
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 138: DRI Report, USAID FY22 Localization Report, & U.S. Department of Labor event.

June 19, 2023

Call to Action

The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) “1.8 Billion Young People for Change Campaign” is accepting [submissions](#) for its “Art for Well-being Competition”. This is an opportunity for young people to showcase their creativity in the design, music, and film categories. Art has the power to develop important life skills and foster connections with others through imagination, self-expression, and creativity. Through this competition, PMNCH aims to give young people a platform to express their perspectives on well-being. Participants are invited to answer the question *“What does well-being mean to you?”* through their artwork. The competition is open to young people aged 10-24 and the deadline for submissions is July 2, 2023. To learn more and submit your entry, click [here](#).

Quick Summary

Disability Rights International (DRI) and Disability Rights Ukraine (DRU) published a [report](#) titled “**Families Find a Way: Children With Disabilities in War-Torn Ukraine.**” This report compiles ten years of documenting human rights concerns of over 100,000 Ukrainian children, both with and without disabilities who have been placed in segregated institutions such as orphanages, boarding schools, and psychiatric facilities. DRI's investigations have exposed the appalling conditions in these institutions, where children lack medical care and food, are at high risk of trafficking and violence, and are subjected to horrific restraints and neglect, even risking death. Since the start of the war, some children from institutions in Ukraine have been abducted. It is crucial to ensure that no child is ever placed in an institution rather than safe family care. Families report a decline in essential services, with the government prioritizing institutional support over family-based care. Economic hardship has worsened, particularly for families caring for children with disabilities, resulting in increased pressure on families and insufficient support. Unemployment has risen, and families struggle to access essential services such as rehabilitation, psychological support, socialization, education, and medical assistance. The government's disability allowance is insufficient to cover basic needs, adding to families' burdens and forcing some to consider giving up their children. Youth and young adults seeking independent living face limited services and accessibility challenges. Additionally, young mothers with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to having their children taken away from them. To read the full report, click [here](#).

USAID released its FY 2022 Localization Progress [Report](#), which highlights USAID commitment to promoting local leadership and decision-making in development and humanitarian efforts. The agency aims to shift funding and power to local actors and strengthen local systems. USAID has set two targets:

1. Directing a quarter of its funding to local partners by 2025 and;
2. Ensuring that at least half of its programs allow local actors to lead by 2030.

In FY 2022, USAID allocated nearly \$1.6 billion, or 10.2% of obligations, as direct funding to individuals, organizations, or corporations based in the countries where they implement USAID-funded work. This represents the highest level of direct local funding in at least a decade. Missions and overseas units led the efforts, directing 18% of obligations to local partners. Additionally, USAID provided \$57 million for regional partnerships and \$199 million in government-to-government assistance. Apart from funding, USAID aims to enable more local leadership and influence over its programs. It acknowledges that while data is important, localization also requires cultural and

systemic changes within USAID to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion, and to respect local changemakers. Click here to read the [report](#).

Spotlight

In recognition of the World Day Against Child Labor, the U.S. Department of Labor's [Bureau](#) of International Labor Affairs and the Wage and Hour [Division](#) held an [event](#) titled “Within and Beyond Our Borders: Collective Action to Combat Hazardous Child Labor.” This event aimed to foster crucial conversations about child labor and decent work, both within the United States and around the world. Child labor is reportedly on the rise in the United States and remains a grave concern worldwide, affecting an estimated 160 million children globally. These young people experience unimaginable conditions, harvesting cocoa, cotton, and critical minerals, often risking their lives and enduring hazardous work environments. Over 79 million children engage in hazardous labor, exposing themselves to sharp tools, dangerous chemicals, and even working underground. Additionally, 3.3 million children suffer under forced labor, with nearly half of them enduring commercial sexual exploitation.

The event featured a panel of speakers who shared their invaluable insights and experiences. This panel included [Randi Weingarten](#), President of the American Federation of Teachers; [Thea Lee](#), Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs at the Bureau of International Labor Affairs; [Jessica Looman](#), Principal Deputy Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division; [Bukeni Waruzi](#), Executive Director of Free the Slaves; [Anna Pienaar](#), Executive Director of The Responsible Labor Initiative at Responsible Business Alliance; [Bama Athreya](#), USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Development, Democracy, and Innovation; and [Nick Wertsch](#), Associate General Counsel of The Coalition of Immokalee Workers.

The panelists discussed the recent G7 Summit, which reaffirmed the commitment of the United States and other world leaders to eliminate forced labor and child labor. Discussions revolved around implementing legislation, regulations, and incentives to promote decent work and protect rights. The need for an international instrument, with a consensus-based and legally binding approach, was also emphasized. Despite the ratification of Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor by all International Labour Organization (ILO) members two decades ago, child labor continues to be a global problem. According to the ILO, around 80 million children, some as young as 5 years old, were engaged in hazardous work in 2021.

This event served as a powerful reminder that eradicating child labor necessitates the collective efforts of individuals, organizations, and governments worldwide. To learn more and rewatch this event, click [here](#).

Events

- Save the Children, UK AID, and the Global Protection Cluster [webinar](#) “**Ensuring Access that Protects Children: Collaborating with Communities for Effective Humanitarian Action.**” June 19, 2023, at 8:45 am ET.
- GCE virtual [celebration](#) “**GCE Education in Emergencies Learning Community: 2023 World Refugee Day Celebration.**” June 20, 2023, at 8:30 am ET.
- USAID Leading Through Learning Global Platform [webinar](#) “**Joy and Play Build Resilience in Crisis-Affected Early Childhood.**” June 21, 2023, at 5:30 am ET.
- GCE-US virtual [event](#) “**GCE-US July 2023 Coalition Meeting.**” July 12, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- PMNCH for Womens’, Childrens’ and Adolescents’ Health [event](#) “**Global Forum for Adolescents.**” October 11-12, 2023.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- Children’s Rights Innovation Fund and We Trust Youth Initiative [report](#) “**What’s Possible When Funders Follow Young People’s Lead.**”
- BBC News [article](#) “**As Palestinian youths, the political process has failed us**”
- Gavi [article](#) “**Vaccine Alliance reaches more than one billion children.**”



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