencing the day.** She echoed the barriers that women and girls face, including gender-based

violence, access to economic opportunities, and education. To help combat these issues, USAID rolled out the “Gender Equity and Equality Action Fund, through which we are helping women across Africa participate in trade-related industries, training women and girls in Yemen to join the workforce, and expanding access to childcare for women around the world.” Additionally, Administrator Power stated that USAID is also “fighting gender-based violence by bringing partners together to accelerate efforts to prevent online harassment and abuse targeting women and girls.” Click [here](#) to read the full statement.

**Additionally, Amal Clooney, Melinda French Gates, and Michelle Obama wrote a piece for Time Magazine, the “3 Ways to Help End Child Marriage.”** The article explains that “globally, child marriage is one of the biggest threats to girls’ empowerment and education. As the data shows, marrying young has dire consequences: Child brides are more likely to leave school, experience violence, struggle to earn an income, have an unintended pregnancy, and suffer a miscarriage or die during pregnancy.” The article then outlines the three ways they are planning on tackling this, including “joining women and girls in taking legal action to advocate for their rights, supporting grassroots organizations that are transforming their communities, and equipping girls and families with the most powerful tool to prevent child marriage: an education.” To read the full article, click [here](#).

#### Events

- GCE-US [virtual event](#) “**Inclusive Education & Early Childhood Community of Practice Meeting.**” March 14, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- WIIS [webinar](#) “**CSW67: Bridge to the Future: Women and Girls at the Center of Progress – Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies.**” March 14, 2023, at 10 am ET.
- UNA-NCA [virtual event](#) “**Champions and Allies: Coffee Chat on Ending Online Gender-Based Violence.**” March 16, 2023, at 12 pm ET.
- International Adolescent Health Week [event](#) “**International Adolescent Health Week.**” March 19-25, 2023.
- UNICEF ECARO, WHO Europe, and ISSA [webinar](#) “**Children with developmental difficulties are identified too late – What can be done about it?**” March 20, 2023, at 4 am ET.
- Georgetown University’s Collaborative on Global Children’s Issues, Catholic Relief Services, and Changing the Way We Care initiative [webinar](#) “**The Theology of the Child, Children’s Care, and Protection.**” March 20, 2023, at 12 pm ET.
- GCE-US [virtual event](#) “**Global Campaign for Education-US (GCE-US) Coalition Meeting.**” March 21, 2023, at 9 am ET.

- UNICEF [virtual event](#) **“Mental Health Measurement at the Population Level tool and journal supplement.”** March 23, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- ChildFund, UNICEF USA, Futures Without Violence, Save the Children, Plan International, Girls Opportunity Alliance, and others in partnership with the Secretary’s Office of Global Women’s Issues and the Bureau of Global Public Affairs at the U.S. Department of State [hybrid event](#) **“Women’s History Month Foreign Policy Classroom Event.”** March 23, 2023 at 9 am ET at the U.S. Department of State. **RSVP by Friday, March 17, 2023.**
- WHO, UNICEF, the Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health, the Quality of Care subgroup of the Child Health Task Force, and the ECD Action Network [virtual event](#) **“Global Launch of the Nurturing Care Handbook and Practice Guide.”** March 28, 2023, at 8 am ET.
- Transforming Children’s Care [webinar](#) **“Early Institutionalization Intervention Impact Project in Brazil.”** March 30, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- Basic Education Coalition [virtual launch](#) **“USAID Guidance for Promoting Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in Educational Materials.”** April 5, 2023, at 10 am ET.
- The Aspen Institute [hybrid event series](#) **“Aspen Forum on Children and Families.”** April 11-12, 2023 in Washington, D.C.

#### Reports, Articles & Resources

- UNICEF [statement](#) **“Statement by UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh Sheldon Yett on fire in the Rohingya refugee camps.”**
- UNICEF [press release](#) **“One month on, more than 850,000 children remain displaced by deadly earthquakes in southern Türkiye and Syria.”**
- The Enthusiast by Brad Montague [post](#) **“State of the Children Address: How can we reimagine the world with and for kids?”**
- The Youth Climate Justice Study [campaign](#) **“The Moment We Are In.”**
- UNICEF [report](#) **“Adolescent Girls Programme Strategy, 2022 - 2025: Guiding UNICEF’s direction of work for and with adolescent girls, setting out high ambition and the investment case for gender-transformative, multi-sectoral and integrated programming.”**
- The Guardian [article](#) **“Give Africa’s youth a voice in shaping the climate agenda. It is their future at stake.”**
- The International Pediatrics Association [report](#) **“Call to Action & Commitment: International Pediatric Association (IPA ) Theme for 2023-25: Reaching every child.”**



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