
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 130: USAID Youth in Development Policies, USAID report on tracking funds for children and youth, and Hill Hearings.

April 24, 2023

Call to Action

The UN is seeking comments for its Sustainable Development Report 2023. This report compiles data and preliminary dashboards for review. **To provide comments and suggestions, please complete this [feedback form](#) by April 26, 2023.** If you have any further questions, please email info@sdgindex.org.

Quick Summary

USAID released its Report to Congress on USAID's Youth in Development Policy for both [FY21](#) and [FY22](#) publicly. This policy “ guides [USAID's] programming in this area toward an overarching goal: Increase the meaningful participation of youth within their communities, schools, organizations, economies, peer groups, and families, enhancing their skills, providing opportunities, and fostering healthy relationships so

they may build on their collective leadership.” To achieve the objectives of the policy, USAID “invested approximately \$281 million in funding from Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 in youth programming and approximately 434,254 youth learned a broad set of skills including management, leadership, social, and/or civic-engagement skills.” In FY 2022, USAID “Missions and Bureaus invested approximately \$282 million in funding from FY 2022 in youth programming“. Additionally, USAID stated that “education funding includes \$950 million in Basic Education that benefits children and youth (ages 3-29) across the education continuum and in youth workforce development programs and \$250 million in Higher Education.” To read the FY21 report, click [here](#). To read the FY22 report, click [here](#).

USAID submitted its [report](#) on its tracking of funding for children and youth. This report was required under Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 JES (incorporated by Sec. 7019(e) of P.L. 117-328), the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act 2023. USAID Missions and Bureaus invested “approximately \$282 million in funding from FY 2022 in youth programming.” When referring to protection and safety, the Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity: A U.S. Government Strategy for International Assistance (2019–2023) (APCCA Strategy) emphasized the funding allocated to and policy implementation of the Thrive Act and issues such as COVID-19. Education was implemented following the U.S. Government Strategy on International Basic Education (2019–2023). In FY 2022, “education funding includes \$950 million in Basic Education that benefits children and youth (ages 3-29) across the education continuum and in youth workforce development programs and \$250 million in Higher Education...” The report also charts its funding towards specific children and youth programs. This includes:

- \$3 million- Child, Early, and Forced Marriage and Unions Programs (CEFMU) account.
- \$23 million- Centrally managed resources - Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation (DDI/ID)- Children in Adversity Programs account
- \$3.5 million- Mission-managed resources in the Children in Adversity Programs account.
- \$106 million - BHA Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance Child Protection

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

USAID Administrator Samantha Power [announced](#) USAID’s Generating Resilience and Opportunities for Women (GROW) Commitment. This initiative will “tackle urgent challenges women are facing in food and water systems, including climate change while unlocking opportunities for women to advance economically – ultimately benefiting their

families, communities, and societies at large through improved food security, resilience, and economic growth.” GROW will specifically focus on “women’s empowerment in the food and water sectors and invest up to \$335 million through the U.S. government’s Feed the Future initiative led by USAID and through USAID’s Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) and Adaptation activities.” The announcement outlined three priority areas of GROW:

1. Increase women producers’ productivity and resilience to shocks;
2. Support women to fully participate in and benefit from more diversified and climate-resilient economic opportunities in food and water systems – including in value chains beyond production; and
3. Drive the humanitarian system to prioritize addressing the unique needs of women and girls affected by climate and food-security crises.

Click [here](#) to learn more about USAID’s GROW initiative.

Spotlight: Hearings on the Hill

There have been multiple Hill briefings this past week that have highlighted the variety of needs and challenges children and youth globally face. This included the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs [hearing](#) on the USAID FY24 Budget Request and the House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing titled “Exposing Putin’s Crimes: Evidence of Russian War Crimes and Other Atrocities in Ukraine”.

During the **Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs [hearing](#) on the USAID FY24 Budget Request**, USAID Administrator Samantha Power stated in her opening remarks that “During our lifetimes, the United States has played an absolutely critical role in accelerating tremendous progress in reducing extreme poverty, in fighting disease, in addressing hunger, and getting kids – especially girls – in school, and in fueling democracy’s rise.” The Biden-Harris administration is requesting \$32 billion for FY 2024. Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY) underscored the critical importance of USAID programs in order to achieve the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Rep. Jake LaTurner (R-KS) highlighted that the situation in Afghanistan for women and girls has become dire and asked Administrator Power how this has affected the distribution of aid. She explained that, in certain provinces, “officials have been willing to allow women to continue to work, for example in the health sector or in the distribution of humanitarian assistance... Education and livelihoods work is much more limited, mainly online support so that girls can continue to learn from home.” To read the full subcommittee report, click [here](#).

The House Foreign Affairs Committee [hearing](#) on “Exposing Putin’s Crimes: Evidence of Russian War Crimes and Other Atrocities in Ukraine” stressed the effects of the war on children in Ukraine. Chairman Michael McCaul (R-TX) explained in his opening statement that “To break the will of the Ukrainian people, Russia has employed the use of terror through barbaric war crimes, from sexual violence, including the rape of children and the elderly, to mass executions and torture – all targeted at innocent civilians.” He also spoke on the deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia as an act of genocide under the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. He stated that “We have seen the mass deportation and relocation of Ukrainian children. Tens of thousands of children have been kidnapped, handed over to Russian families, and forced into pro-Russian reeducation systems. These are more than war crimes. These are more than crimes against humanity. What we are witnessing in Ukraine is genocide.” To read the full committee hearing report, click [here](#)

Events

- Funders for Adolescent Science Translation [webinar](#) **“Youth Mental Health: Partnership Opportunities with the Biden Administration.”** April 24, 2023, at 12:30 pm ET.
- What World Assembly [webinar](#) **“2nd Briefing - Road to Paris & the New Finance Summit.”** April 26, 2023, at 8:30 am ET.
- Moving Minds Alliance [webinar](#) **“Young Children in Crisis Settings Toolkit.”** April 28, 2023, at 8:30 am ET.
- YouthPower2 [virtual event](#) **“Connecting Youth Engagement and Security”** April 28, 2023, at 9:30 am ET.
- YouthPower2 [virtual event](#) **“Tools and Reflection to Engage Men and Boys for Gender Equality.”** May 3, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- YouthPower2 [virtual event](#) **“Unpacking Bureaucratic Challenges for Young Entrepreneurs in Kenya.”** May 1, 2023, at 10 am ET.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- EMpower [report](#) **“Girls and Gender Strategy.”**
- UNICEF [report](#) **“State of the World’s Children 2023.”**
- Human Rights Watch [article](#) **“Egypt: Data of Tens of Thousands of Students Compromised.”**
- EMpower [report](#) **“Moving the Needle: Making the case for youth protagonism.”**
- USAID [report](#) **“Global Child Thrive Act USAID Implementation Guidance.”**

Professional Opportunity

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) is seeking to [hire](#) a Gender Program Officer. The Gender Program Officer is an “intermediate professional position at IFES providing technical, subject matter support for IFES’ gender equality and women’s empowerment programming and technical leadership. Specific duties will include gender program development and management, technical, administrative and financial management support, and knowledge management.” Click [here](#) to learn more and apply.



Copyright © 2021 Tides Center, All rights reserved.