
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 134: HFAC Roundtable Discussion, ChildFund and World Vision Event, & GCE-US Spotlight Event.

May 22, 2023

Quick Summary

The House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) held a roundtable discussion on “Crisis Facing Afghan Women and Girls.” This discussion focused on the challenges facing women and girls in Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover. Members of Congress heard from the former Afghan Ambassador to the U.S. Roya Rahmani, former Afghan diplomat Hadeia Amiry, and members from the Afghan community. Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX) referenced that most girls are not allowed to go to school past 6th grade, gender-based violence against women and girls is widespread, and women are banned from working with NGOs. To read more about this HFAC discussion, click [here](#).

ChildFund International and World Vision held an event titled “Changing our Future: Children take action to building resilience and address Climate Change.”

The event focused on ending violence against children and highlighted its linkages to resilience and disaster risk reduction. Young leaders from Solomon Islands, Cambodia, and the Philippines shared their experiences contributing to change in their communities by raising awareness about violence against children and climate change. Additionally, they shared their views on actions and key asks to step up the pace to end violence against children. The event also featured key speakers who addressed issues of child protection, climate actions, and resilience as well as reaffirming the importance of engaging children and young people in disaster risk reduction strategies. To learn more about this event, click [here](#).

USAID published its report to Congress on “The Proven Value of Nurturing Care” within the context of USAID’s work Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity (APCCA). This USAID report “highlights APCCA achievements from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021, and other key achievements to date.” The data from this report shows that the aftermath of **the COVID-19 pandemic will cause “setbacks in human capital development that will impact countries for a generation or more, if we do not act.** Furthermore, the impacts were largest for those who were most disadvantaged—the children and families that the APCCA Strategy targets. There is no denying that the scope of work that lies before us is profound, complex, and challenging.” To read this report, click [here](#).

Spotlight

Global Campaign for Education-US (GCE-US) held a virtual spotlight session for Global Action Week for Education (GAWE) with USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Hub and the Inclusive Development Hub in USAID’s Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bama Athreya.

Deputy Assistant Administrator Athreya spoke about USAID’s Inclusive Development Hub, highlighting how it “advocates for and provides technical leadership on integrated and standalone programs, policies, training, and research that mitigate harm and promote inclusion and equity within USAID’s development efforts.” She also emphasized the importance of early childhood development, stating: “Extensive evidence has shown there is a critical window of opportunity during early childhood to shape children’s long term outcomes. 80% of brain development takes place during the first three years of life and that 13% is the estimated return on investment for high-quality early childhood development programs annually.” Legislation such as the Global Child Thrive Act requires every U.S. federal department and agency to incorporate early childhood development into foreign assistance programs that serve

vulnerable children and their families and promote the rights and inclusion of the world's most marginalized and underserved children.

Deputy Assistant Administrator Athreya also discussed the USAID Youth in Development Policy 2022-2030. The projects that are covered by this policy are broken down into three categories; Youth-Focused, Youth- Relevant, and Youth-Led. Youth-Focused programs are activities in which youth are the primary program participants. Youth- Relevant are activities that include youth within its targeted participants or beneficiaries or has a youth-specific component. Lastly, Youth-Led programs are activities which have youth leadership guiding its implementation, management, and design. She also emphasized that USAID's updated youth policy is "supporting youth as emerging leaders and vital partners in development at the local, national, and global levels."

In addition, the Deputy Assistant Administrator spoke about USAID's commitment to persons with disabilities and described activities to support greater inclusion. She also signaled that the updated Disability Policy will likely be shared for public comment later this year.

To learn more and to rewatch this event, click [here](#).

Events

- OECD [webinar](#) **"How can we protect & empower young children in the Digital Age?"** May 23, 2023, at 7 am ET.
- U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee [hearing](#) **"Bring Abducted Children Home."** May 23, 2023, at 10 am ET.
- White House Gender Policy Council launch [event](#) **"National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence: Strategies for Action."** May 25, 2023, at 11 am ET.
- UNDP Nobel Prize Summit virtual [side-event](#) **"Untold Stories: Youth initiatives to promote healthy information ecosystems in the Global South."** May 26, 2023, at 9:30 am ET.
- USAID Education in Crisis and Conflict Network [webinar](#) **"Exploring Social Emotional Learning and Foundational Skills."** June 1, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- U.S. Department of Labor in-person [event](#) **"Within and Beyond Our Borders: Collective action to address child labor."** June 12, 2023, at 2 pm ET.
- The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action [online event](#) **"2023 Annual Meeting for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action."** June 12-15, 2023.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- Inkstick [article](#) **“Somalia’s Women and Girls are Victims of Climate Change: The numbers tell an incomplete story of how climate change is impacting women and girls.”**
- Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding [report](#) **“Young People’s Participation in Peacebuilding: A Practice Note.”**
- Search for Common Ground Sri Lanka [digital tool](#) **“Meet Bridgebot: A Chatbox that is Bridging Differences and Building Understanding Online.”**
- Global Education Cluster YouTube [video](#) **“Demystifying Coordination | Capacity Building.”**
- OECD [report](#) **“Empowering Young Children in the Digital Age.”**

Funding Opportunity

The U.S. Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor is funding grants for organizations interested in submitting applications for: Justice and Universal Disability Youth Inclusion (JUDY Initiative) through protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities in Eastern Europe, Eurasia, and/or Central Asia. The objectives of this program are to:

1. Promote the inclusion of youth with disabilities in Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs);
2. Strengthen advocacy capabilities of OPDs and other civil society groups to hold governments in the region accountable for the implementation and enforcement of disability laws and policies; and
3. Increase access to resources and protections provided under law for persons with disabilities.

Applications are due June 30, 2023. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).



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