
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 137: USAID Youth in Development Policy and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy Sign-On Letter, UNICEF Report, & Children's Week 2023.

June 12, 2023

Call to Action

ChildFund International and the Big Ideas Coalition for Women and Girls composed a [letter](#) to Administrator Power regarding the USAID Youth in Development Policy and the updated Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy. These policies contained commendable language highlighting the intersection of youth and gender. However, there have been concerns about push-backs in Congress, particularly affecting adolescent girls. The purpose of this letter is to express appreciation for the agency's work in updating the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy, thank the Administrator for the agency's efforts, and urge her to take the following actions:

1. Elevate and prioritize the policy throughout the Agency's programs and commitments by integrating and fostering capacity for the policy across all departments.
2. Provide annual public and transparent reports on the progress made in implementing the policy.
3. Regularly engage and consult with U.S. based and local partners, with a special focus on women- and girl-led organizations.

Click [here](#) to sign onto this letter by Tuesday, June 20th, COB.

Quick Summary

USAID Deputy [Administrator](#) Isobel Coleman announced that the United States is [pledging](#) an additional \$100 million to support Pakistan's recovery efforts from the devastating 2022 floods. The new pledge includes both new and redirected funding. \$79.3 million from USAID will prioritize urgent support for agriculture and food security, health, economic growth, education, protection, and governance. Additionally, \$20.7 million from the State Department will provide humanitarian assistance for flood-affected Afghan refugees and host communities in Pakistan. This new funding will reach over 20 million flood-affected individuals to assist in their recovery, risk reduction, and resilience. In addition, this funding will support humanitarian partners to provide nutritious food to mothers and their children, help families rebuild local infrastructure to protect them from future disasters, and increase protection services to prevent gender-based violence and support survivors. To read the press release, click [here](#).

U.S. First [Lady](#) Dr. Jill Biden [traveled](#) to the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe to promote empowerment for women and education for young people. In Egypt, Dr. Biden met with Egypt's first lady, Entissar Amer, and President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi before visiting a technical school in the capital. The visit also aimed to highlight U.S. investments in education programs. During one of her [events](#), Dr. Biden delivered a speech at Al-Azhar Mosque in Cairo, Egypt, to young leaders. Drawing from her experience as a community college writing teacher, Dr. Biden shared two assignments she gave to her students to better understand them: The first assignment asks students to reflect on their hometowns and what has shaped them and the second assignment is inspired by "This I Believe," where individuals share their deeply held beliefs. She expressed her belief in the youth of Egypt and their potential to contribute to various fields and emphasized the power of faith, understanding, and common ground in building stronger communities. To learn more about her trip, click [here](#).

UNICEF [published](#) its report that provides guidance on integrating the Early Childhood Development Index 2030 (ECDI2030) into Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS). The ECDI2030 was developed by UNICEF to measure early childhood development and monitor progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of ensuring equitable access to quality early childhood development and learning opportunities by 2030. The report highlights the history, development, and validation of the ECDI2030, which involved extensive consultations with experts and national statistical authorities. The report explains the analysis and reporting process, focusing on the indicator that summarizes developmental outcomes across health, learning, and psychosocial well-being domains. It also emphasizes the need to disaggregate data by demographics and subnational areas to identify disparities in developmental outcomes among children. To read the report, click [here](#).

Spotlight



First Focus will be holding their annual Children's Week, which is dedicated to advocating for the well-being of children in the U.S. and around the world. Starting on June 11th, Children's Week will shed light on the pressing challenges faced by children, including hunger, homelessness, poverty, and gun violence. The event will emphasize the need for immediate action to protect our children's health, safety, and overall welfare. Kicking off on Children's Day on June 11th, First Focus on Children and its partner advocates will collaborate with members of Congress to make children a priority. To learn more about upcoming events during Children's Week, click [here](#).

Events

- U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee [hearing](#) **"Examining the Fiscal Year 24 State Department Diversity Equity Inclusion and Accessibility Budget."**
June 13, 2023, at 10 am ET.

- Global Network of Global Peacebuilders (GNGP) [virtual event](#) **“Ukrainian and African Women Peacebuilders’ Dialogue: Sisterhood, Solidarity and Hope amidst the Atrocities.”** June 15, 2023, at 8 am ET.
- First Focus on Children, ZERO TO THREE, the Children’s Defense Fund, Rep. Jimmy Gomez, Rep. Rashida Tlaib and Rep. Rosa DeLauro in-person [event](#) **“Invest in Kids Briefing.”** June 15, 2023 at 1:00 PM ET at Whittall Pavilion at the Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave SE, Washington, DC 20559.
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and UNICEF [webinar](#) **“After discharge from small and sick newborn care - what care is needed and how?”** June 27, 2023, at 8 am ET.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- Human Rights Watch [article](#) **“Malawi: Refugees, Including Children, Forcibly Relocated- End Evictions, Confinement to Overcrowded Camp.”**
- The Guardian [article](#) **“Nearly 80 primary schoolgirls believed poisoned in Afghanistan: Two schools in northern province targeted, says education official, who suggested the attacker was motivated by a personal grudge.”**
- New York Times [op-ed](#) **“This May Be the Most Important Thing Happening in the World Today.”**
- Gender and Development Network [brief](#) **“The World Bank’s Invest in Childcare initiative: A vehicle for achieving gender equality and responding to the care crisis?”**
- Nurturing Care for Early Childhood Development thematic [brief](#) **“Nurturing young children through responsive feeding.”**



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