
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 139: M-mama emergency transportation system & House Appropriations Committee Republicans draft fiscal year 2024 SFOP Appropriations bill

June 26, 2023

Call to Action

The World Bank Group (WBG) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) are teaming up with the Civil Society Policy Forum Working [Group](#) to announce the launch of an open Call for Proposals for the upcoming Civil Society Policy Forum. This event will take place during the WBG-IMF Annual Meetings in Marrakech October 10-13, 2023. If you're interested in participating, please submit your proposals electronically using this [form](#). Submissions are due Monday, July 31, 2023, at 9:00 AM EST. To find out more about the Annual Meeting Civil Society Policy Forum, please visit the event [page](#). For any further inquiries, feel free to reach out to us via email at civilsociety@worldbank.org.

Quick Summary

The Government of Kenya, in collaboration with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Vodafone Foundation, Safaricom Plc, and M-PESA Foundation, have [joined](#) forces to bring the life-saving m-mama emergency transportation system to Kenya. M-mama is an emergency referral system designed to transport pregnant women and infants facing complications to appropriate healthcare facilities. Managed by highly trained dispatchers, the program ensures that referrals are efficiently coordinated, confirming the availability of healthcare facilities to promptly address emergency situations. Additionally, the initiative recruits, trains, and compensates local community members and taxi drivers, providing alternative emergency transport options when ambulances are not readily accessible. This collaborative effort ensures increased availability of transport services for patients in need. The service can be easily accessed through a toll-free landline and mobile phone number. USAID has announced a generous contribution of up to \$5 million towards this initiative, while Vodafone Foundation and M-PESA Foundation have pledged an additional \$9 million. To learn more about this investment and m-mama, click [here](#).

The U.S. Department of State has [designated](#) two leaders of ISIS and two individuals from South Sudan as Specially Designated Global Terrorists due to their involvement in abductions, sexual violence, and other human rights abuses against women and girls. Arkan Ahmad 'Abbas al-Matuti (Abu Sarhan) is a senior field military commander in ISIS. He has committed sexual violence against Yezidis and played a role in the abduction and enslavement of Yezidi women and girls. Nawaf Ahmad Alwan al-Rashidi (Abu Faris) manages financial payments and smuggling operations for ISIS. He was involved in planning attacks and the sexual slavery of Yezidi women and girls. Additionally, James Nando, a Major General in the South Sudan People's Defense Forces, has been designated for his involvement in at least 64 instances of rape and sexual slavery against civilians. Alfred Futuyo, Governor of Western Equatoria and affiliated with Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army – In Opposition, is designated for attacks that led to the abduction of 887 civilians, with at least 43 cases of rape. The United States remains “committed to promoting accountability for human rights violations, particularly against women and girls.” To learn more about these designations, click [here](#).

Spotlight

House Appropriations Committee Republicans have released the draft fiscal year 2024 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill. With significant cuts to environmental protection programs, the draft bill allocates \$52.5 billion for global programs and activities, which is \$7.2 billion lower than the 2023 level.

The legislation outlines no funding for the UN Regular budget, UN Development Program, UN Women, and the World Health Organization (WHO). It also underfunds the USAID, hampering their operations and staffing. Additionally, it blocks the U.S. response to the climate crisis by eliminating support for adaptation, sustainable landscapes, and clean energy programs. The bill also poses threats to women's health globally by significantly reducing funding for bilateral family planning, prohibiting contributions to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and reinstating the Global Gag Rule on NGOs receiving U.S. assistance.

Other aspects of the draft bill include putting the United States into arrears at international organizations, shortchanging development and economic assistance, and reducing funding for humanitarian assistance, peacekeeping, and various agencies like the Peace Corps, Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), and U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM). Moreover, the bill includes several riders that prohibit funding for diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, envoys or special advisors without congressional authorization, activities promoting Critical Race Theory, classifying misinformation, gender-affirming care, the government of China, and the Arms Trade Treaty, among others.

To read more the House Appropriations Committee Republicans draft fiscal year 2024 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill, click [here](#).

Events

- OECD [virtual event](#) **“Evaluating ideas: navigating an uncertain world with critical thinking.”** June 26, 2023, at 8 am ET.
- UNICEF [webinar](#) **“Launch of the technical note on Livelihood for CAAFAG.”** June 26, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- UNICEF [webinar](#) **“Launch of the technical note on Education for CAAFAG.”** June 27, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- Mecca M-Power and Vital Voices [in-person event](#) **“Advancing Women’s Rights Through Civic Engagement: A Vital Voices and Missing Perspectives Event”** June 27, 2023, at 6pm ET at Vital Voices Global Headquarters for Women's Leadership, InMaat Forum for Leadership, 1509 16th St NW Washington, DC 20036.
- CNA [virtual event](#) **“From the Battlefield to the Home: Violence against Women & Girls in Crises.”** June 28, 2023, at 8 am ET.
- ECDAN [webinar](#) **“Playful Parenting Community of Practice.”** June 28, 2023, at 8 am ET.
- Together for Girls, SVRI, and CDC [webinar](#) **“Using the VACS: Part 2 - Africa Region.”** June 28, 2023, at 9 am ET.

- Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP) [virtual event](#) “**Launch of Global Peace Index 2023.**” June 29, 2023 at 11 am ET.
- What Works 2 programme [webinar](#) “**How should Feminist Foreign and Development Policies address Violence Against Women and Girls?**” July 5, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- Georgetown University Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics, The Collaborative on Global Childrens’ Issues at Georgetown University, and Little Amal [in-person event](#) “**Little Amal Walks Across America**” September 19, 2023 at U.S. Capital Hill, Washington, D.C.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- Sesame Workshop [report](#) “**Play to Learn Annual Report 2022: Reflecting on a year of learning, impact, and growth for Play to Learn.**”
- Devex [article](#) “**PEPFAR in the anti-abortion crosshairs.**”
- PLAN International [article](#) “**Gender-Based Violence Online: A Young Person’s Perspective.**”
- The New Humanitarian [article](#) “**USAID/WFP food aid freeze leads to suffering and deaths in Tigray: ‘Our children are falling like leaves.’**”
- Devex [article](#) “**New report proposes 'great buys' for education spending.**”
- U.S. Department of State [report](#) “**2023 Trafficking in Persons Report.**”



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