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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. 127: USAID Gender Equality & Women’s Empowerment Policy, World Vision Policy Paper, & Summit for Democracy.**

April 3, 2023

Quick Summary

**USAID [launched](#) its updated Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Policy.**

In a statement, USAID stated that the updated policy reaffirms that for “societies to thrive, women and girls, men and boys, and gender-diverse individuals must have the agency, social support, and structures to make their own choices and live free from violence and abuse. They must have equal rights and opportunities, as well as equal and safe access to and control over resources. Achieving gender equality in society will improve the overall quality of life for all people throughout their lives.” The Gender Policy identified four strategic objectives that USAID will advance through investments across all sectors in which it works:

1. Reduce gender disparities;
2. Strive to eliminate gender-based violence and mitigate its harmful effects;
3. Increase women’s and girls’ agency; and

4. Advance structural changes that address the root causes of gender inequality and promote equitable gender norms.

Read the 2023 USAID Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy [here](#).

**World Vision [published](#) a public policy paper titled “Children in Crisis: Global Snapshot and Policy Recommendations.”** This paper outlines the core issues in each sector; hunger, children on the move, and global health. Within these sectors, general information about the state of children, case studies, and recommendations for policymakers was outlined. Some of the key recommendations include “Continue efforts to address emergency hunger needs and food insecurity by supporting robust funding for U.S. Foreign Assistance food security accounts such as International Disaster Assistance, Feed the Future, Food for Peace, and McGovern-Dole Food for Education”, “Support a change in policy to recognize child protection and education interventions as lifesaving in conflict settings and humanitarian contexts to allow immediate deployment of child protection and education interventions along with the other forms of aid in these areas of crisis,” and “Support reauthorization of The United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Through PEPFAR, the U.S. government has invested over \$100 billion in the global HIV/AIDS response, saving 25 million lives, and preventing millions of HIV infections. This program is critical to the goal of ending AIDS by 2030.” Read the full policy paper [here](#).

**The White House [announced](#) the “Global Initiatives on the Economic Empowerment of Women.”** To address the economic, digital, and social gaps, the “Biden-Harris Administration will continue to work with other governments, the private sector, foundations, and multilateral organizations to help close the digital divide, improve meaningful access to equitable digital finance and other online services, and address social norms that prevent women from participating fully in the digital economy.” These investment plans include:

- \$60M to Launch the Women in the Digital Economy Fund
- Nearly \$400M in Private Sector Commitments to Support Closing the Gender Digital Divide.
- \$528M in Private Sector Commitments to Support of Women's Economic Empowerment in Africa
- \$47M U.S. Government Initiatives to Advance Gender Equality Across Africa

To learn more about this announcement, click [here](#).

Spotlight

**The U.S. Summit for Democracy was [held](#) last week with the launch of multiple global initiatives and with high-level events on a variety of topics.** This summit included a focus on issues such as tackling the rise of authoritarianism, promoting democracy, and youth in political spaces.

During the Summit, USAID [introduced](#) new initiatives, including advancing Women's and Girls' Civic and Political Leadership. This initiative will adopt an "ecosystem approach to improve women's civic and political engagement. The initiative targets individual, structural, and socio-cultural barriers and prevents and mitigates violence against women in politics and public life while supporting women and girls as they fully exercise their civic and political rights." In addition, USAID will work towards seven other new initiatives that will focus on policy reforms to the Presidential Initiative for Democratic Renewal (PIDR) reforms. The "PIDR comprises five lines of effort in response to significant challenges to democracy in the 21st Century. This includes the Partnerships for Democratic Development (PDD), which provides multi-year support to countries that demonstrate sustained democratic progress."

One of the main events hosted by Costa Rica was about "Promoting the Role of Youth in Political and Democratic Spaces." The event focused on the fact that younger persons are increasingly targeted by the media, political parties, and social networks as drivers of change in the political life of their countries. President Rodrigo Chaves kicked off the event and was joined by the Presidents of the other three branches of Government in Costa Rica: Legislative, Judicial, and Electoral, as well as the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Arnoldo André, and of Culture and Youth, Nayuribe Guadamuz. U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield led the U.S. Delegation to Costa Rica. The government of Costa Rica emphasized that "It is essential for democracies to empower younger populations and guard against disinformation and political radicalization, in order to promote the full and responsible exercise of their human rights and freedoms."

The White House and the Government of South Korea [announced](#) a third summit in Korea in the future.

To learn more about the Summit for Democracy, click [here](#).

#### Events

- USAID EducationLINKS [virtual event](#) **"How Can Public Private Partnerships Strengthen Basic Education Service Delivery?"** April 4, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- UNICEF [webinar](#) **"The UN Resolutions on the Child, Early, and Forced Marriage & Female Genital Mutilation."** April 6, 2023, at 8:30 am ET.

- GCE [webinar](#) “**Round Table Discussion - World Autism Day.**” April 6, 2023, at 8:30 am ET.
- UN in-person [event](#) “**International Day of Sport for Development and Peace**” April 6, 2023, at 10:30 am ET.
- How to Child Rights [webinar](#) “**How to Engage the World Bank on Children's Rights.**” April 13, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- UNA-USA in-person [summit](#) “**2023 Leadership Summit.**” June 4-6, 2023 in Washington, D.C.

#### Reports, Articles & Resources

- UNICEF [report](#) “**Undernourished and Overlooked: A global nutrition crisis in adolescent girls and women.**”
- BBC News [article](#) “**Afghanistan: Girls' education activist arrested by Taliban.**”
- El Pais News [article](#) “**The missing Ukrainian children of the Russian invasion: Only 300 of the 150,000 forcibly expatriated minors have been reunited with their families during Moscow's 'de-Ukrainization' campaign.**”
- Amnesty International [Report](#) “**The State of the World's Human Rights.**”
- The BMJ [academic paper](#) “**Adolescent wellbeing in humanitarian and fragile settings: moving beyond rhetoric.**”
- The Global Health Council [report](#) “**2023 Global Health Briefing Book.**”

#### Professional Opportunities

**Global Campaign for Education - US is seeking to hire an undergraduate or graduate student** with a passion for advocacy to ensure access to quality, inclusive education for all children and youth for its **GCE-US Paid Student Fellowship**. This position assists with social media, communications, membership, coalition engagement, event management, research, youth engagement, fundraising, public policy, advocacy, and/or organizational development. Find more details on the application process and role description [here](#). **To Apply:** E-mail in one document: 1) a cover letter and 2) a resume with Fellowship Application in the subject line to: [gceus.hr@gmail.com](mailto:gceus.hr@gmail.com)

**Search for Common Ground is recruiting a Youth, Peace, and Security Fellow.** The fellow will support the Children and Youth division's global YPS advocacy work, with a focus on the U.S. The fellow will also support international advocacy around youth protection. The fellow will gain a unique insight into the Youth, Peace, and Security agenda and how to influence U.S. policy through this program. In this role, the fellow will support policy objectives aimed at 1) strengthening institutional commitments to youth participation and protection in peace and security policy and practice through youth-led

advocacy to the U.S. government, 2) facilitating collaboration between youth partners in the US and in other countries in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia on YPS advocacy. The fellow will contribute to YPS policy partnerships and strategies, conduct direct advocacy meetings and briefings, and produce policy research and writing. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

**The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is looking for a global child health policy assistant** to support our federal advocacy on a large portfolio of global child health issues. The policy assistant will provide policy and project support, including monitoring and reporting on AAP global child health policy priorities. Assist with and provide support to Director, Global Child Health Advocacy on global advocacy efforts to Congress, the Administration, the United Nations, and other advocacy groups including attending coalition, task force, or roundtable meetings. To apply, click [here](#).



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